



## EARLY PEOPLES

# The Aztec

*The Aztec* teaches about the rise and fall of the Aztec empire; the role of gods and goddesses in Aztec religion; the creation of the Aztec calendar; and many other features of this American Indian culture.

### What did you learn?

#### QUESTIONS

1. Most commoners lived in groups of families called ...
  - a. Calpolli
  - b. Tlatoani
  - c. Councils
  - d. Communes
2. One common way that sacrificial victims were killed was through removal of the ...
  - a. Nose
  - b. Liver
  - c. Heart
  - d. Lungs
3. Some Aztec craftsmen made luxury items from the feathers of the ...
  - a. Eagle
  - b. Quetzal
  - c. Quail
  - d. Dodo
4. The grandest Aztec marketplace was in ...
  - a. Tlatelolco
  - b. Tenochtitlan
  - c. Mexico City
  - d. Texcoco
5. What was a *macuahuitl*?
6. The Aztec worshipped many gods and goddesses. Tlaloc was the god of what?

#### TRUE OR FALSE?

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|--|--|
| _____ 1. The Aztec ruler was known as the tlatoani.      | _____ 4. The Aztec believed that time was sacred.            |
| _____ 2. Aztec weapons were not designed to kill people. | _____ 5. Most Aztec clothing was made from cotton.           |
| _____ 3. Aztec brides dressed in blue feathers.          | _____ 6. The Spaniards discovered smallpox in the New World. |



## ANSWERS

- 1. a. Calpolli.** According to section "Commoners and Calpolli" on page 14, we know that "Most commoners lived in groups of families called calpolli (*kahl POHL lee*). These groups lived near each other and shared a piece of land." So, the correct answer is A.
- 2. c. Heart.** According to section "Ceremonies and Human Sacrifice" on page 30, we know that "One common way that sacrificial victims were killed was through removal of the heart." So, the correct answer is C.
- 3. b. Quetzal.** According to section "Aztec Arts and Crafts" on page 41, we know that "Some Aztec craftsmen made luxury items, such as headdresses and mats from the feathers of the rare quetzal (*keht SAHL*), a large bird with beautiful tail feathers." So, the correct answer is B.
- 4. a. Tlatelolco.** According to section "Trade and Transportation" on page 52, we know that "Markets were the main places for buying and selling goods, and the grandest marketplace was in Tlatelolco." So, the correct answer is A.
- 5.** According to page 17, a *macuahuitl* was an Aztec weapon.
- 6.** According to page 29, Tlaloc was the god of rain, water, and fertility.

## TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS

- 1. True.** According to section "Building an Empire" on page 8, we know that "The Aztec ruler was known as the tlatoani (*TLAH toh AH nee*)." So, the correct answer is True.
- 2. True.** According to section "Soldiers and Warfare" on page 17, we know that "Aztec soldiers wanted to capture their enemies alive, so their weapons were designed to wound people rather than kill them." So, the correct answer is True.
- 3. False.** According to section "Aztec Women" on page 22, we know that "The bride dressed in red feathers and special clothes, and an old woman then carried her to her new home." So, the correct answer is False.
- 4. True.** According to section "The Aztec Calendar" on page 34, we know that "The Aztec believed that time was something sacred. Different gods were thought to guard the days, the months, the years, and even the centuries. People also believed that the gods controlled time." So, the correct answer is True.
- 5. False.** According to section "Shelter and Clothing" on page 45, we know that "Most people had to make their clothes from cheap, coarse materials. The most common cloth was made from the fibers of the maguey plant." So, the correct answer is False.
- 6. False.** According to section "The Fall of the Aztec Empire" on page 57, we know that "In October, a smallpox epidemic broke out in Tenochtitlan. The Spaniards had brought the disease to the New World." So, the correct answer is False.