



Spain
Conquers
Mexico

SPAIN CONQUERS MEXICO

■ Main Idea (Objective) :



- Spanish conquerors defeated the Aztec, with the help of horses, guns and European disease.

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- **Lecture Focus (Essential Question):**



- Think of decisions that students make everyday...we are going to see how the decisions made by two people, a Spanish conqueror and an Aztec king changed the course of history.

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- The voyages of Christopher Columbus, who sailed to the Americas on four different occasions, inspired many poor nobles to go to the America's in search of fortune.

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- Many of these nobles came from the part of Spain known as the **Extremadura**.



- Extremadura had very poor soil, blistering hot summers and icy cold winters...there was little chance for wealth in this area.

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- One of these nobles was 19 years old **Hernan Cortes**.



- As a teenager, Cortes had a choice of three jobs: priest, lawyer or soldier...his parents picked lawyer, Cortes however, chose soldier.

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- In 1504 Cortes set out for Hispaniola, the island that Columbus landed on in the late 1400's.



- Cortes also played a essential role in the Spanish invasion of Cuba in 1511.

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- His courage impressed the Spanish commanders, who actually gave Cortes control over several Native American villages and the goods they produced.

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- Six years later, smallpox swept across Cuba killing thousands of Native Americans.

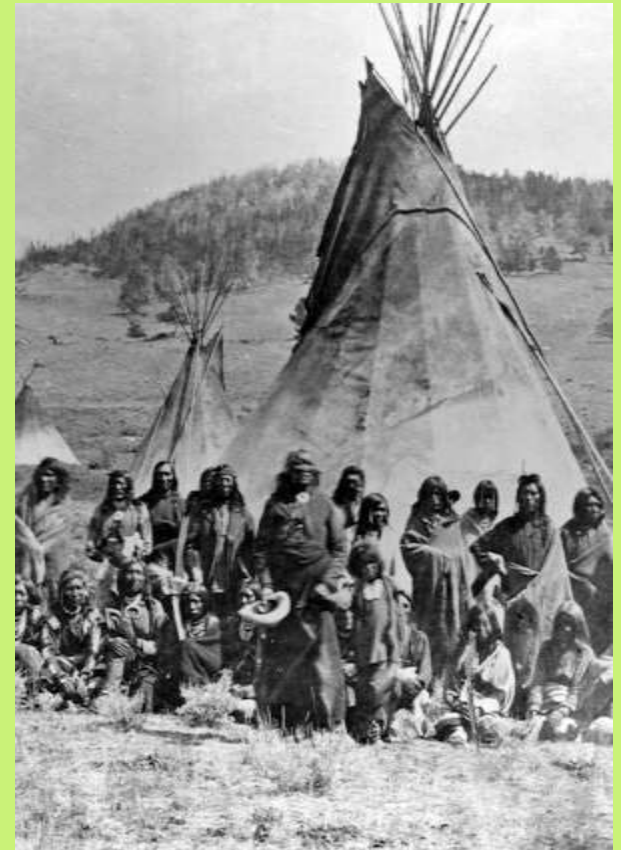
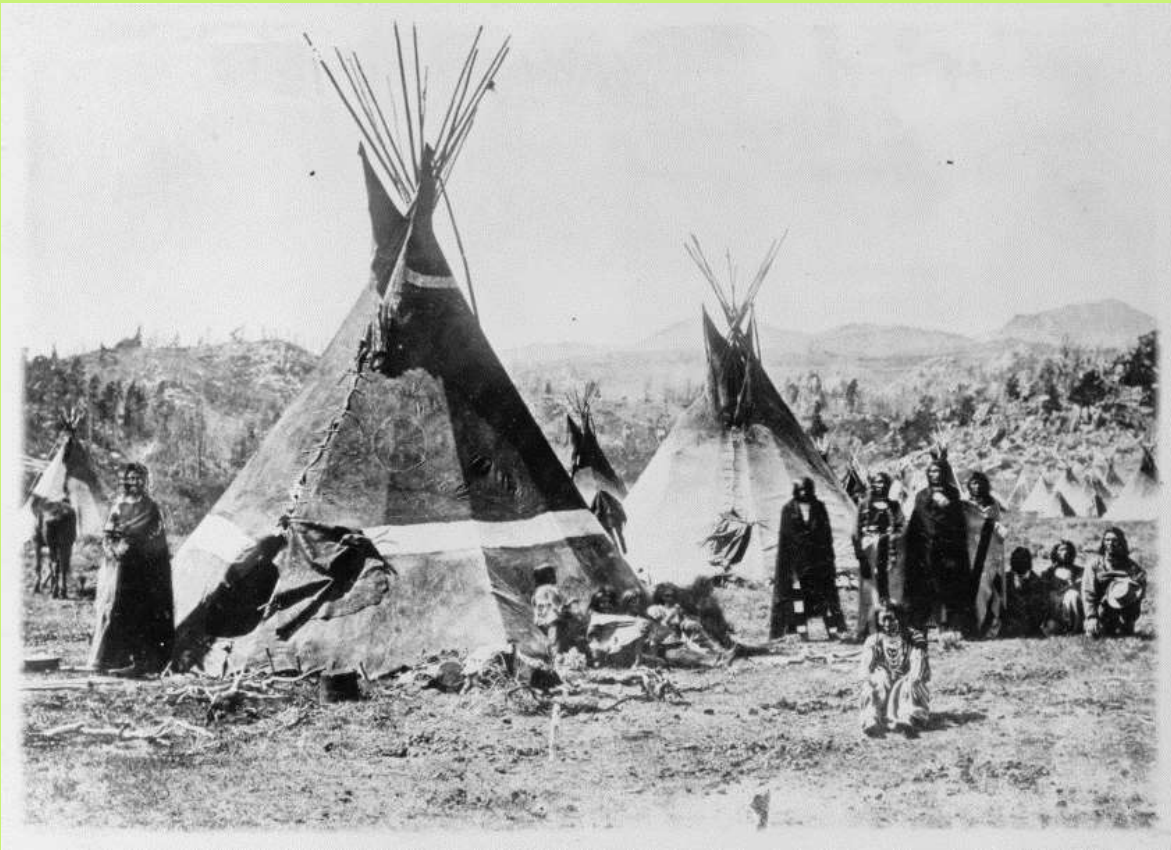


