

AZTEC CALENDAR

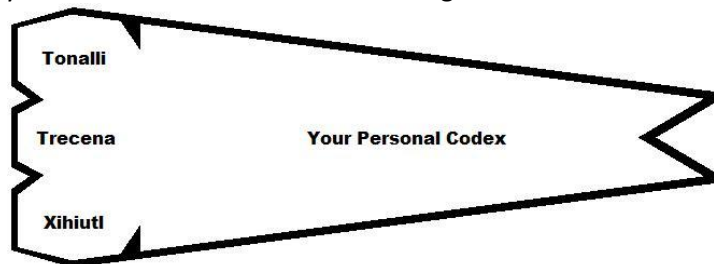
The *Aztec calendar* was used by the Aztecs as well as other Pre-Columbian peoples of central Mexico. It is one of many Mesoamerican calendars, and shares the basic structure of other calendars found throughout ancient Mesoamerica. The calendar consisted of a 365-day calendar cycle called *Xiuhpohualli* (year count) and a 260-day ritual cycle called *Tonalpohualli* (day count). Together, these two cycles form a 52-year "century," which is sometimes called a "calendar round". The *xiuhpohualli* is considered to be the agricultural calendar, since it is based on the sun, and the *tonalpohualli* is considered to be the sacred calendar.

The Aztecs were excellent at communicating their traditions, beliefs and history through the codices they created. Though many of the original codices created prior to contact with the Spanish exist, many other codices still exist. What does remain of the original codices has provided many deep insights into Aztec Society. Just like the calendar we know, the Aztec Calendar has days, weeks, and years. However, the names are obviously different. The Aztec calendar's days were called *Tonalli*, its months were known as *Trecena* (13-Week Period), and its years were called the *Xihiutl* (Solar Year).



IN THIS ASSIGNMENT...

Our class will create a codex to demonstrate our evolving understanding of Aztec culture, social order, codices, the marketplace, and the people of Aztec society. Each of you will be provided with a piece of the codex, which you will need to fill with the following:









1. As shown in the above example, you will need to visually represent (draw) the Tonalli, Trecena, and the Xihuitl of your birthday. You will find the symbols and information required to fulfill this requirement at <http://www.azteccalendar.com/> where you can enter your birth date and get useful information for this assignment.

Feel free to use the images on the back of this sheet for inspiration for the symbols you draw →

2. In the larger portion of the codex piece, you will need to visually represent (draw) some aspect of your own life which relates to some aspect of Aztec society. Consider the activities we did in class this week. For example, perhaps you could draw a picture of you cooking your Aztec meal, or going shopping in a mall, playing sports, or even performing a sacrifice! Whatever your personal interest is, find some way to connect it to Aztec society.

- On the back of your codex piece, you will need to attach with glue or clear tape a brief response describing your codex (10 – 15 sentences of good quality) as well as 5 – 10 quality sentences describing how the symbols you drew on the front describe your personality. The goal here is to connect some aspect of your life to Aztec society.
- Codex pieces must be colored, and should be as close to completely covered as possible. You will have plenty of time to work on your pieces. You can use paint, pencil crayons, etc to cover the front of your codex piece.

The assignment will be due next Wednesday, March 16th at the beginning of class. There will be an opportunity for everyone to talk about their piece before we assemble all of the pieces to form a gigantic class codex!

	<i>Cipactli</i>	Crocodile Alligator Caiman Crocodilian Monster		<i>Malīnalli</i>	Grass
	<i>Ehēcatl</i>	Wind		<i>Ācatl</i>	Reed
	<i>Calli</i>	House		<i>Ocēlōtl</i>	Jaguar
	<i>Cuetzpalin</i>	Lizard		<i>Cuāuhtli</i>	Eagle
	<i>Cōātl</i>	Serpent Snake		<i>Cōzcacuāuhtli</i>	Vulture
	<i>Miquiztli</i>	Death		<i>Ollīn</i>	Movement Quake Earthquake
	<i>Mazātl</i>	Deer		<i>Tecpatl</i>	Flint Flint Knife
	<i>Tōchtli</i>	Rabbit		<i>Quiyahuitl</i>	Rain
	<i>Ātl</i>	Water		<i>Xōchitl</i>	Flower
	<i>Itzcuintli</i>	Dog			
	<i>Ozomatli</i> <i>Ozomahtli</i>	Monkey			

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