

Primary Source 11.3

1. Aztec religion heavily surrounded the worshiping of gods and ritual sacrifice. It is important to note that The Aztec people equated religion to survival. The main gods included Huitzilopochtli and Tezcatlipoca, the sun and the goddess Cihuacoatl. The Aztecs performed ritual sacrifices in hopes the sun would rise again and crops would grow. During this time rain was highly desired and the people begged for it from the gods who's feast they were keeping. During the feast they participated in a solemn dance, accompanied by headdresses and wreaths. They ate birds, human flesh and made necklaces of corn to adorn their idols. Aztec religion tied heavily into how their society functioned, majority of their wants and needs were surrounded by the worshiping of gods.
2. The Aztec society structured the year very carefully and it was represented here in this source. The Aztecs utilized a circular design which taught them to understand how the years were counted. Found in the circular design were fifty-two squares, each signified a year. At the end of the cycle a fest was held called Nexiuhpiliztli. The advantage to this was to track the patterns of civilization and celestial movements to determine what would happen in the future. In a sense, I think this method was used to keep people in order by showing them how knowledgeable their leaders were and that knowledge came from the gods.