

Blog Post

Visit the following link and read the blog post:

<https://mystoriology.tumblr.com/post/162875419945/to-this-day-the-fantasy-that-europeans-brought>

Guiding Questions

1. (Sourcing) Who wrote this? When?
2. What claims does the author make?
3. (Sourcing) How trustworthy is this document as a source for learning about Moctezuma? Explain.
4. What evidence does the author provide to support her claims? How strong is this evidence?
5. Why does the blogger think it matters whether Moctezuma had a zoo?
6. Are there additional reasons why we should care whether Moctezuma had a zoo?

Document A: Florentine Codex

Visit the following link: <https://www.wdl.org/en/item/10619/view/1/64/>

The Florentine Codex is a twelve-book manuscript on life in the Mexica Triple Alliance that was researched and written by Mexica students between 1570-1585 under the direction of Spanish missionary Bernardino de Sahagún. Historians consider the Florentine Codex to be one of the most important sources on Mexica history and culture.

Read the Item Detail information. Next, look at the illustration on the top of page 64. The text that accompanies it reads:

Another room was called *totocalli*, where caretakers kept all the various birds, such as eagles and other large birds that are called *tlauhquéchol* and *zacuan* and parrots and *alome* and *coxoliti*. And there all the various artisans did their work: the gold and silver-smiths, copper-smiths, the feather workers, painters, cutters of stones, workers in green stone mosaic, carvers of wood. And also in this place lived the caretakers of wild animals, who guarded tigers and lions and leopards and servals.

Guiding Questions

1. (Sourcing) Who wrote this? When?
2. (Sourcing) Why might this be a trustworthy source for determining if Moctezuma had a zoo? Why might it not be a trustworthy source?
3. Describe what you see in the illustration.

4. (Corroboration) What details from this source corroborate the claims in the blog post?

What details from this source challenge the claims in the blog post?

5. Does this document provide credible evidence that Moctezuma had a zoo? Explain.

Document B: Map of Tenochtitlan

Visit the following link: <https://www.wdl.org/en/item/2831/view/1/58/>

This map of Tenochtitlan, the capitol of the Triple Alliance, was published in 1524 in Nuremberg, Germany, alongside Hernán Cortés's letters to King of Spain and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. It is the first image of Tenochtitlan printed in Europe. Scholars have debated who made the map and what information it was based on. Some believe it was based on the eye-witness account of Cortés. Others say a conquistador trained as a surveyor made it. Still others argue that it was based upon an earlier Mexica map. Whoever made it likely drew on both Indigenous and European sources.

Read the Item Detail information. Next, examine the map. Locate and zoom in on the city center (the large square in the middle of the right page). The map shows the Main Temple dedicated to Tláloc, the rain god, and Huitzilopochtli, the sun god, in the city center. Find the words TEMIXTITAN ("Tenochtitlan" in Latin) and dom aialui ("house of the animals" in Latin). Closely examine at the illustration just under the words "dom aialui."

Translations

TEMIXTITAN = Tenochtitlan

Dom aialui = house of the animals

Viridarui D. Muteezuma = Gardens of Moctezuma

Templum ubi sacrificant = temple where sacrifices are made

Idol Lapideu = stone idol

Dom D. Muteezuma = House of Don Moctezuma

Guiding Questions

1. (Sourcing) Who made this? When?
2. (Sourcing) Why might this be a trustworthy source for determining if Moctezuma had a zoo? Why might it not be a trustworthy source?
3. Describe what you see in the map. (See directions above for where to focus your attention.)
4. (Corroboration) What details from this source corroborate the claims in the blog post?

What details from this source challenge the claims in the blog post?

What details from this source corroborate Document A?

What details from this source challenge Document A?

5. Does this document provide credible evidence that Moctezuma had a zoo? Explain.

Document C: Second Letter from Cortés to Emperor Charles V

Visit the following link and review the Item Detail information:

<https://www.wdl.org/en/item/7335/view/1/32/>

Hernán Cortés wrote this letter to Charles V, King of Spain and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Cortés acted against orders when he traveled from Cuba to Mexico. Historians have argued that a main reason Cortés wrote these letters was to protect himself from punishment.

The following link is an English translation of Cortés’s letter. Read the section “Montezuma’s Palaces” (bottom of page 265 to top of page 267):

<https://archive.org/stream/lettersofcorts01cortuoft#page/264/mode/2up>

Guiding Questions

1. (Sourcing) Who wrote this? When?
2. (Sourcing) Why might this be a trustworthy source for determining if Moctezuma had a zoo? Why might it not be a trustworthy source?
3. What claims does the author make?
4. (Corroboration) What details from this source corroborate the claims in the blog post?

What details from this source challenge the claims in the blog post?

What details from this source corroborate Documents A and B?

What details from this source challenge Documents A and B?

5. Does this document provide evidence that Moctezuma had a zoo?
Explain.

Final Writing Assignment: *Did Moctezuma have a zoo? Explain, citing the strongest evidence from at least two documents.*