Teacher's notes and answer key

Huitzilopochtli – the War God Born Fully Armed

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 13 (B1) | Video: 9:11 min

Answers B

1. While sweeping the temple courtyard on Coatepec she tucked a feather that had fallen from the sky into her belt.
2. A pregnancy with no visible father seemed a disgrace to the whole family; Coyolxauhqui wanted to wipe it out at any cost.
3. Fully grown, in war armour, with a blue-striped face, a feather shield and the fire serpent Xiuhcoatl.
4. Coyolxauhqui's head became the moon, the brothers (Centzon Huitznahua) the stars.
5. A huge stone monolith showing Coyolxauhqui's broken body in Mexico City; it led to the excavation of the Templo Mayor.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

E: Huitzilopochtli → the sun; Coyolxauhqui → the moon, her broken body explains the phases of the moon; brothers → stars forever fleeing; sunrise → moon and stars vanish – the victory repeats every day.

Extra: the name means “hummingbird of the south” or “left hummingbird”; founding of Tenochtitlan (eagle on the cactus).

Content note and age

Recommended from age 13. A planned murder of the mother, the beheading and dismembering of Coyolxauhqui, and mentions of human sacrifice. Please preview the video.

Sources of the retelling: Aztec tradition in 16th-century codices (including the Florentine Codex).

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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