

Lesson Objective:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to identify and describe basic facts about the Aztec civilization, its history, and culture.

Materials:

- Textbooks or lesson materials about the Aztecs
- Whiteboard and markers
- Colorful pictures and artifacts of Aztec culture
- Worksheets for activities
- Chart paper and markers for group work

Pre-Assessment:

1. Ask students what they know about ancient civilizations. Write their responses on the board.
2. Introduce the Aztecs by asking students if they have heard of them. Record their responses.

Lesson Procedure:

Lesson Part 1: Introduction (15 minutes)

- Briefly discuss the concept of ancient civilizations.
- Introduce the Aztecs as a significant ancient civilization.
- Show pictures of Aztec artifacts, architecture, and clothing.
- Explain the Aztec location (Mexico), time period (14th to 16th century), and general history.

Board-ready Targets:

- Aztecs were an ancient civilization located in Mexico, lasting from the 14th to the 16th century.
- The Aztecs had a rich culture, including art, architecture, and clothing.

Lesson Part 2: History of the Aztecs (20 minutes)

- Use a textbook or lesson materials to go into more detail about the history of the Aztecs.
- Discuss the Aztec religion, as they were known for their god, Huitzilopochtli, and the exciting stories connected to him.
- Explain how the Aztecs built their cities, Tenochtitln and other cities, such as Teotihuacan.

Board-ready Targets:

- The Aztecs had a religion centered around the god Huitzilopochtli.
- The Aztecs built important cities like Tenochtitln and Teotihuacan.

Lesson Part 3: Aztec Culture (20 minutes)

- Show pictures of Aztec art, architecture, and daily life to immerse students in the culture.
- Discuss the Aztec calendar, their agriculture, food, and daily life.
- Share examples of Aztec music, dance, and ceremonies.

Board-ready Targets:

- The Aztecs had a unique calendar, agriculture, food, and daily life.
- Aztec culture included music, dance, and ceremonies.

Lesson Part 4: Group Activity (20 minutes)

- Assign students to small groups and give each group a specific topic related to the Aztecs (e.g., religion, culture, history, or daily life).
- Have each group research their topic and create a short presentation, using the materials provided.
- Allow the groups to present their findings to the class.

Assessment:

- Observe students' participation during the lesson.
- Assess their group presentations to evaluate their understanding of the Aztecs.

Closure (5 minutes)

- Summarize the key points from the lesson.
- Ask students to share one new thing they learned about the Aztecs with a partner.

Homework:

- Provide students with a worksheet that requires them to answer questions about the lesson or complete activities related to the Aztecs.