

# Human Sacrifice in Mesoamerican Civilizations



The practice of human sacrifice existed in different ancient Mesoamerican civilizations, like the Mayan, Toltec, and Aztec civilizations. Ancient Mesoamerican civilizations existed in Mexico and Central America from the years 1300 to 1500.



This is a picture of remains that were discovered in archaeological site in Tula, Mexico. This site has evidence that the Toltec people decapitated people. A team of archaeologists found 25 bodies that were decapitated and buried in the same place. These bodies were buried with a small statue of the Toltec god of rain. Archaeologists believe that this means the bodies were an offering to the god of rain. The Toltec people were sacrificing victims so the god would give them rain.



This is a picture from an archaeological site in Mexico City where the Aztec people once lived. Evidence of human sacrifice was discovered at this site. Archaeologists discovered hundreds of skulls during their excavation. They believe the large number of skulls they found suggests that sacrifice happened regularly in the Aztec empire.



These are pictures of archaeological sites in Central America where skulls and bones from Mayan sacrifices were discovered underwater. The Maya would put their sacrificed victims into the water as an offering to the god of rain. They believed if they sacrificed people, the god would give them rain in return to water crops.

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The Aztecs sacrificed people because they believed that the gods would make sure that their crops did not fail and that their civilization would survive. This is a drawing of an Aztec temple that was decorated with the skulls of those who had been sacrificed. The Aztecs would sacrifice people in the temple and offer the bodies of the sacrifices to the gods, then use their skulls as decorations.



The Maya would sacrifice people as an offering to the gods after a new ruler gained power. This is a picture that shows how the Maya killed the people being sacrificed. The Maya would cut open the chest of their victims and take out their hearts. The hearts would be offered to the gods.



The Maya and Toltec people would kill their victims in similar ways. Both the Maya and Toltec people would decapitate their victims or cut into their chest and take out their heart. This is a picture that shows how the Toltec people killed their victims in similar ways to the Maya people.



This is a knife that was used by the Aztec to kill their sacrifices. The Aztecs killed their victims differently than the Maya and Toltec people. The Aztec people would sometimes take out the hearts of the sacrifices. They would also burn or drown them.

# Steps to Create a VR Headset

Follow the steps below to create the prototype of your VR Headset.

## Step 1: Look at Sources and Make a Claim

You will receive a handout with sources on it. Look through the sources and make a claim about human sacrifice in ancient Mesoamerica. Then, write three pieces of evidence you will use to back up your claim.

**Claim:**

**Evidence:**

**Evidence:**

**Evidence:**

## Step 2: Creating Images

- Create at least 3 images that the user will see when they click through the buttons on the VR headset. You can draw your own images or cut out images from the handouts. You can even create your own image by combining parts of the source images and your own drawings.
- Then, write a few sentences about each image. This description will be narrated out loud to the users as they see the image.

### Image 1:



### Image Description:



Image 2:



Image Description:

Image 3:



Image Description:

### Step 3: Designing a Prototype of the Headset

Build a prototype to show what the VR headset will look like.

- Requirements:
  - Has a strap that will hold the headset on someone's head, like goggles.
  - Has 3 buttons on the side that someone can click to change images.
  - Is smaller than the size of a shoebox.
  - Has a logo on the side that has the name of the VR headset (which you will come up with).

**Sketch your plan below:**



**Step 4: Gather your materials and build your prototype!**