

**The Aztecs**  
Miller Chapter 9

**Key Images**

- *Coatlicue*, Aztec, Late Postclassic.
- *The Great Calendar Stone*, Aztec. Late Postclassic.
- *Eagle Warrior*, Aztec, Late Postclassic.
- *Chacmool*, Aztec, Late Postclassic.
- *Feather Headdress*, Aztec, Late Postclassic.
- *Tezcatlipoca*, Aztec, Late Postclassic.

**Key Terms**

Chinampa  
Tlatoani  
Attlachinolli  
Teotl  
Cuauhxicalli  
Teocuicatl

**Questions to Consider**

- What did the Aztecs know themselves as?
- According to Aztec legend, how was the civilization founded?
- Why did the Aztecs begin the 'flowery war'? What role did it play in the Spanish Conquest?
- What led Cortes to Tenochtitlan?
- How did the Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer describe the riches sent to Europe from Mesoamerica? What happened to the metal objects?
- Describe the place symbol for Tenochtitlan.
- How was the ceremonial precinct of Tenochtitlan laid out?
- What myth was commemorated at the base of Huitzilopochtli's temple?
- What work does your book describe as being the best known Mesoamerican image? What does the work represent? What deity is represented in the center?
- How is Aztec art characterized in terms of its use of naturalism and abstraction?
- What was the function of the 'Monument of the Sacred War'? How did it visually illustrate the role the tlatoani played in Aztec society?
- What did the Aztecs refer to gold as?
- What did Motechuhzoma II send to Charles V?
- Do any manuscripts exist today that can be attributed to Preconquest Tenochtitlan?
- What book does your text describe as being the "most complex surviving Mesoamerican book?"
- What did the Spanish do to the Aztec temples?
- What two Precolumbian artforms succeeded in the early Colonial era?