- **Smallpox** - is a very serious illness caused by a virus called the **Variola Virus**...smallpox gets its name from the pus-filled blisters (or pocks) that form during the illness

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- **Why do you think the initial interactions between the Native Americans and the Europeans were so deadly?**

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- The initial encounters between Native Americans and Europeans were so disastrous because the Native Americans had no resistance to the germs that the Europeans brought with them in the late 1400s.

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- The Native Americans died by the millions due to foreign illnesses carried by the Europeans.



- The Europeans, basically, were germ carriers. living in close proximity with domesticated animals spread cross species diseases... plus Europeans were dirty and rarely if ever bathed.

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- Following all of the Native Americans death in Cuba a Spanish Commander asked Cortes to find new people who would be forced to work for the Spanish Explorers.

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- That same year, a ship sent to explore the coast of the Yucatan Peninsula returned to Cuba.



- Unlike earlier search parties, the soldiers did not fight with the Maya that lived in this area...instead a group of Mayans actually paddled out to greet them.

SPAIN CONQUERS MEXICO

- As quoted by Juan Diaz: *They brought gold cast in bars...a beautiful gold mask, a figurine of a man with half a mask of gold and a crown of gold.*



- Cortes needed to hear no more after Diaz's account...on February 19, 1519 he set sail for Mexico.

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■ Questions:

- 1) What country did the new explorers of Europe come from during this time of exploration?
- 2) What was this area in Spain called that had blistering hot summers and freezing cold winters?
- 3) What Spanish Explorer followed in the footsteps of Columbus and sailed to Hispaniola?
- 4) What killed millions of Native Americans when the Europeans came to the Americas?

SPAIN CONQUERS MEXICO

- **Questions:**
- 1) What country did the new explorers of Europe come from during this time of exploration?
 - **Spain**
- 2) What was this area in Spain called that had blistering hot summers and freezing cold winters?
 - **Extremadura, Spain**
- 3) What Spanish Explorer followed in the footsteps of Columbus and sailed to Hispaniola?
 - **Hernan Cortes**
- 4) What killed millions of Native Americans when the Europeans came to the Americas?
 - **Viruses brought by the Europeans, such as small pox**

CORTES INVADES MEXICO

- When Cortes arrived, the Aztec emperor was **Montezuma II**, the 9th emperor of the Aztecs and extremely powerful.
- During his reign the Aztec Empire reached its maximal size, expanding his territory through warfare.
- He changed to a system of social hierarchy
- He also widened the divide between *pipiltin* (nobles) and *macehualtin* (commoners) by prohibiting commoners from working in the royal palaces.



