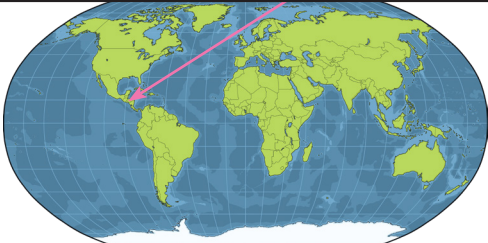


Key Vocabulary	
<b>alliance</b>	When two or more groups of people or countries agree to work together and help each other.
<b>empire</b>	A group of people ruled by an emperor.
<b>hieroglyphics</b>	A writing system that uses pictures and symbols instead of letters and words.
<b>Mexico</b>	A country in North America.
<b>nomads</b>	A group of people who move from place to place rather than living in one location.
<b>sacrifice</b>	An offering of something as a religious act.
<b>trade</b>	Buying and selling goods and services.
<b>tribe</b>	A group of people including many families.


### Who Were the Aztecs?

The Aztecs were a **nomadic tribe** who settled in **Mexico** around AD 1300.



They settled in Tenochtitlán as this had a good supply of water and food with easy access to nearby towns for **trade**.

Once they settled in Tenochtitlán, the Aztec **empire** began to grow. It covered 80,000 square miles and included millions of people who were all ruled by an emperor.



### Who Did the Aztecs Worship?

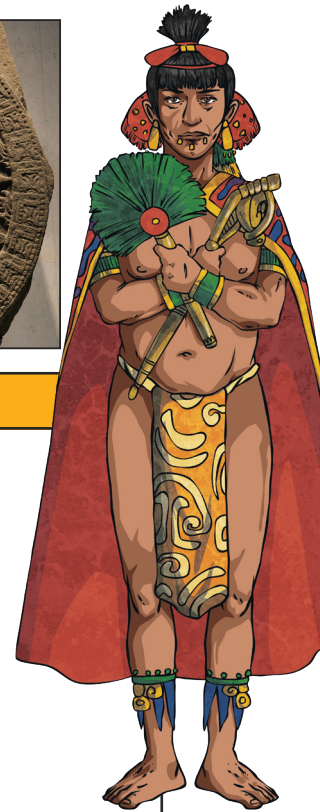
The Aztecs believed in many gods and would **sacrifice** human life to keep their gods happy. They would build towers and temples for their gods.

<b>Tlaloc</b> god of rain	
<b>Xochipilli</b> god of creativity, happiness and beauty	
<b>Tonatiuh</b> god of the sun, <b>sacrifice</b> and warriors	
<b>Xiuhtecuhtli</b> god of time and fire	
<b>Quetzalcóatl</b> god of death and the underworld	

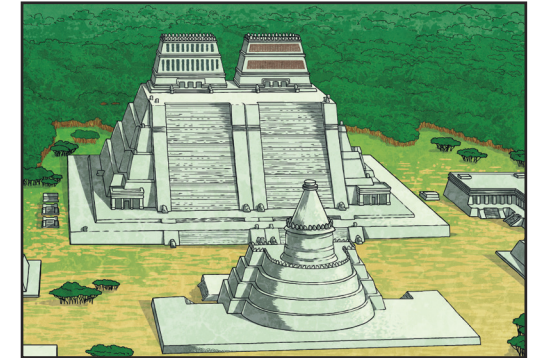
Key Events	
AD 1100	The Aztecs are <b>nomads</b> , moving from place to place.
AD 1200-1300	The Aztecs arrive in <b>Mexico</b> .
AD 1325	The city of Tenochtitlán is built as their capital city.
AD 1428	As the Aztecs form an <b>alliance</b> with other <b>tribes</b> , their <b>empire</b> begins to grow.
AD 1521	The Aztec empire is invaded and destroyed by Spain.
AD 1522	Tenochtitlán is rebuilt as Mexico City - the capital of Mexico.

### What Were the Aztecs Famous For?

- agriculture (farming)
- calendar system
- art
- continuing the Maya tradition of making a chocolate drink using cocoa beans
- architecture (buildings and structures), including pyramids, palaces and temples
- writing in pictograms and **hieroglyphics**



The word Aztec means 'someone who comes from Aztlán' - an unknown location in northern **Mexico**.



Tenochtitlán was built on a marshy island near the edge of Lake Texcoco.



### What Was Daily Life like for the Aztecs?

- Most Aztecs lived in huts made from mud and straw. Rich people could afford palaces or homes made of stone and they bathed in steam rooms and saunas.
- The men were either craftsmen, farmers or warriors who defended the **empire**.
- The women stayed at home to cook and weave clothes.
- Children had to go to school to learn important skills like hunting or cooking.
- The Aztecs were excellent hunters and farmers and were skilled at fishing.
- They made intricate masks, pottery and jewellery.

