

# Ancient Aztec: The Fall of the Empire Video Questions → Answers

## 1. Why did the Aztecs, including Moctezuma II, believe that their god Quetzalcoatl would return?

The Aztecs believe that their god Quetzalcoatl would return because he had heard strange sights, boats, and fire in one of the temples.

## 2. What were the objectives or goals of Hernán Cortés and his men?

Cortez wanted to get gold, claim the land for the king, and convert people to Christianity.

## 3. What did the Tlaxcalans offer the Spanish?

The Tlaxcalans said they would support the Spanish in the expedition to the Aztec Empire because they were enemies with the Aztecs.

## 4. Why was Tenochtitlan difficult to attack?

Tenochtitlan would be difficult to attack because it was surrounded by water and could only be reached by bridges or boat.

## 5. How did Montezuma II greet Hernán Cortés? Why?

The Aztecs allowed Cortez and his men cross the causeway and onto the island. Montezuma II greeted Cortez and took him to one of his grand palaces because he thought he was the god Quetzalcoatl.

## 6. How did the Spanish soldiers react to life in Tenochtitlan?

The Spanish soldiers explored the city and temples, they thought it was a dream because all of the new things they have never seen before. They were shocked that the Aztecs had gods for everything and the sacrifices were terrifying to them. Cortez ordered the Spanish to destroy the Aztec statues. In return, this angered the Aztec priests.

## 7. How did Montezuma II die?

Montezuma was arrested and held captive in the palace. Spanish soldiers killed some Aztec priests during a religious ceremony, so the Aztecs attacked the palace where the Spanish were staying. Montezuma was killed at this point. No one knew who killed him.

## 8. Why did Cortés and his men leave Tenochtitlan in July 1520?

After being defeated by the Aztecs, the Spanish went to Tlaxcala to ask for help to defeat the Aztecs.

## 9. What is a siege? How long did the siege of Tenochtitlan last?

A siege is to stop food and water from going into the city and waiting for diseases to spread. The siege lasted 3 months.

## 10. What happened in August 1521?

The Aztec Empire was finally defeated.

## 11. What happened to the Aztec people after the fall of the empire?

The Spanish destroyed everything and rebuilt new buildings.

## 12. After the defeat of the Aztecs, what was the new name of this region?

New Spain

## 13. What happened to the Aztec people?

Many Aztecs died from the terrible way they were treated and diseases. The Aztec people became slaves.

## 14. Why did monks and priests come to New Spain?

Their job was to convert the Aztecs to Christianity.

## 15. What were the Aztec codices?

They are important sources (pictures) about Aztec life, culture and history before and after Spanish conquest.