CORTES INVADES MEXICO

- Montezuma II expected the invaders!



- In a dream he had before Cortes showed up, **Montezuma II** looked into a mirror and saw a huge army headed over the mountains.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO

- The dreaded invasion began in April 1519 when Cortes stepped onto a beach near present day Veracruz.



- Cortes had sailed with 550 soldiers, 16 horses, 14 cannons and a pack of dogs.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO



- The Conquistadors used the **Arquebus** or "hook tube", is an early muzzle-loaded firearm used in the 15th to 17th centuries.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO



CORTES INVADES MEXICO



- A cannon is any piece of artillery that uses gunpowder to launch a projectile.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO



CORTES INVADES MEXICO



- Spanish Conquistador war dogs took part in various campaigns in the New World and were involved in Conquistador battle tactics and brutalities.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO



- How could such a small force conquer a huge warrior driven empire???

CORTES INVADES MEXICO

- First, Cortes knew how to use Spanish horses and guns to shock the Native Americans.



- In a display of power, he forced thousands of Tabascans, a people living in Mesoamerica, to surrender.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO

- Second, the Tabascans gave Cortes another weapon...A Mayan women named Malintzin.



- Malintzin spoke both Mayan and Nahuatl, the Language of the Aztec.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO

- Speaking through a Spaniard who knew Mayan, Malintzin described the Aztec Empire to Cortes.



- She also told Cortes how subjects of the Aztec resented their rulers and would join the Spanish explorers to fight Montezuma II.

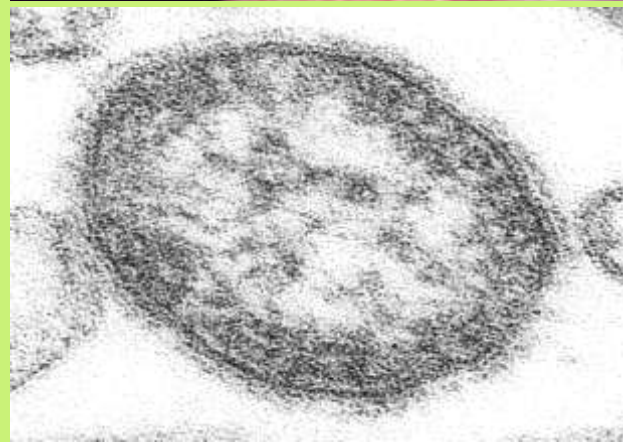
CORTES INVADES MEXICO



- Cortes was able to forge incredible alliances with some of the Native American tribe due to the translation skills of Malintzin.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO

- Finally, Cortez had the help of invisible allies...germs that carried disease, such as measles and smallpox.



- These diseases ended up killing more Aztec than Spanish swords during the invasion of Mexico.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO



- Over 80% of the Aztecs died from diseases the Spanish gave them inadvertently.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO

- The odd part is that the Aztec welcomed their doom because they thought that the white Europeans were gods when they first saw them.



- It had to do with the light skin, blond hair and blue eyes of the Europeans and legends in which the Aztec gods would return to them on boats from the east.

CORTES INVADES MEXICO

■ Questions:

- 1) Who was the Emperor of the Aztec Empire when Hernan Cortes invaded?
- 2) What did this Emperor see in a dream about the Spanish Explorers?
- 3) What soldiers, weapons and equipment did Cortes bring during this invasion?
- 4) What was the secret weapon that the Tabascans gave to Cortes and why was it important?
- 5) What invisible allies helped defeat the Aztec?

