

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.
Participate in debates.

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.



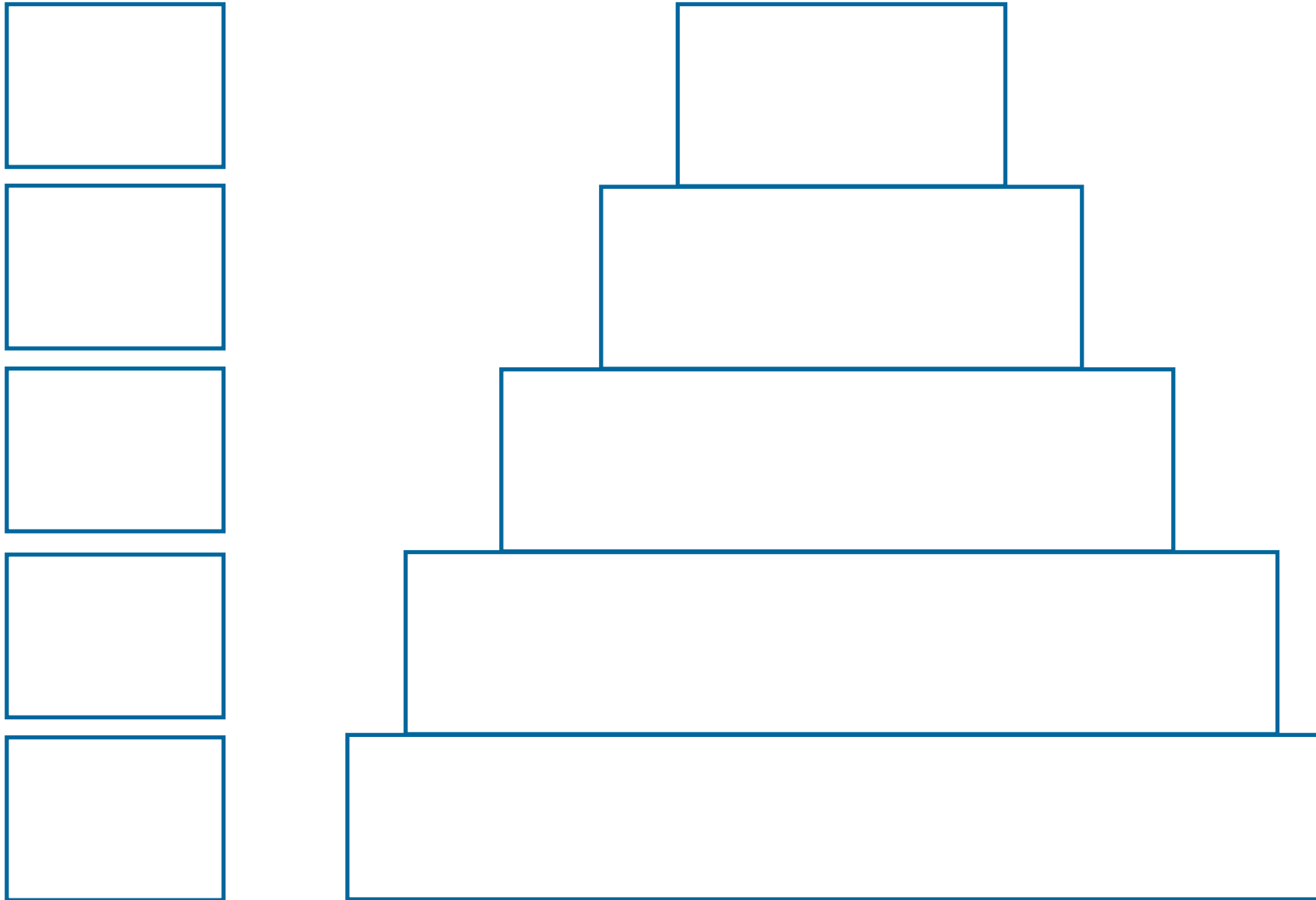
What you need:

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>Merchants and Craftsmen</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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An Aztec Debate

Consider this statement:

The Spanish Conquistadors considered the Aztecs to be savage and inferior in culture, religion and technology.

Knowing what you do about Aztec Society, do you agree?

Define the words **savage**, **inferior**, **culture**, **religion** and **technology**.

Choose to be either FOR or AGAINST the statement and come up with a list of three points to support your point of view. Be prepared to defend your opinion!

For

The Aztecs were savages with inferior culture, religion and technology.

1.

2.

3.

Challenge: Use conjunctions to develop your ideas.

Consequently, So, Therefore, As a result.

Against

The Aztecs were not savages with inferior culture, religion and technology.

1.

2.

3.

Challenge: Use conjunctions to develop your ideas.

Consequently, So, Therefore, As a result.

Hold a debate in class to present your arguments.

- Which point of view do you support after listening to the debate?
- Was there a point that changed your mind?

