



Art

Aztec Art

Year 6 Unit 2

Intent:

In this unit, pupils will learn about Aztec art and culture and use this knowledge to build towards creating their own Aztec inspired artwork. They will build on their previous Year 5 exploration of painting, printing and sculpture. Throughout this unit the children will look at the history and cultural behind Aztec art and explore the different themes from which the art is created. Using basic painting, printing and sculpture techniques, alongside exploring the work of inspirational Aztec artists, pupils will create their own Aztec inspired work of art. This will lay the foundations for future creations as they move on to Secondary School.

Pupils should be taught to:

Know:

What different styles of Aztec art there are
 Understand what influences Aztec art.
 How to block print.

Be able to:

Work in the style of a culture/artist
 Use clay to create a sculpture
 Use printing to create an effect.
 Combine learnt art skills to create a final piece.

Prior learning:

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Explore and play with a wide range of media and materials	Drawing techniques/ colour mixing/ simple collage	Revisiting Post Impressionism	Revisiting pastel and drawing techniques	Revisit Abstract Art from Year 1. Revisit block printing from year 2.	Show experience in a range of mono print techniques.

Key Vocabulary:

Core Knowledge

Mesoamerican	Aztecs were a Mesoamerican culture. It is a historical region and cultural area in southern North America and most of Central America.
Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
Toltecat	The Aztec word for art
Amanteca	Aztec crafts people who worked with feathers. They were among the most respected craftspeople in the empire.

Technical Vocabulary

Printing	The activity of making pictures or designs by printing them from specially prepared plates or blocks.
Collograph printing	Collagraph comes from the Greek 'colla', meaning glue, and 'graph,' meaning to draw. A collagraph is essentially a collage of materials of various textures glued on to a printing plate.

Misconceptions

Not true

Teach this

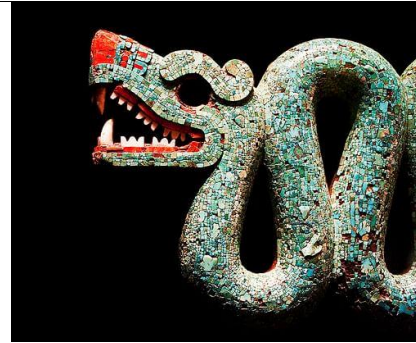
The Aztec Calendar Stone/ Sun Stone is a calendar

The Aztec Calendar Stone was not a calendar, but most likely a ceremonial container or altar linked to the Aztec sun god, Tonatiuh, and festivities dedicated to him.

Key Works of Art



Aztec Sun Stone



Aztec Double Headed Serpent






Fired-clay Mictlantecuhtli Statue



Aztec symbols

Lesson number	Key enquiry question & learning objective	Suggested learning activities	Cumulative questions
1	<p>What is Aztec Art?</p> <p>LO: To investigate Aztec Art is.</p> <p>LO: To understand what/who influenced Aztec art.</p>	<p>Input: Show pupils examples of Aztec Art, include varying forms of print, sculpture, jewellery and feather work.</p> <p>Ask the children to think about what they can see in the images. How does the art make them feel? What is the artist trying to portray in their artwork?</p> <p>Task one: Print one or two examples of Aztec art and have the children annotate/appraise the piece. Using questions eg: What form of art has been used? What do you like/dislike? Do you notice any similarities/ differences?</p> <p>Task two: Children to research and take notes on key Gods and things in nature that influenced Aztec art – focusing on the symbolism.</p>	Q's 1-4
2	<p>What is the significance of the Aztec Sun Stone?</p> <p>LO: To explore Aztec inventions and sculptures.</p>	<p>Children to be given information/ resources to explore the Aztec stone carvings, specifically sun stone in greater detail – when it was carved and who it was dedicated to. Find out about its 2 parts – calendar and ritual cycle. Explore its importance and the meaning behind the day images seen on it.</p> <p>When confident, children to design their own sun stone in their sketch books – stating the significance of each of its parts/ their symbols. They may want to draw more than one.</p>	Q5-7

		<p>Task: Design own sun stone</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>What is the significance of the Aztec Sun Stone?</p> <p>LO: To experiment with clay to create own sun stones.</p>	<p>Children to reflect back on last lessons work. Choose the design they wish to create using clay to make their own sun stone.</p> <p>Task: use design from sketchbook to create own sun stone using clay.</p> <p>Roll out the clay with rolling pins and hands. Cut into a circular shape, by hand.</p> <p>Use modelling tools to make an impression design on the clay surface. Put on card to dry.</p> <p>Use technique: rolling, squeezing, pulling, punching, smoothing, carving, joining when thinking about how to manipulate the clay.</p>	 <p>Q's 8</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>How did Aztec patterns and symbols translate into art?</p> <p>LO: To explore printing and pattern making.</p>	<p>Task: Research Aztec patterns and symbols.</p> <p>Know that Aztecs created symbol of animals and people.</p> <p>Have a go at copying a few out or use them as a starting point to create their own symbols in their sketch books.</p> <p>Keep design as simple as possible using clear, bold lines – research the meaning behind the chosen symbol and annotate sketches.</p>	<p>Q's 9</p> 

<p>5</p>	<p>What techniques will I use to create my final Aztec inspired piece?</p> <p>LO: To use drawing and printing to produce a piece of art inspired by Aztec designs.</p> <p>Aztec Printing (final piece)</p>	<p>Task 1: Use sketchbook designs from last lesson – choose 2 of their favourite symbols which will be used in their final piece.</p> <p>Children to plan in their sketch books how they would like their final piece to look. Children need to think about colour, shape and pattern.</p> <p>When happy, children to copy their favourite 2 designs onto paper.</p> <p>Glue paper design onto cardboard and add a layer of glue – begin to add strong string, following the lines that have been drawn.</p> <p>To secure string add another layer of glue and then leave to dry for next lesson.</p>	<p>Q10-11</p> <p>(Image shows example of string glued onto cardboard design)</p> <p>Make sure children have a design to follow underneath.</p> 
<p>6</p>	<p>What techniques will I use to create my final Aztec inspired piece?</p> <p>LO: To use drawing and printing to produce a piece of art inspired by Aztec designs.</p> <p>Aztec Printing (final piece)</p>	<p>Using a paint brush/ roller, cover string picture with paint and print once into sketchbook (as a test).</p> <p>Technique used - collograph printing.</p> <p>Continue by printing onto canvas – can use print more than once, or 2 designs if they have them. Canvas' to be displayed.</p>	<p>Q12</p>