ChronoZoom

Atlantic Encounters Research Guide: Aztecs/Spaniards in Mesoamerica (1519)

**Task:** In your group research the assigned question that relates to the Aztecs/Spaniards in Mesoamerica (1519) Atlantic encounter between Europeans and indigenous Americans. With the research you will create an online exhibit that includes your written summary and visual evidence that answers your question. The finished exhibit will be part of a class timeline of your Atlantic encounter.

**Group Research Question:** What were Aztec society, politics, and religion like before the arrival of Europeans?

**Online Resources:** Below are possible resources for your research but you are not limited to these sources.

* **History of the Aztecs**

<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/aztecs.htm>

* **Children of the Plumed Serpent**

[http://www.neh.gov/divisions/public/featured-project/children-the-plumed-serpent](http://www.aztec-history.com/)

* **Library of Congress**

[http://myloc.gov/exhibitions/earlyamericas/pages/default.aspx](http://www.aztec-history.com/)

* **Academic Kids Encyclopedia** <http://academickids.com/encyclopedia/index.php/Spanish_colonization_of_the_Americas>
* **Aztec & Maya Law: An Online Exhibit and Bibliography**  
  [http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/exhibits/aztec/index.html](http://myloc.gov/exhibitions/earlyamericas/pages/default.aspx)

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**Group Research Question:** How did the Aztecs come to power? What were their relationships like with other indigenous polities in Mesoamerica?

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* **Academic Kids Encyclopedia** [http://academickids.com/encyclopedia/index.php/Spanish\_colonization\_of\_the\_Americas](http://www.neh.gov/divisions/public/featured-project/children-the-plumed-serpent)
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**Group Research Question:** What caused Cortés and other Spanish conquistadores to head west to the mainland? What did his superiors think of his expedition?

**Online Resources:** Below are possible resources for your research but you are not limited to these sources.

* **History Guide** [http://www.historyguide.org/earlymod/lecture2c.html](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2006-04-12/features/0604120005_1_spanish-words-mexico-city-aztec-empire)
* **European Voyages of Exploration (University of Calgary)** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/eurvoya/ship.html>
* **Academic Kids Encyclopedia** <http://academickids.com/encyclopedia/index.php/Spanish_colonization_of_the_Americas>
* **Hispanic Exploration of Americas**

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/hispanic-exploration/>

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**Group Research Question:** How did Spain’s tradition of conquest (or reconquest, more specifically) shape conquistadores and their actions in sixteenth-century North America?

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**Group Research Question:** Who were the key historical actors in the Aztec encounter with the Spaniards? How did they react to each other and their respective cultures?

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* **Moctezuma II**

[http://www.aztec-history.com/moctezuma-ii.html](http://academickids.com/encyclopedia/index.php/Spanish_colonization_of_the_Americas)

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**Group Research Question:** How did Cortés conquer Tenochtitlán? Who and what made his victory possible?

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[http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/aztecs.htm](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/hispanic-exploration/)

* **Impact of Cortez and languages**[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2006-04-12/features/0604120005\_1\_spanish-words-mexico-city-aztec-empire](http://www.aztec-history.com/)
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**Group Research Question:** What did Cortés do with the lands he conquered? How did he and the Spanish crown administer them?

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**Group Research Question:** How did Spain profit from North America and at what cost to the indigenous inhabitants?

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