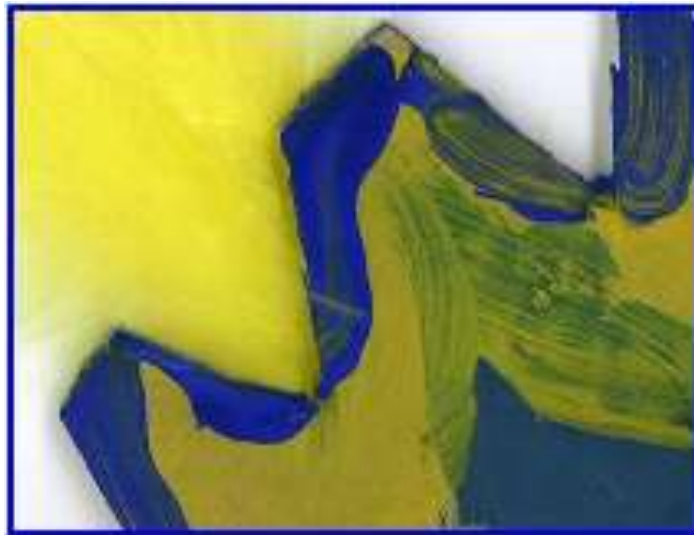


Year 6  
Elm Class



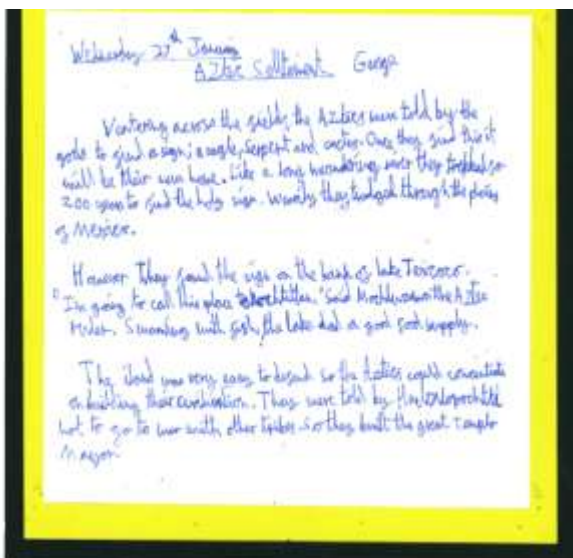
Medstead CE Primary School  
Curriculum Evaluation  
Spring 2010

# Aztecs

A cross curricular approach was taken to the delivery of the Aztec topic. Focus was placed on developing specific **'life skills' in each subject** and assessment in the form of **'skills progression grids'** allowed the objectives of each lesson to be specifically matched to the learning needs of this particular cohort. The topic began with **a visit to the 'Moctezuma'** exhibition at the British Museum in London. This provided a good opportunity **to personalise the children's** learning experience. Each group was given an opportunity to focus on an area of Aztec life that interested them and to follow this throughout the exhibition.




The children were then able to develop this specialism with further research back in school. The staging of an **exhibition of what they'd learnt during a 'Parent Workshop' at the end of term**, allowed the children to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills as well as providing a real-life purpose to their work.



The children decided to present their findings in a variety of ways that utilised their ICT, DT and artistic skills.

## Aztec Houses

Common Aztec homes were made of sun dried brick made from adobe clay. The main area of the Aztec shelter was one room split up equally into four areas. There was an area for the whole family to sleep in, a family shrine where statues of gods would be kept, a place where meals would be prepared, and then the eating area. There would be thatched roofs, or even terraced roofs. It was here that the people stood to attack the Spanish. It was common for the windows to have two parallel sides and then two sides of different length. This shape of rectangles were very basic in Aztec architecture.



**NEXT** ▶

"I enjoyed making our Aztec folders. I found it was important to present the information in a bright and attractive way to make it interesting to the reader."

