

Questions about the Aztec Civilization
7th Grade Social Studies

1. Aztecs believed God would send them a **sign** telling them where to build their great city. What was the **sign** they were awaiting?
 - a. a storm of lightning and thunder, over the breaking waves of the ocean
 - b. an eagle, with wings stretched out, sitting upon a cactus, holding a snake in its beak
 - c. a sunlit mountain, in the shape of a triangle, with flooding waters pouring down its sides
 - d. a jaguar, hunting in the moonlight, with its green eyes glowing, staring down upon them
2. Upon whose **legacy** did the Aztecs build their empire?
 - a. the Greeks' and the Romans'
 - b. the Chinese and Koreans'
 - c. the Teotihuacáns' and Toltecs'
 - d. the Muslims' and Christians'
3. Which was the **capital city** of the Aztec empire?
 - a. Tenochtitlan
 - b. Ghana
 - c. Huitzilopochtli
 - d. Quetzalcoatl
4. Which was a **feature** of the Aztec capital?
 - a. advanced water systems for farming, transportation, and drinking
 - b. a marketplace where 60,000 people came daily to buy and sell food, clothing, pottery, jewels, and more
 - c. a shrine where human sacrifices were performed in public
 - d. all of the above
5. Why did the Aztecs **take so many prisoners** during the battles they fought to expand their empire?
 - a. prisoners could be used in human sacrifice
 - b. because the Aztecs did not believe in killing the enemy
 - c. prisoners could serve as leaders in the new lands they would control
 - d. prisoners could provide the secrets to making tools and weapons made of iron
6. Which was **not true** about the class structure in Aztec society?
 - a. nobles and priests were in the class just below the ruler and his family
 - b. the emperor's son automatically became ruler
 - c. slaves could own property, including other slaves
 - d. people born into one class of society could move up or down, depending on their actions in life

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7. In what way could an Aztec slave gain his or her **freedom**?
 - a. when their master died
 - b. completing the length of punishment for a crime he or she had committed
 - c. by working off a debt owed to the master
 - d. all of the above
8. Aztec men were permitted (allowed) to practice **polygamy**. What does **polygamy** mean?
 - a. to be able to participate in more than one war battle in the same year
 - b. to have more than five children
 - c. to have more than one wife
 - d. to travel to far-off lands to trade with other groups of people
9. The most important food in the Aztec diet was **maize** (corn). How was **maize** used by the Aztecs?
 - a. it could be ground up into flour and made into tortillas
 - b. it could be used to make a breakfast porridge
 - c. it could be used to make tamales
 - d. all of the above
10. What was a type of **sacrifice** ancient priests made to please their gods?
 - a. hundreds of birds were killed each morning
 - b. priests drew their own blood, using cactus spikes, as an offering
 - c. the beating human heart was cut and pulled from a victim's body at Huitzilopochtli's Temple
 - d. all of the above