

Aztec warriors got rewarded for capturing prisoners. They had different weapons. They used spears and swords. They used sharp rocks as blades. They used slings. They shot out rocks and stones. They used bows and arrows. They used clubs or bats. They used shields. They used poisoned darts. They wore thick cloths for protection. This let them move quickly.

Aztecs didn't have armies. Warriors were called as needed. All Aztec rulers were warriors. All Aztec men became warriors. They started training at age 15. They learned fighting skills. They learned to use weapons. They were always ready to fight.



FUN FACTS ABOUT AZTECS

- Aztec warriors played ullamaliztli. This was a ball game. The ball was rubber. It was 9 pounds (4 kilograms). Teams faced each other. They tried to get the ball through stone hoops. The ball couldn't touch the ground. Players couldn't touch the ball with their hands. In some games, losers' heads were cut off. They were sacrificed to the gods.
- Aztecs thought giving birth was like a battle. Mothers were seen as warriors. Having babies could be dangerous. Some Aztec women died giving birth. They were treated like warriors who died in war.
- When Aztec warriors died, they were sent to a special afterlife. Their souls helped the war god fight darkness. They helped the sun rise each day. They did this for 4 years. Then, they returned to Earth as birds.
- Bernardino de Sahagún was a Spanish monk. He lived among the Aztecs. He studied them for 50 years. He learned their language. He wrote a book about the Aztecs. He died in 1590.