Megan


## The Bundle Of Years

- The Aztecs divided time into sections of 52 years. At the end of each cycle and the beginning of a new one an Aztec ceremony called "the Binding of the Years" took place. It was represented by a bundle of reeds accompanied by dates.



**NEXT** ▶

Emily, Sam B, Ollie, Joe, Romy  
and Megan



To Ko Ti Ti Ti To Ko Ti Ti

"I have really enjoyed learning about the Aztec civilization. Moctezuma was an interesting figure. I don't want to stop doing this topic!"

Guy

# Visits & Visitors

Elm class have enjoyed both an education visit to the British Museum and a presentation in school of the Mexicolore workshop. These experiences have brought learning to life and enabled the children to explore the topic through a variety of hands-on activities.



## **The 'Mexicolore' workshop**

explored Aztec culture through stories, music and drama. The Mexican experts brought with them an enormous variety of authentic artefacts that the children were encouraged to handle and ask questions about. The interactive approach meant that the children were always engaged, through singing, dressing-up, playing instruments and were given plenty of chances to offer their own ideas and suggestions.

**"When we went to the British Museum in London we saw many artefacts. I think the class thought the double headed serpent was best."**

Charlotte

**"I found out how clever the Aztecs were. The museum was a good place to have fun whilst learning about History."**

Jack



**"Mexicolore taught us a lot about Aztec schools homes and Gods. Most of the children got to dress up and play Aztec musical instruments."**

Jessica

**"I really liked the Mexicolore workshop and learnt a lot about the Aztecs. I wish they could come again! The glyphs were very mysterious and intriguing."**

Daniel

# Parent Workshop



**"The parent workshop was a total success. The food was delicious and the presentations were a real hit!"**

Emily

The Elm Class Parent workshop allowed the children to work alongside their mums and dads to complete a piece of work as well as celebrate their achievements. This activity also provided a real-life purpose to the Aztec topic as the children set up an exhibition of their work. The Elm museum showcased interactive PowerPoint presentations, had a hands on clay statue workshop and served authentic Mexican food in the cafe!



**"I loved the Aztec Parent Workshop. It was a chance to learn with our parents and celebrate our work. I made an Aztec sculpture from clay."**

Bethany



**"Making the food was lovely even though I got chilli in my eye! I learnt some new food techniques."**

Sam

**"The food was delicious and everyone stuffed themselves at the parent workshop. The lemonade was best because I made it!"**

Lizzie



# Un Défilé de Mode

"Bonjour, je m'appelle Emily.  
Je suis le sumo! Je porte un  
grande maillot de sumo beige,  
et le chapeau noir et juste le  
**slip noir.**"

Emily



"Bonjour, Je m'appelle  
Ralph.

Je porte le maillot de  
ballet argenté, le collant  
rose et le tee shirt  
**noir.**"

Ralph



**"Bonjour, je m'appelle Alex.**

Je porte le tee shirt rose et le maigre jean bleu. Je porte le maillor de ballet rose et les **chaussettes rose aussi."**

Alex

**"Bonjour, je m'appelle Rachael. Je** porte un petit tee shirt violet, une chemise rouge et un long jean **bleu."**

Rachael



# Learning in the Outdoors

**"I have really enjoyed helping in the garden, particularly planting the seeds, knowing that I would eventually be eating the things I'd planted."**

Rachael A



**"Learning outside helps me develop the skills I need to learn indoors as well."**

Bryony

Learning in the outdoors is an important part of the **children's learning** experience in Year 6. The task of looking after the school pets and tending the garden provides an opportunity to demonstrate responsibility, maturity and a growing sense of independence. These skills are vital in ensuring the children experience a smooth transition to secondary school and benefit them in the wider world. They also have a lot of fun!





**"The garden veg was extraordinary. When we went to dig up the parsnips they came out the size of watermelons! The broad beans and strawberries are delicious."**

Pinky

**"This year our bond with the pets has grown stronger as we have had to take full responsibility for caring for them during break times."**

Tally



**"I love our pets! Fluffy normally rubs fur on my jumper."**

Ben



Medstead School

