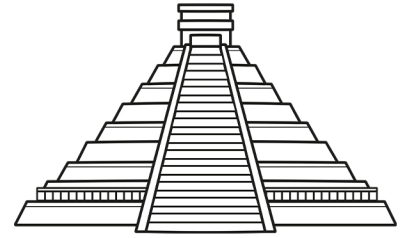


Long ago, before modern cities and technology, the Aztec people built an empire that was powerful and full of wonders. They lived in the area we now call central Mexico. The heart of their empire was a large city named Tenochtitlan, which is where Mexico City is located today. The Aztecs were clever builders and created a city with huge temples, busy markets, and lovely gardens floating on the lake.



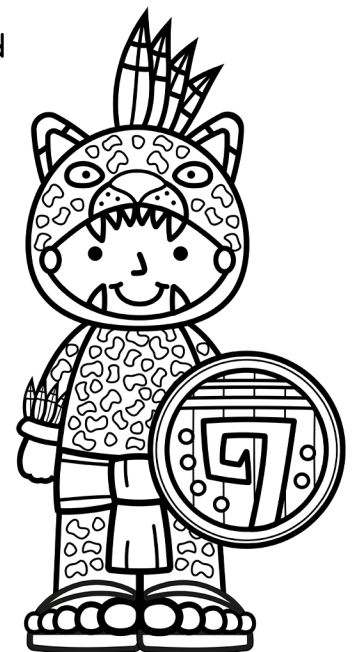
The Aztecs were also known for their amazing festivals and traditions. They loved colorful clothing and wore beautiful feather headdresses. Music, dance, and art were very important in their daily lives. They played musical instruments like drums, flutes, and shells to celebrate various festivals and religious ceremonies. The Aztecs believed in many gods, and each god was responsible for different aspects of life, such as the weather, agriculture, and war.



One of the most interesting things about the Aztecs was their use of a calendar system. It was similar to a modern calendar but more complex. They had two calendars. One was called the Xihpohualli, which had 365 days and was used for farming, and the other was the Tonalpohualli, which had 260 days and was used for religious events. They used these calendars to plan their agricultural and religious activities, ensuring that everything was done at the right time.

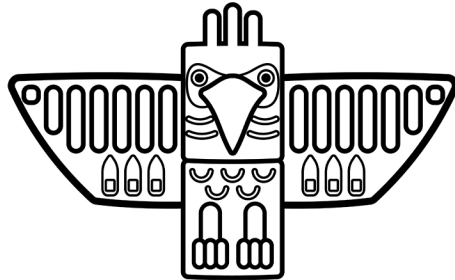
The Aztecs were also skilled warriors and often fought with neighboring tribes. Warriors were highly respected in their society, and men trained from a young age to be strong and brave. The empire expanded through battles, and as they conquered new lands, they gathered tributes from the defeated areas, which helped their city grow even richer and more powerful.

However, in the early 1500s, Spanish explorers arrived in Mexico, led by Hernán Cortés. The encounter between the Aztecs and the Spaniards marked the beginning of the end for the Aztec Empire. Despite their strong warriors and advanced society, the Aztecs were not prepared for the diseases the Spaniards brought with them, which killed many Aztecs. After a series of battles, Tenochtitlan was captured, and the great Aztec Empire came to an end.



1. The Aztec Empire fell in the 1500s.

- a. True
- b. False



2. The Aztec women trained to be strong and brave at an early age.

- a. True
- b. False

Word Bank:

headaddresses agricultural warriors Mexico

Name and describe the two calendars the Aztecs used.



What was the capital city of the Aztec Empire?

- A) Washington D.C.
- B) Tenochtitlan
- C) Tonalpohualli

Why were Aztec warriors important to their society?

- A) They created the alphabet
- B) They made ships to discover new places
- C) They helped the empire expand

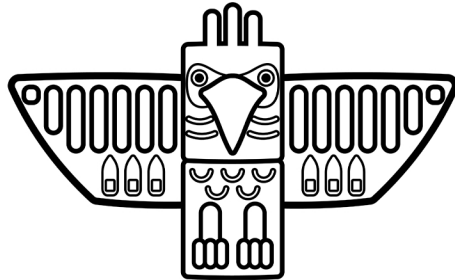


What led to the fall of the Aztec Empire?

- A) Spanish explorers arrived with diseases.
- B) Losing a battle to the French.
- C) The people left for a warmer climate

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