

SOURCING: SPANISH CONQUEST OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE

Purpose

Extend your sourcing skills by reading and analyzing two primary source documents, each written from a different perspective, about the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire. In your analysis, focus on the Historical Context and Purpose rows of the Sourcing Tool.

Process

1. Open and analyze [Sourcing Excerpts: Spanish Conquest of the Aztec Empire](#). As you read the documents, focus on completing the Historical Context and Purpose sections of the Sourcing Tool on the next page. Do your best with audience and point of view; you'll come back to Importance section of the tool in Step 3.
2. Once you've completed Historical Context and Purpose, respond to the following questions:
 - What were the motivations of the Spanish conquerors?

- What were the responses of the Indigenous peoples to the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire?

3. Finally, complete the Importance section of the tool, working with a partner or group if you can.

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Sourcing Tool

Process: Answer each of the questions below. If you are sourcing more than one document, provide responses for each.

Name of document and/or source:	
Author's name:	
Location and date source was written:	
Historical Context	What about the author's location may have influenced the source's location (for example, the location's geography, demography, or the region's political situation, religious influences, or industry)?
	What events might have influenced the source's creation?
	What other information helps you understand this source?
Audience	Who was the source created for (that is, was this written for anyone to read or was it private, for one specific person or group)?
	What were the readers of this source supposed to do or think once they read it?

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POV (Point of View)	Can you identify anything about the author that might explain why they wrote this? For example, does their economic class, occupation, religion, nationality, political group, ethnic group, or gender help explain why they wrote this?
Why (Importance)	What is the main idea of the source?
	What parts of this document are most valuable and why?
	What are the limitations of this document? In other words, where does it fall short?