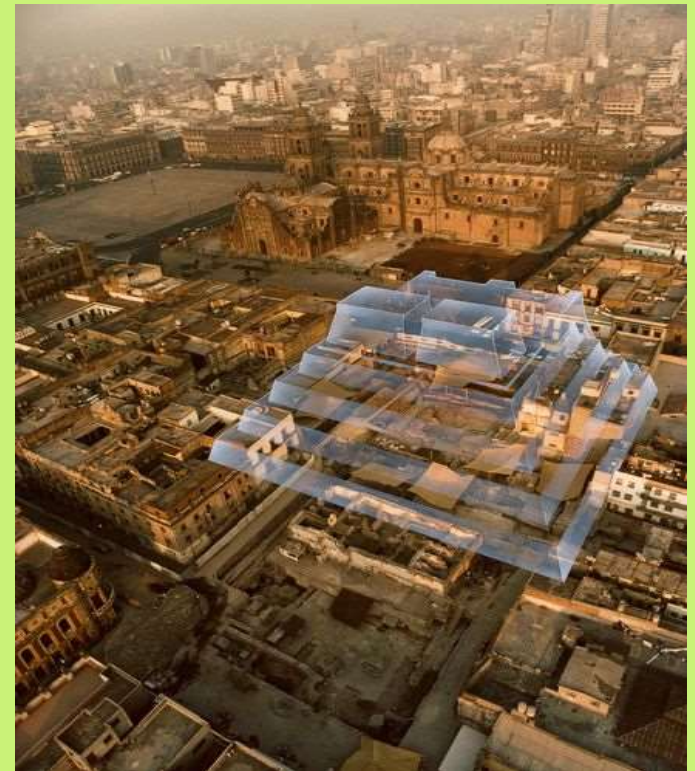
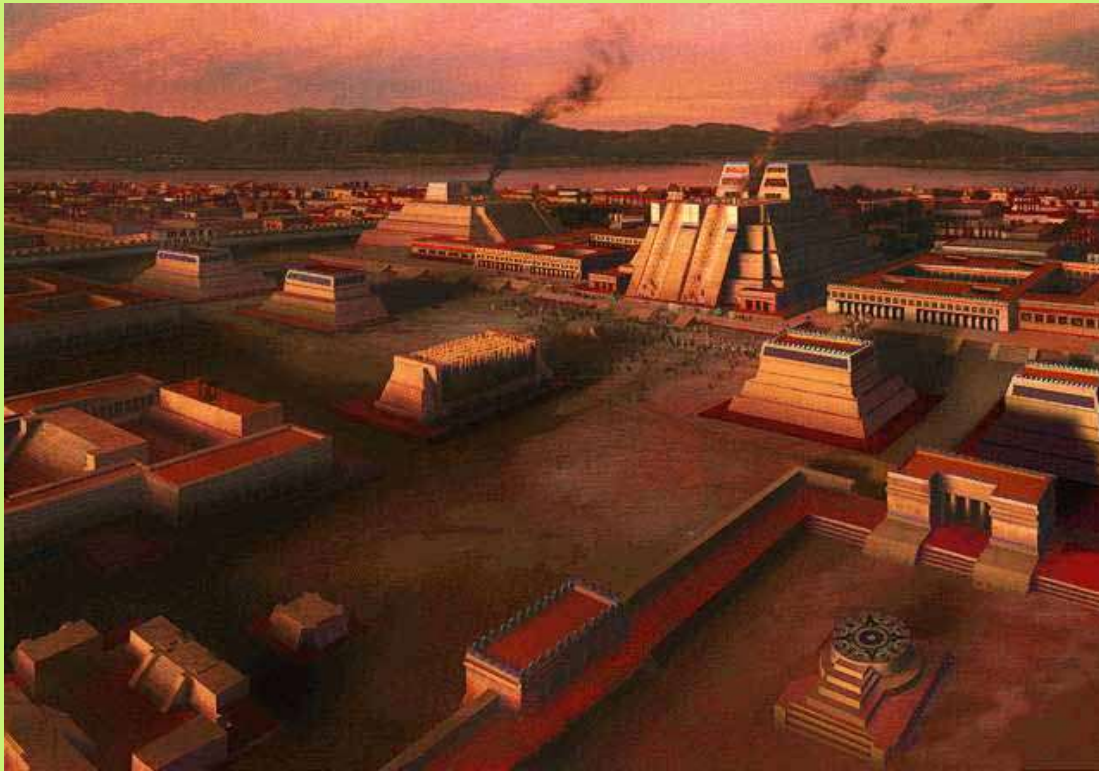
CORTES INVADES MEXICO

