

ANCIENT  
CIVILIZATIONS

ANCIENT

# AZTECS





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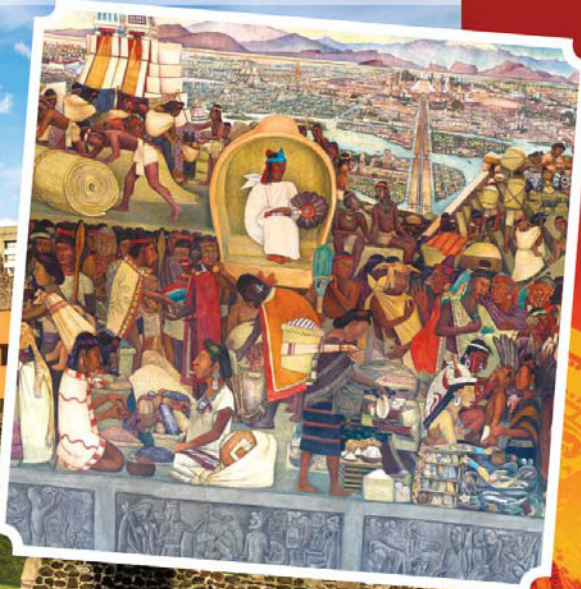
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# 「THE MARKETPLACE」

PLAZA DE LAS TRES  
CULTURAS, TLATELOLCO

A boy walks toward the open-air Tlatelolco marketplace with his father. They hear a rumble of noise from thousands of people inside. The boy and his father pass by rows of spices, meat, gold jewelry, and feathers. His father stops to hand over **cacao beans** in exchange for corn.



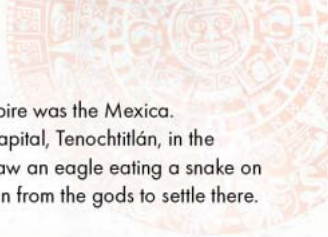
The grand Templo Mayor towers over Tenochtitlán as the boy rushes home. He cannot wait to show his mother their purchases. Market day is always busy in the Aztec Empire!

A person is shown in profile, wearing an elaborate traditional Aztec ceremonial outfit. The outfit features a jaguar headpiece with a black mask and white spots, a large headdress of blue and gold feathers, and a colorful, ornate chest piece. The person has white face paint on their cheek. The background is blurred, showing other people in similar attire.

## WHO WERE THE ANCIENT AZTECS?

CEREMONIAL  
AZTEC OUTFIT

The Aztecs ruled an empire in present-day Mexico from 1325 to 1521. At its height, the empire stretched from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic. It ruled around 6 million people. Today, the Aztecs are remembered for their grand cities and fierce warriors.



The largest people group in the empire was the Mexica. In 1325, they founded their famous capital, Tenochtitlán, in the Valley of Mexico. Myths claim they saw an eagle eating a snake on a cactus. They believed this was a sign from the gods to settle there.



ANCIENT TENOCHTITLÁN,  
MEXICO

**THE EAGLE AND THE FLAG**

The Mexica story of the eagle eating the snake is still celebrated today. It is the central image on the flag of Mexico!



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