Quetzalcoatl – How Humans Were Made

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 12 (B1) | Video: 8:08 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/7Uke-ddkUy0

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. Do you know a story about how the first humans were made? Sum it up in one sentence.

B · While watching

1. Who or what is Quetzalcoatl?

2. Why did Quetzalcoatl have to go down to Mictlan?

3. What impossible task did Mictlantecuhtli set – and how did Quetzalcoatl solve it?

4. According to the myth, why are people different heights?

5. What was the fifth humanity made from?

Useful words

feathered serpent	gefiederte Schlange	pit	Grube
bones	Knochen	quail	Wachtel
realm of the dead	Totenreich	to grind	mahlen
conch shell	Muschelschnecke	debt	Schuld

C · Put the story in order

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

	Worms and bees make the conch shell sound.
	Cihuacoatl grinds the bones into fine flour.
	Four earlier Suns end in disaster.
	Startled quails make Quetzalcoatl fall; the bones break.
	A fifth Sun appears over Teotihuacan – but there are no humans.
	The gods add their blood, and humans come to life.
	Quetzalcoatl goes down to Mictlan with Xolotl.
	Mictlantecuhtli secretly has a pit dug.

D · Think and discuss

1. The Aztecs believed every human was “in debt” to the gods. How does the video use this to explain Aztec sacrifice? What do you think of it?

2. Quetzalcoatl solves the impossible task with the help of small animals. What message could that have?

E · The four earlier Suns

The Aztec world was not the first. Complete the table with information from the video.

	Who ruled it?	How did it end – and what became of the people?
1. Sun of Earth		
2. Sun of Wind		
3. Sun of Fiery Rain		
4. Sun of Water		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write the report of Xolotl, who went with Quetzalcoatl through Mictlan (8–10 sentences).