

## QUEST 8-2

# AZTEC RELIGION: BLOOD AND THE SUN GOD

NOTE: Unless you have earned the MAGIC QUILL power-up, these notes must be COPIED ON YOUR OWN PAPER.

Questions/Interactions	Notes
	<p><b>Great Temple</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Double shrines<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– one to the sun god (Huitzilopochtli)</li><li>– one to the rain god (Tlaloc)</li></ul></li><li>• In front of the shrines was a (human) sacrifice stone.</li><li>• an altar (tzompantli-“skull rock”) displayed the skulls of thousands of sacrifices.</li></ul> <p><b>Religious Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The sun was a warrior who fought battles each night.</li><li>• Blood kept the sun strong enough to rise.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– 100s of birds each morning.</li><li>– Captured warrior blood was especially nourishing.</li><li>– Priests shed own blood.</li></ul></li><li>• 1,000s were sacrificed each year.</li></ul> <p><b>The Sun Stone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• dedicated to the sun god (Huitzilopochtli)</li><li>• believed to be a calendar</li><li>• each symbol has meaning</li><li>• Gives dates for the beginning and end of the world.</li></ul> <p><b>Food</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maize porridge (atole), maize tortillas, maize cakes, maize tamales, maize soup</li><li>• Maize was great because it could be dried and stored.</li><li>• special occasions – hairless dog</li><li>• They also ate frogs, insect eggs, and algae cakes (mmm!)</li></ul> <p><b>Recreation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• music, dancing, hunting</li><li>• Patolli - a betting game<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– a cross-shaped board with 52 squares</li><li>– beans with holes in them would be rolled like dice</li><li>– 5x around to win</li></ul></li><li>• Tlachtli - similar to pok-a-tok (losers were sacrificed)</li></ul>

