

Wednesday 8th December

Balanced argument:

Were the Maya and Aztec savages?

The Maya and Aztec were a tribe of warriors from different parts of central America. They got attacked and conquered by the Spanish! The Aztec were around about 1100 CE - 1521 CE whereas the Maya lived a lot longer, that was 1800 BCE - 1900 CE.

People are still arguing today whether they are or not

savages. Your brain is probably probably begging to have an opinion so read this to find out!



Above: It was around here

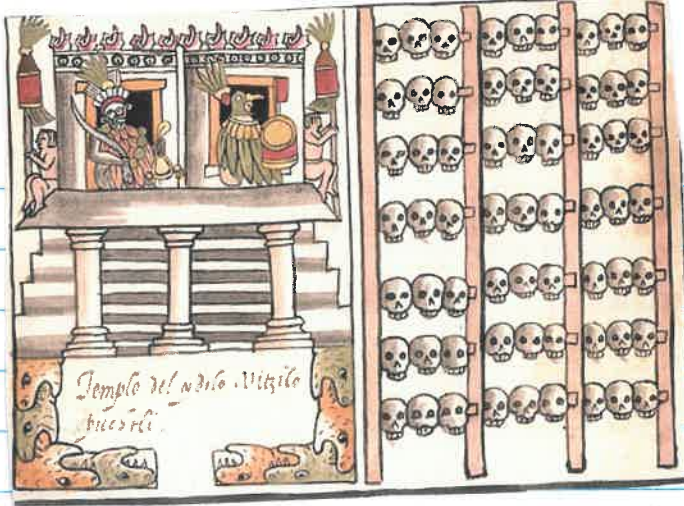
Therefore, you need this mystery solved so let's begin with reasons for them being savages. For example, I'm not sure who would capture people in battles and dig a glint knife in their chests while

there screaming and pull out their still beating hearts. They did this for good luck and to worship their gods. Also if you were a priest and you didn't wake up in the middle of the night you would have water

poured in your eyes to wake you up but if you didn't wake up they would put hot coals on your face! I can't imagine my parents doing this but if you were naughty you could have your hair shaved off, be dangled over a fire that was burning chillies, have to sweep the house for 24 hours or be tied outside naked! Archaeologists have recently found



Above: sacrificing enemies!



them too!!

a skull rack, surely ^{kill} enough to please a god. In this photo there is an eagle warrior and if you came across one of them. The jaguar warrior is the same so look out for

On the other hand, there are reasons for them being savages so lets drive into them! Firstly, **THEY MADE CHOCOLATE!** (I bet thats made your mind up already!) Thats not it though, they made tottias, chewing gum and rubber! How are they savages if they had houses and temples, can they? They also had rooms, in the houses it was resting, storage and kitchen. The edijptions are called savages. When a pharaoh died, family, wife, servants and friends would be killed just to go in the tomb! The Maya and Aztec decided when they saw an eagle eating a snake they would build their



above: This is a Maya + Aztec building

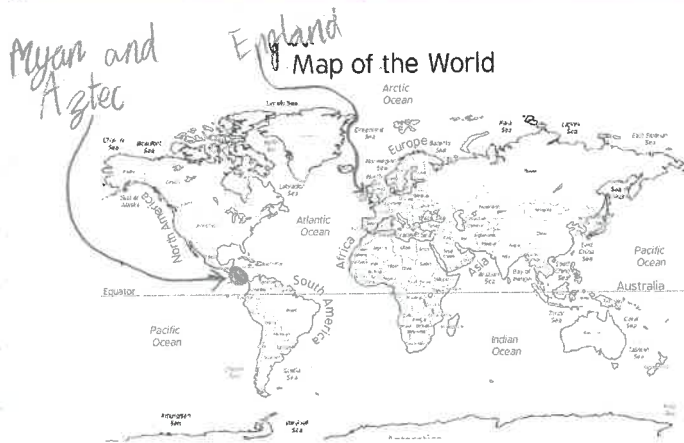
city there. It was in the middle of a lake so they scooped the mud up and made islands to grow there good. The Spanish turned it into Mexico city, you can visit NOW!

