

Amazing Aztecs

National Curriculum Aims:

History: To study a non-European society that provides a contrast with British history.

To explore Aztec inventions and sculptures.

English: To perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume and movement so that meaning is clear.

The Aztecs valued poetry in their culture. It was so special that it was often the nobles and even the king who wrote and read poetry. The poems were used as part of religious rituals and were very descriptive and full of energy. The Aztec word for poetry was 'flower and song' and they believed poetry was a gift from the gods.

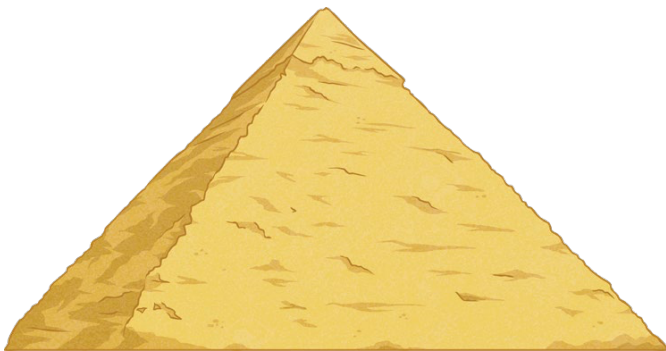
Can you write an Aztec inspired poem to one of the Aztec gods?
Which god would be worthy of a poem?

What you need:

- Information sheet
- Poetry writing frame

What to do:

- Read the information provided or do some research on the Internet.
- Which Aztec god catches your interest? Why might you need help from the gods? Perhaps you're a farmer in need of rain for your crops. Could you be a warrior hoping to capture prisoners for sacrifice? Are you an Aztec priest hoping for a cure for a sick child?
- What language features were used by Aztec poets? Use [this Twinkl resource](#) to help you choose what style to write in.
- Perform your poem to an audience. Imagine you are an Aztec noble or priest impressing the crowds at a ritual gathering. Use your voice to intonate and express.



Xolotl	God of death and the underworld, 'The Animal'.	
Huehuecoyotl	God of music, dance and mischief.	
Tonatiuh	God of sun, fertility and sacrifice, his face was at the centre of the Aztec sunstone.	
Xiuhtecuhtli	God of origin, time, fire and old age, 'The Old God'.	

To the God of war, Huitzilopochtli

An extract taken from the Cantares Mexicanos

Huitzilopochtli, the Warrior,
 He who acts on high
 Follows his own path.
 Oh marvellous dweller among clouds,
 Oh dweller in the region of the frozen wings.

 Eager for war, the Flaming One descends.
 He wages where the whirling dust arises.
 Come to our aid!

Name your god.

Compliment the god.

Use hyperbole, to exaggerate.

Try short sentences for effect.

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