

## **Lesson Plan: The Aztecs - An Introduction**

**\*\*Unit Title:\*\*** The Aztecs

**\*\*Unit Theme:\*\*** The history and culture of the Aztecs

**\*\*Class Subject:\*\*** History

**\*\*Grade Level:\*\*** 3

**\*\*Learning Objective:\*\*** To gain an introductory understanding of the Aztec civilization

**\*\*Learning Target:\*\*** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to identify key aspects of Aztec history and culture.

**\*\*Student Success Criteria:\*\*** Simple, clear, and engaging explanations that can be easily understood.

### **Materials Needed:**

- Visual aids (maps, images of Aztec artifacts, pictures of Aztec city Tenochtitl'n)
- Handouts with Aztec vocabulary and questions
- Whiteboard and markers

### **Pre-Assessment:**

- Quick review of previous knowledge about ancient civilizations
- Ask students to share one thing they already know about the Aztecs, if any

### **Introduction (10 minutes):**

1. Write the following board-ready targets on the whiteboard:
  - Know the location of the Aztec Empire
  - Identify the Aztec capital
  - Recognize key Aztec gods
  - Understand basic aspects of Aztec life (housing, clothing, diet)
2. Introduce the Aztec civilization, briefly discussing its location, and the city of Tenochtitl'n as the capital.
3. Display a map, showing the location of Mexico and the Aztec Empire.
4. Show pictures of the Aztec city Tenochtitl'n before the Spanish conquest.

### **Direct Instruction (15 minutes):**

1. Briefly introduce important Aztec gods (Huitzilopochtli, Tlaloc, and Quetzalcoatl).
2. Show pictures of Aztec artifacts, discussing their significance and the materials used.
3. Present information about Aztec housing, clothing, and diet, using visual aids.

### **Guided Practice (10 minutes):**

1. Distribute the handout with Aztec vocabulary and questions.
2. Have students work in pairs or small groups to answer the questions.
3. Circulate among the groups, answering questions and providing support as needed.

### **Closure (5 minutes):**

1. Gather the class for a discussion, asking each group to share one interesting fact they learned about the Aztecs.
2. Review the board-ready targets, asking students to announce what they have learned during the lesson.

### **Homework:**

- Students to complete a short research assignment on a chosen Aztec god, including a brief summary and illustration.

### **Assessment:**

- Observe students during group work and the closing discussion
- Review completed homework assignments to evaluate understanding of Aztec gods, their significance, and their representation in Aztec culture.