In conclusion, there are reasons for and against. My first and last reminder is They sacrificed warriors but it was a religion. My work is done time for yours to begin. You have sucked out all my information out. What is your oppinion, are they maya and aztec savages?

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Were the Aztec and Maya Savages?

Is your brain pondering the question were the Aztec a Maya savages? If you are then read this balanced argument and I'll let you decide. The Aztec were around from 1100ce-1521ce and the Mayan 1800ce-900ce. The Aztec lived in Mexico and The Mayan lived in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize and Nicaragua. The Spanish invaded in 1521ce and that was the end of their empires.



Above: A beautifully patterned flint knife used for sacrifice

There is a list of reasons for both sides but I'll start with the one proposing that they are savages - brutal and uncontrollable. The first reason is that they sacrificed people every 20 days by cutting out their hearts with a flint knife (see above) at the top of their stone temples. The people they sacrificed were prisoners of war which they had captured in battle. Another show of their savagery is their like for horrible punishments. For instance when kids are naughty they have their heads shaved and if the priest didn't wake up they put hot coals on his face! Another reason is that they hung skulls of sacrificed people on big racks which archaeologists have found. How gruesome is that!?

On the other hand the Mayan and Aztec were very civilised and made ravishing food such as tortillas and chocolate! Can you even imagine the world without chocolate - I bet you can't. It would be

utter chaos! Father Jose de Acosta once said, "nothing cause me so much admiration and seems to me more worthy of praise and remembering than the care and disciplin with which the Mexicans raised their children." Moreover they played team games such as a rubber ball game and a board game which they played at most meal times.

Now that you've heard the main points (Sacrificing, punishments, skull racks and food, education and games) so now it's time to chose, were they savages? I'll let you decide

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Balanced Argument:

Were the Aztec and Maya savages?

The Aztec and Maya were indigenous people who roamed Central America. The Aztec came into Central America from about 1100 BC to 1521 BC but the Maya came in 1800 BC to 900 BC. Some people have the opinion that the Aztec and Maya were savages and cannibals. When the Spanish invaded, the Spanish tried to turn them into Christians, but the Aztec did not like it and fought back. But the Spanish had guns and horses and defeated them like sticking a leg. Read on to find out more.

There are many reasons why the Aztec and Maya may be savages. For a start, instead of killing people in battle they would capture them, then they would pull the warrior's heart out on top of ~~their~~ temples to please their gods. Another reason is, when their children were naughty the boys would be dangled over a fire with chilli peppers on that would really sting your eyes.

The girls would have to clean the house all night. Here's a couple of punishments for both genders, children they both would have to be shaved and they would have to sleep outside!

On the other side of the argument, the Aztec's and Maya were civilised because they made houses with three rooms: one for cooking, one for storage and there was one for living/sleeping. What would the world be without glorious chocolate? Well there was no chocolate before the Aztec and Maya came along! When you're in the car on a three

hour drive to holiday and you're chewing chewing gum; you wouldn't be if the Aztecs weren't around because that's also a thing they invented. If you think the Aztecs and Maya were savages for sacrificing you're all wrong - they were just doing it to please their gods and for their religions. Would do the same things that they were doing, would you do it? Just think about it.

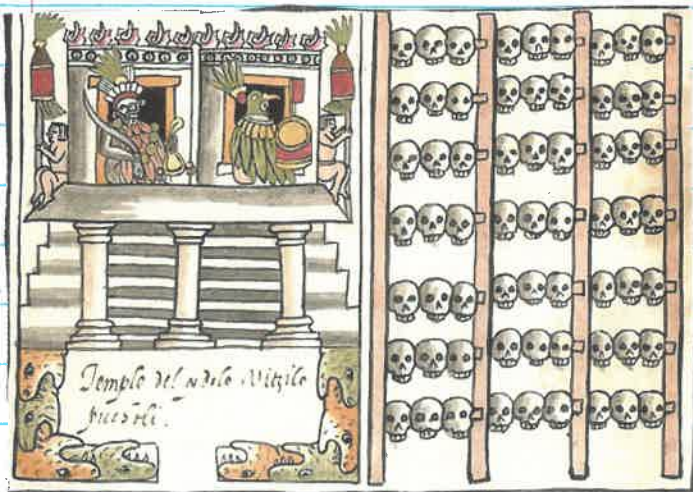
In summary, the Aztecs and Maya may or may not be savages. They pulled peoples hearts out after captivity, also they made houses, chocolate and lots of other tasty snacks. So what do you think are the Aztecs and Maya savages, it's time to decide.

