

# The Aztec Worldview - Teacher Outline

## Grade 8 Social Studies

Adapted from a Learn Alberta Critical Challenge



### Program of Study Outcomes:

#### Social Studies 8:

##### Knowledge and Understanding

8.3.4.1 - What were the key elements of the worldview of the Aztec civilization prior to contact with the Spanish?

##### Skills and Processes

8.S.4.1 - demonstrate skills of compromise and devise strategies to reach group consensus

8.S.7.3 - draw conclusions based upon research and evidence

8.S.7.7 - practice the responsible and ethical use of information and technology

8.S.7.16 - access and retrieve information through the electronic network

#### Cross-curricular Competencies:

- Know how to learn
- Think critically
- Manage Information
- Apply multiple literacies
- Demonstrate global and cultural understanding
- Demonstrate good communication skills and the ability to work cooperatively with others

### Objective

This activity is intended to provide students with some foundational knowledge about the worldview of the Aztec civilization. Students will use the Internet for exploration to, collaboratively, create an informative presentation of the Aztec Worldview.

### Organization

Students will be organized into research groups, seven students in each group. You may choose to use the Sample Organizational Structure to make groupings. Within the research group, each student will be assigned an element of worldview to examine. They will become an expert on that element of worldview, in reference to the Aztec civilization. They will be responsible to share this information with their research group.

## Resources

Use the links provided as well as other resources (textbooks, web pages, etc.)

### Documents

[AW Student Handout](#)  
[Background Information](#)  
[Keyword Organizer](#)  
[Reference Record](#)  
[Elements of Aztec Worldview Questions](#)  
[Aztec Worldview Rubric](#)  
[Information Gathering Organizer](#)  
[Google Slide Presentation Template](#)  
[Aztec Worldview Summarizing](#)  
[Choosing Copyright-Free Images](#)

### Progression

1. Introductory Lesson - Share Student Handout and discuss expectations for the critical challenge.
  - a. 5-minute Research - allow the students to use their textbooks or devices to to complete research to gather information about the Aztecs.
  - b. Whole-Class Debrief - Bring students back to share what they have found.
  - c. Choosing Worldview Elements - Students begin cursory research, using the [Background Information](#) links, to identify the element(s) of worldview they are most interested in examining. Use their preferences to help place them into research groups.
2. Identifying Keywords Lesson - Teacher demonstrates the impact of carefully choosing search words in a Google search.
  - a. Students work with their research groups to determine keywords they might use when completing their research. They record their work in the [Keyword Organizer](#). They should also skim their textbooks, using the index, and the table of contents, to identify where they might find related information in their textbooks. There is also space for this to be recorded on the [Keyword Organizer](#).
3. Lesson on Making Inferences
  - a. "When you read this, what can you learn?"
4. Lesson Connecting to Evidence to Support Conclusions
  - a. How can you prove you are right?
5. Lesson on respecting others' work
  - a. Share [Reference Record](#) document
  - b. Remember to include the URLs of the pages from which you take information, as well as the dates in your [Reference Record](#), so you can return to it and use it in a bibliography.
6. Research - Students will work to answer the questions about their element of Worldview, using their [Sharing Thoughts Rubric](#) and [Elements of Aztec Worldview Questions](#) to guide their work.
  - a. Make notes on information relevant to your topic using the [Information Gathering Organizer](#).
7. Lesson on Getting and Using [EasyBib](#)
8. Choosing Copyright-Free Images

- a. Teacher will share the [Choosing Copyright-Free Images](#) Screencast that demonstrates how to find and use copyright-free images.
9. Google Slide Prep
  - a. Share the [Google Slide Presentation Template](#).
    - i. On the front, landing page, students will share an image that represents their own element of worldview.
    - ii. Each student will prepare one slide outlining his/her research findings. It should be geared toward an “uneducated audience”.
    - iii. Each student will be responsible for presenting their own expert knowledge, and image choice. (guide: 2-3 minutes)
10. Creating Presentations - Students should have the materials ready for this.
  - a. They may need support [choosing copyright-free images](#)
  - b. Students work to complete their part of the group presentation
  - c. During presentations, students may wish to record any important or new information on their own copy of the [AW Summarizing](#) document
11. Reflecting on Worldviews - When the class has finished presenting their research, they should discuss all findings in their Research groups.
  - a. **Ideas for Discussion:**
    - i. What conclusions can you draw about what was important to the Aztec society?
    - ii. How does the Aztecs’ manipulation of their geographic world reflect their world view?
    - iii. What effect did the beliefs they held about the gods and the natural world have on their way of life?
    - iv. What beliefs guided their actions as a society?
    - v. What do you think the Aztecs considered important? What values do you think they held?
    - vi. Which element of worldview had the greatest impact on the daily lives of the Aztecs?
  - b. Share any new, important ideas or connections with your class.
  - c. The teacher should fill in any informational gaps or misconceptions.
12. Individual Reflection - Record information, outlining the elements of the Aztec Worldview in the [AW Summarizing](#) document.
13. Sharing Thinking:
  - a. Using the group’s Aztec Worldview Summary Slide Presentation document (based on [the template](#)), the [AW Summarizing Document](#), and the [AW Presentation Rubric](#), students will need to prepare a script that outlines the Aztec worldview.
  - b. Individually, students will use [Screencastify](#) to create a screencast of the first page of their Research Group’s Google Slide Presentation. During the screencast, they will discuss the Aztec Worldview, including connections to evidence that supports their conclusions.

