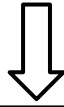


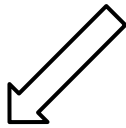
Essential Question

How does art represent the values of a people?



Background Knowledge

After the Spanish conquered the Aztecs in 1519, some Spanish priests and colonial leaders asked Aztec artists and priests to describe Aztec life and culture. This codex is a book that was created in 1541-1542 for the Spanish ruler of Mexico, Antonio de Mendoza.



Source

Aztec Codex Mendoza (Folio 2) - Aztec Artist illustration and map from 1541



Strategy Instructions:

Sourcing
Contextualization
Close Reading/Viewing
Corroboration

Source

Current Mexican flag to be used as a compare and contrast to the eagle symbol in the 1541 Aztec Codex Mendoza. Other sources will include certain zoomed in sections of the Codex Mendoza to be analyzed individually. Also included is the Colorado State Seal.



Discussion

Compare and contrast the eagle symbol in the Codex Mendoza with the eagle symbol in the current Mexican flag. Then, interpret the other symbols in the Codex. How do they differ and how are they the same? Which seem more important than others? Next, compare and contrast the entire Codex with the Map of Tenochtitlán from 1521. What kind of society did the Aztecs organize? How did the Aztecs record history?



Assessment

Option 1: How would students draw representations of their own city? What symbols would they use? What geographical features would be included?
Option 2: What do the symbols represent in the Colorado State seal? How do these symbols represent their own city? If they were to recreate it, what would they include?