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Balanced argument: Were the Aztecs and Maya savages?

The Aztec and Maya were fascinating, indigenous people who lived in Meso-American countries: Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize and Nicaragua. The Aztecs were there from 1100 CE - 1521 CE and the Maya were there from 1800 BCE - 900 CE. In 1521 CE the Spanish invaded, led by Hernan Cortes. They killed Aztec emperor, Motecuzoma brutally and stole all their handmade goods. Following that they converted the Aztec people to Christianity.

There are many rather valid reasons why they were savages. First of all, if their children were naughty then either they would be dangled above a fire full of blazing red-hot chillies so that the smoke would go into their eyes, or pierce their skin with cacti spines - how cruel? That was brutal and totally un-called-for and downright evil! Also, they cut out their Prisoner-of-war's hearts with a sharpened flint knife, on their step pyramids steps to please their many gods. And to top that off they would put their skulls on a hideous skull rack!



Left: A hideous skull rack.

They would wake up their priests in the middle of the night, to observe the stars. by tipping water on their heads or if that didn't work they would put hot coals on their head. Brutal savages, or not? Francois de Belleforest once said, "In war, the Aztecs are the cruellest people imaginable for they spare, no-one - not even their closest relative and they respect neither age nor sex. They kill and eat all of their enemies if they can not capture them."

We know that wasn't entirely true, but the sacrificing was very cruel.

In contrast, there are plenty of good reasons why they weren't savages. Firstly, they made exquisitely-decorated artefacts and traded them at the market (which used the art of negotiation which savages wouldn't). They also built massive step pyramids by hand, together.



Left:
Chichen Itza, an enormous stone pyramid built by the Maya.

They also followed a strict religion which, may have been a little unorthodox, but their self-discipline was admirable. Also, they invented chocolate! - Can you imagine a world without chocolate? Surely savages couldn't make something so wonderful?

Archaeologists have discovered ancient codices which show them harmoniously living together. They also built ball courts to play a rubber-ball game invented by themselves. Would "brutal savages" do that?

In conclusion, there are many equally valid opinions on the matter. There are lots of eye-witness accounts from both sides. Each display good reasons for each side. As we know, the Aztec and Maya people had cruel punishments and sacrificed prisoners of war but they also lived in close communities and made exquisitely-decorated artefacts. So, as you can see the Aztecs and Maya had many unusual differences to us now. Make up your own mind as to whether they are or not! So, do you think that the fascinating, indigenous people from Meso-America are savages? Happy Brainstorming!

Right.
= Where the Aztecs and Maya lived.



What historical evidence have you used to learn about the Aztecs and Maya?

Primary evidence would be ruins, codices and

Quotes from the Spanish but got secondary, MRW,

I an, Maps, The internet, experts and Scientists.

What do you think? Were they savages or not? Why?

They weren't savages but they did savage

things because if you died in war it

would be better than knowing to die in a

collar having your heart pulled out!

What historical evidence have you used to learn about the Aztecs and Maya?

For primary evidence ruins and temples quotes from the Spanish and codices. Secondary evidence include Ian from Mexicolore, Mr W, Maps and the internet

What do you think? Were they savages or not? Why?

They weren't savages they did savage things but only because that was the way they were always taught also they were keen to please their Gods.

What historical evidence have you used to learn about the Aztecs and Maya?

Primary evidence: Ruins, Codices, (painted) quotes.

Secondary evidence: Text, Mr. W, map, Internet.

What do you think? Were they savages or not? Why?

I personally don't believe that they were savages because they were following their own beliefs and believed that they were doing good things to please their gods.