

# MOCTEZUMA II VS HERNÁN CORTÉS

Week 9

Date 22.06.20

# YOUR TASK

Your task is research based and you will need to draw upon different skills throughout the week. Below is a step-by-step guide of what is required of you:

1. Research online, making detailed notes on what life was like for Aztec's under Moctezuma II's rule.
2. Use the research videos and online research to find out about the Spanish conquest, who Hernán Cortes was and what he achieved in the 1500s.
3. Create a Personal Profile/ Biography for both Hernán Cortes and Moctezuma II.
4. Compose a letter from Moctezuma II to a relative or confidant sharing his concerns about the Spanish.

# STEP 1- RESEARCH ONLINE, MAKING DETAILED NOTES ON WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE FOR AZTEC'S UNDER MOCTEZUMA II'S RULE.

- Who were the Aztecs?
- Which centuries did the Aztec's rule in?
- Where did they live?
- What was life like for an Aztec?
- How did their life compare to yours now?
- Who was Moctezuma? II?
- How long did he rule for?
- What did he achieve?
- Did his people like him?
- Was he a good leader?

## STEP 2-USE THE RESEARCH VIDEOS AND ONLINE RESEARCH TO FIND OUT WHO HERNÁN CORTES WAS AND WHAT HE DID.

- Watch the research video and use the websites suggested to find out more about what happened once Hernán Cortes arrived in Mesoamerica.
- Try to use headings and sub-headings as you go along as it will help you to organise your work effectively. Just as Mr Friend has suggested previously, you could use sketches and diagrams too!
- Think about what the armour and weapons the Spanish would have shipped with the soldiers and what the Aztecs would have fought with. Would it have been similar? How would this have impacted on whether or not the Spanish could have invaded?

# STEP 3- CREATE A PERSONAL PROFILE/ BIOGRAPHY FOR HERNÁN CORTES

## What do you need to write about?

Who was he?

How long did he live for?

What were the key events in his life?

What were his key achievements?

Why did he go to Mesoamerica?

What did he do when he got to Mesoamerica?

What were his intentions with the Aztecs?

Who did Moctezuma II think he was?

What did he do once he had conquered the Aztecs?

## STEP 3- CREATE A PERSONAL PROFILE/ BIOGRAPHY FOR MOCTEZUMA II

What do you need to write about?
Who was he?
How long did he live for?
What were the key events in his life?
What were his key achievements?
How long did he rule for and what was it like under his rule?
Why did he not put up much of a fight?
Who did he think Hernán Cortes was?
How did he greet him and treat him?
What happened to Moctezuma?

## STEP 4-COMPOSE A LETTER FROM MOCTEZUMA II TO A RELATIVE OR CONFIDENT SHARING HIS CONCERNS ABOUT THE SPANISH.

- Now you are going to use and apply your new found knowledge about the Aztec's and the Spanish conquest to compose a letter from Moctezuma II to a relative or confident, sharing his concerns about the Spanish. You will need to think about the below:
- Introduction- why you are writing to your relative/ confident
- Main body 1-How do you felt when Hernán Cortes arrived in Mesoamerica? What happened?
- Main body 2- Why are you concerned about the Spanish?
- Conclusion- Summarise and stress to your relative/ confident that you are concerned about the Spanish(remember the Spanish had cannons and horses etc but the Aztec's only had clubs and swords).

# USEFUL VIDEOS & WEBSITES

<http://www.aztec-history.com/moctezuma-ii.html>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Montezuma-II>

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Montezuma-II/544227>

[https://www.ducksters.com/biography/explorers/hernan\\_cortes.php](https://www.ducksters.com/biography/explorers/hernan_cortes.php)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b016924x>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zrrc87h>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zxmxpv4>

[https://www.ducksters.com/history/aztec\\_empire/spanish\\_conquest.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/aztec_empire/spanish_conquest.php)

- Take time and care to gather your research
- Record your notes in a neat and organised way- you might want to colour code and use headings/ sub-headings
- Plan and draft your letter in order to make sure you include everything that is relevant and produce a letter you can be proud of
- ENJOY learning about the past

# SUCCESS CRITERIA