

Part A – Short Answer – Explore the section on the Aztec Empire of Mexico available at <http://www.pbs.org/opb/conquistadors/mexico/mexico.htm> and answer the following questions:

Growth of the Incan Empire

1. What was the name of the Aztec capital? Where was it located?
2. What was done with the hearts of warriors captured during a battle? What was done with their arm?
3. How did the clothing of noble Aztecs differ from that of the commoners?
4. What was the favorite drink of Aztec nobles? How was it prepared?
5. What punishments were given to Aztec children who misbehaved?
6. What battlefield deed marked the occasion of a young warrior cutting off the hair on the back of his head?
7. Why did the Aztecs have two calendars?
8. Why did the Spanish missionaries destroy so many Aztec codices (books)?

Beginning of the End

9. What is the name of the Aztec god whose name means “plumed serpent?”
10. How many Aztec were living in Tenochtitlan when Cortes arrived?
11. What was the name of the Aztec emperor (the ninth Aztec Emperor) when Cortes arrived in Mexico?

Part B – Cortes – Explore the section on the The Fall of the Aztecs, available at http://www.pbs.org/conquistadors/cortes/cortes_a00.html# and answer the following questions:

The Fall of the Aztecs

12. Where was Hernan Cortés stationed before his expedition to the Yucatan?
13. What stroke of luck did Cortés find upon arriving in the Yucatan?
14. What did Montezuma’s steward do when he met Cortés and the Spanish?
15. What did the Spanish do in return?
16. What did Cortés do to the Chuilulans he met at the Pyramid of Quetzalcoatl?
17. Why was Montezuma so nice to the Spaniards?
18. How did Cortés attempt to prove to the Aztec that Montezuma had submitted to the authority of the Spanish king?
19. What disease ravaged the Aztec after the Massacre at Tenochtitlán?