

Early Americas Web Quest

Answer all the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

A. Click on this link then answer the questions below:

http://www.ancient.eu/Aztec_Sacrifice/

1. What was the purpose of the Aztec sacrifices? 2. How were the victims selected and prepared? 3. Describe some of the ceremonies. What took place?

B. Click on the links below and analyze the pictures

<http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/aztecs/sacrifice-2.jpg>

4. Describe the things you see in this picture. Who is the person at the top in the white? What is the item at the top on the left?

C. Click on the links below and analyze the pictures

<http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/aztecs/aztecs40.gif>

5. Describe the things you see in this picture. What is going on?

D. Click on this link and read the article

<https://www.inside-mexico.com/legends/quetzalcoatl.htm>

6. Who, or what, was Quetzalcoatl? 7. What is the story of Quetzalcoatl? 8. Who was Hernan Cortes mistaken for?

E. Read the excerpt below, and answer the questions that follow.

The excerpt below is from Hernan Cortes' observations of the Aztecs:

“ Three halls are in this grand temple, which contain the principal idols; these are of wonderful extent and height, and admirable workmanship, adorned with figures sculptured in stone and wood; leading from the halls are chapels with very small doors, to which the light is not admitted, nor are any persons except the priests, and not all of them. In these chapels are the images of idols, although, as I have before said, many of them are also found on the outside; the principal ones, in which the people have greatest faith and confidence, I precipitated from their pedestals, and cast them down the steps of the temple,

purifying the chapels in which they had stood, as they were all polluted with human blood, shed in the sacrifices. In the place of these I put images of Our Lady and the Saints, which excited not a little feeling in Moctezuma and the inhabitants, who at first remonstrated, declaring that if my proceedings were known throughout the country, the people would rise against me; for they believed that their idols bestowed on them all temporal good, and if they permitted them to be ill-treated, they would be angry and without their gifts, and by this means the people would be deprived of the fruits of the earth and perish with famine. I answered, through the interpreters, that they were deceived in expecting any favors from idols, the work of their own hands, formed of unclean things; and that they must learn there was but one God, the universal Lord of all, who had created the heavens and earth, and all things else, and had made them and us; that He was without beginning and immortal, and they were bound to adore and believe Him, and no other creature or thing.”

9. How does Cortes view the Aztecs religious practices? 10. What role do the idols play in the Aztec society? 11. According to Cortes, what must the Aztecs learn?

Extra Credit

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1520cortes.asp>

Read the full account of Cortes’ observations of the Aztecs. Type a 1 page summary of what Cortes found intriguing and what his overall thoughts were of the Aztecs. Describe some examples of Cortes’ bias towards the Aztecs too. (12 point font, times new roman, double spaced) Up to ten points extra credit, depending on the thoroughness of your summary/analysis.