Huitzilopochtli – the War God Born Fully Armed

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



Watch the video
youtu.be/PH1FUwXcU0w

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. What do you know about the Aztecs and their capital? Write down two things.

B · While watching

1. How did Coatlicue become pregnant?

2. Why did Coyolxauhqui and her brothers want to kill their own mother?

3. How was Huitzilopochtli born?

4. What became of Coyolxauhqui and the brothers?

5. Which find in 1978 brought the myth back to light?

Useful words

feather	Feder	shield	Schild
pregnant	schwanger	hummingbird	Kolibri
shame	Schande	excavation	Ausgrabung
armour	Rüstung	sacrifice	Opfer

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Quauhtlicac runs ahead to warn their mother.
	He chases the brothers in all directions.
	A feather falls on Coatlicue, and she becomes pregnant.
	He defeats Coyolxauhqui with the fire serpent.
	Coyolxauhqui turns her brothers against their mother.
	Coyolxauhqui becomes the moon, the brothers become stars.
	The siblings climb Mount Coatepec, armed for war.
	Huitzilopochtli is born in full armour.

D · Think and discuss

1. For the Aztecs the victory was repeated every morning at sunrise. Explain this idea.

2. The myth was also used to justify human sacrifice. How should we talk about such beliefs today – understanding without justifying?

E · The myth in the sky

Match the figures to what they stand for in the sky and what happens every day.

	In the myth	In the sky / in Aztec daily life
Huitzilopochtli		
Coyolxauhqui		
the brothers who fled		
sunrise		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write the report of Quauhtlicac, the brother who warned their mother (8–10 sentences).