

Amazing Aztecs

Exploring Aztec Society

National Curriculum Aims:

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

English: (Spoken language) Ask relevant questions to extend understanding and knowledge.
Articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions.

Write a persuasive argument.

The Aztecs are best known as a fierce warrior tribe, but how else did they create a society that thrived for over two hundred years?

The king had total control of his empire. He was often a great warrior, conquering other tribes. He would also encourage trade. The king would expect skilled craftsmen to build fine temples to please the Aztec gods and farmers to work the land and feed the people. So, a combination of warriors, craftsmen and farmers helped to create a successful empire with a clear social structure.



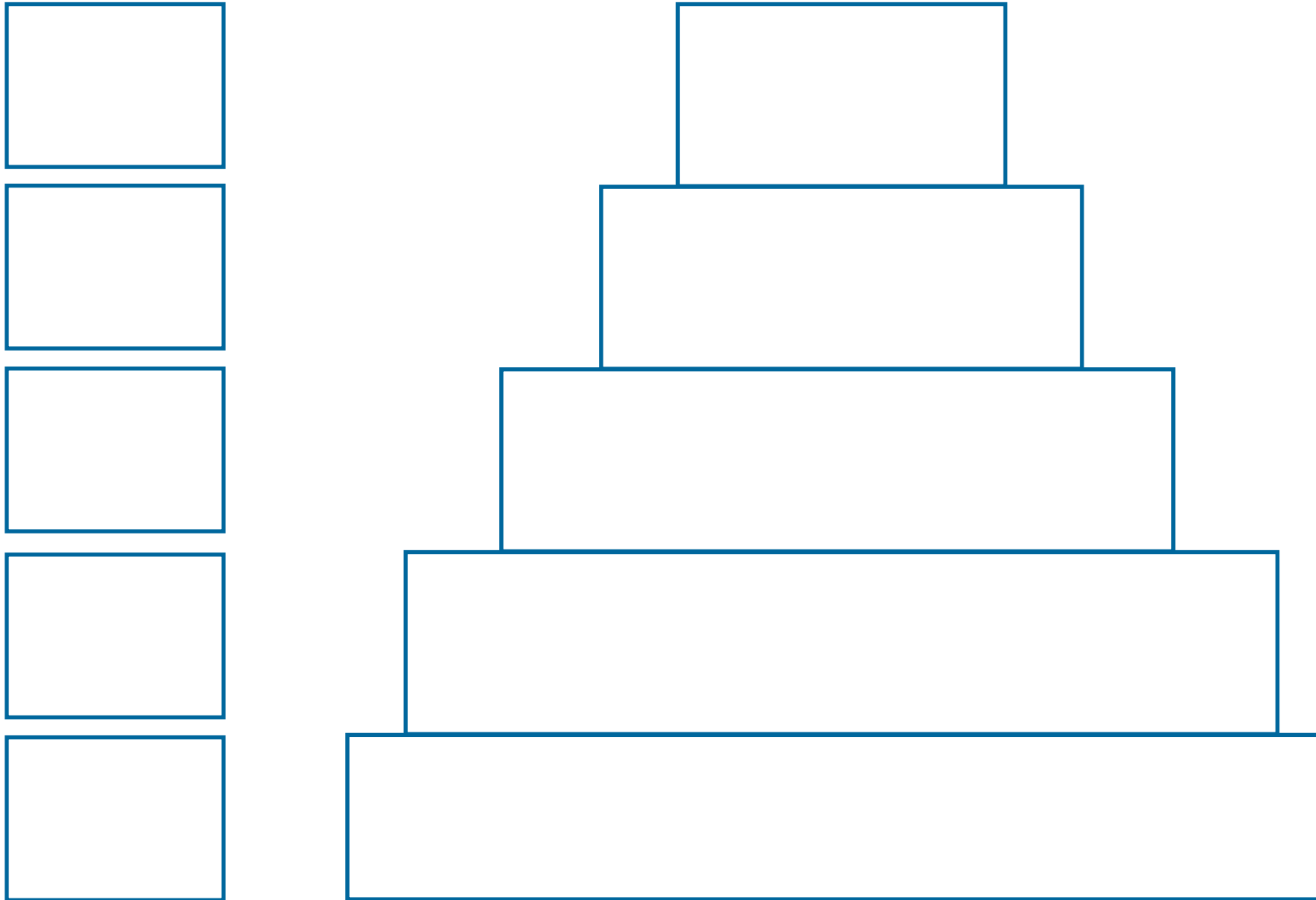
What you need:

1. Information books or access to the Internet.
2. Exploring Aztec Society Sheet




















What to do:

1. Spend some time investigating the different people in Aztec society. Who was the most important? Who was most skilled?
2. Use the Aztec Society Activity Sheet to sort the different members of Aztec society into their correct place.

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<p>Nobles</p>	<p>Priests and Warriors</p>				
<p>Farmers and Slaves</p>	<p>King</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you sort the pictures into the correct place? • Add a label to each part of the pyramid. • Can you draw any other images you find? • Can you add any information about each part of Aztec society? 					
					
					

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Aztec Persuasion

In the 16th Century, Spanish Conquistadors, led by Hernán Cortés, began to colonise the Americas, conquering Aztec lands in the process. The Conquistadors believed that the Aztecs were inferior to them in culture, religion and technology.

Write a persuasive argument using what you know about the Aztec civilisation to prove this belief ignorant, as we know it to be today.

Think about the types of persuasive techniques you could include to emphasise your points, such as rhetorical questions, facts to justify your arguments and powerful vocabulary.



