

Lesson Plan: The Aztecs - An Introduction (Grade 3)

****Subject:**** History

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

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

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

****Learning Objective:**** To learn about the history of the Aztecs.

****Learning Target:**** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to identify basic facts about the Aztecs and their civilization.

Student Success Criteria:

- Demonstrates an understanding of the Aztecs and their civilization by. . .
- Naming key Aztec cities and rulers
- Describing the Aztec Empire's geographical location and main resources
- Recognizing that the Aztecs had a system of writing and various creations (gods, art, and architecture)

Pre-Assessment:

1. Quick Write - What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "Aztecs"? (5 minutes)
2. K-W-L Chart - Share what students already know, want to know, and have learned about the Aztecs. (10 minutes)

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and markers
- Handouts with images of Aztec art, architecture, and artifacts
- Map of Mesoamerica

Lesson Procedure:

1. ****Introduction (10 minutes)****
 - Briefly discuss the concept of civilizations and why we study them.
 - Introduce the Aztecs as one of the ancient civilizations of Mesoamerica.
 - Present a map of Mesoamerica, point out where the Aztec Empire was located.
2. ****Guided Instruction (15 minutes)****
 - Discuss key facts about the Aztecs, including their location, main cities (Tenochtitlan, Tlatelolco, Texcoco), rulers (Moctezuma II), and resources (agriculture, trade).
 - Show students images of Aztec art, architecture, and artifacts to help them visualize the civilization.
3. ****Active Learning (10 minutes)****
 - Students work together in small groups to complete a brief research activity about Aztec gods. Each group will present their findings to the class.
4. ****Daily Reflection (5 minutes)****
 - Students quickly write or draw something new they learned about the Aztecs and any unanswered questions they still have.
5. ****Closure (5 minutes)****
 - Recap key points from the lesson and address any unanswered questions.
 - Remind students of the upcoming assessments (quiz, project, etc.) to ensure continued learning and retention.

Assessment:

- Observe active participation during group work and class discussions.
- Review students' written reflections for evidence of new knowledge gained.
- Administer a short quiz (questions about key facts and concepts covered in the lesson) at a later date to assess students' understanding.