■ Questions:

- 1) Who was the Emperor of the Aztec Empire when Hernan Cortes invaded?
 - Montezuma II
- 2) What did this Emperor see in a dream about the Spanish Explorers?
 - He looked into a mirror and saw a huge army headed over the mountains
- 3) What soldiers, weapons and equipment did Cortes bring during this invasion?
 - 550 Soldiers, 16 horses, 14 cannons and a few dogs
- 4) What was the secret weapon that the Tabascans gave to Cortes and why was it important?
 - A Mayan women named Malintzin who could speak the Aztec language
- 5) What invisible allies helped defeat the Aztec?
 - Diseases such as smallpox and measles

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- The Spaniards traveled 400 miles to reach Tenochtitlan, the Aztec capital city.



- Aztec messengers reported the Spaniards every move to Montezuma II, without even knowing they were being watched.

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- The Aztec believed in a light skinned god , Quetzalcoatl, that could have resembled the light skinned Spanish Explorers.



- Quetzalcoatl, who opposed sacrifice, had sailed away from Mesoamerica long ago, promising to one day return and reclaim his land.

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC



- Montezuma II was afraid Cortes was the god returning home and as a result did not want to attack the Spaniards right away.

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- As Cortes marched closer, Montezuma decided to ambush the Spanish troops.



- Cortes had learned of this plan before he marched and went on the attack first, killing 6000 people at the start of the battle.

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- In November 1519, the Spaniards marched into Tenochtitlan and took complete control of the city.



- To prevent the Aztecs from rebelling, Cortes took Montezuma II hostage and demanded that human sacrifice ends.

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- Cortes' orders angered the Aztec Civilization and a open rebellion was planned.



- Fighting erupted and the Spanish killed thousands of Aztec.

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- Montezuma II tried to stop the fighting, however, he was killed during the battles.
- Spanish sources claim he was pelted with rocks when trying to convince an angry mob of Aztecs to disperse.
- Montezuma then refused medical treatment, food and died shortly after.
- Cortes later gave this as the official version of his death.



CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- Aztec sources claim that Montezuma was killed by the Spanish before their withdrawal from Tenochtitlan in 1520.
- Certainly, if Montezuma was unable to control his own people, he was no longer of any use to Cortes as a hostage.
- It would have been politically foolish to leave a live Montezuma behind in Tenochtitlan after the Spanish had left.



CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- Either way Montezuma was dead and the war was ending.



- Cortes and his men were outnumbered and had to fight their way out of the city...eventually taking refuge in the nearby hills outside of Tenochtitlan.

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- While Cortes prepared a second attack smallpox broke out all over Tenochtitlan.
- This outbreak greatly weakened, the Aztec and they were no match for the Spaniards.



CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC



- In June of 1521 Cortes had completely destroyed the Aztec capital and the Aztec military.

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

■ Questions:

- 1) What god did the Aztecs think the Spanish Explorers were?
- 2) What did Cortes order once he had captured Montezuma II?
- 3) While Cortes prepared a final attack on the Aztecs, what broke out in Tenochtitlan?

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- **Questions:**

- **1) What god did the Aztecs think the Spanish Explorers were?**
 - **Quetzalcoatl**
- **2) What did Cortes order once he had captured Montezuma II?**
 - **The Aztec to stop human sacrifice**
- **3) While Cortes prepared a final attack on the Aztecs, what broke out in Tenochtitlan?**
 - **Smallpox**

CORTES DEFEATS THE AZTEC

- **Reading Check:**

- In a well written open ended response answer the following question.
- Explain why the Aztec thought they should welcome Hernan Cortez and his people?

PRIMARY SOURCE

■ The Aztec Defeat:

- The following excerpt describes the aftermath of Cortes' victory:
- “Broken spears lie in the roads; we have torn our hair in our grief. The houses are roofless now and their walls are red with blood...we have pounded our hands in despair against adobe walls, for our inheritance, our city is lost and dead. The shields of our warriors were in defense, but they could not save it.
- - Author unknown, from Broken Spears



PRIMARY SOURCE

- **Primary Source Response:**

- In a well written open ended response answer the following question.
- The Aztec felt that their lost city was their inheritance. What could this statement mean?