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Concept Check_Sem1

1. **Aztlan:** <http://www.mexica.net/aztlan.php>

According to the article from the above website, Aztlan is the place of origin of the Aztec people. Though known mostly as a myth there are some archaeologists who believe it to be located in the present day town of San Felipe Aztlan, Nayarit. The name Aztlan is comprised of the two words “aztatl” meaning “heron” and “tlan” meaning “place of”. The myth claims that the Aztec people emerged from the bowels of the earth through seven caves, called Chicomostoc, migrating southward from present day northwest Mexico into the central plateau.

2. **Quetzalcoatl:** <http://www.ancient.eu/Quetzalcoatl/>

Quetzalcoatl, depicted as a feathered serpent, is considered one of the most important Mesoamerican gods. His name directly translates to “plumed serpent” and is associated as the god of wind and rain and as one of the gods who created humanity. In one of the myths it is stated that he created mankind by descending into Mictlan, the underworld, where he collected the bones of fallen humans and by mixing them with his blood he creates the first human beings.

3. **Tonantzin:** <http://www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/gods/virgin-of-guadalupe-and-tonantzin>

Tonantzin refers to the mother goddess in Aztec mythology, possibly also referring to the Mother Earth. She is known by many other names as well including “Honored Grandmother”, “Bringer of Maize”, “Our Lady”, and so on. Tonantzin also shares a connection with the story of the Virgin of Guadalupe, though no direct correlation can be given besides the people calling the Virgin as “Tonantzin”.

4. **La Llorona:** <https://www.inside-mexico.com/la-llorona-a-five-century-old-lamentation/>

La Llorona, also known as “The Weeping Woman”, is the legend of a ghostly woman who roams the night constantly weeping over the death of her children. In the pre-Hispanic version of the legend this woman was given as an omen, perhaps of death. She would roam the streets of Tenochtitlan lamenting over her children. In another version of the legend it is said that she was rejected by the man she loved causing her to drown her children and then commit suicide.

5. **La Virgin de Guadalupe:** <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Our-Lady-of-Guadalupe-patron-saint-of-Mexico>

La Virgen de Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe or the Virgin Mary, is the tale of how an apparition appeared itself to Juan Diego, an Aztec convert to Christianity, during two days in December. She first appeared on December 9, 1531 requesting that a shrine to her be built on the spot where she appeared, Tepeyac Hill. When the local bishop demanded proof the Virgin appeared a second time to Juan Diego ordering him to collect roses. Juan took these roses to the bishop. Upon opening his cloak the roses fell to the floor revealing an image of the Virgin imprinted on the inside of the cloak.

6. **Curandera/os:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curandero>

Curandera, referring to the female version, and Curanderos, referring to the male version, are traditional Native healers, shamans, or witch doctors. They traditionally use folk remedies for mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual illnesses such as herbs, water, and mud. They are considered to have supernatural/spiritual powers as most of them believe that illnesses are caused by malevolent spirits, curses, or lessons from God.

7. **Semana Santa:** <http://www.enforex.com/culture/semana-santa.html>

Semana Santa, or Holy Week, is a traditional, religious holiday celebrating the Passion of Jesus Christ. The celebration takes place the week preceding Easter Sunday where a precession featuring images of the Virgin Mary and a scene from Christ's Passion march down the street.

8. **Dia de Los Muertos:** <http://www.mexonline.com/daydead.htm>

Dia de Los Muertos, also known as Day of the Dead, is Hispanic two-day festival celebrating the reunion of dead relatives with their family and loved ones. On All Saints Day, November 1st, and All Souls Day, November 2nd, it is said that the spirits of those who have passed are able to pass over into the world of the living to eat, drink, and be merry. Graves and altars are prepared with the departed's favorite food and drink by the families. The spirits are summoned by the ringing of bells ringing throughout the night.

9. **Quinto Sol:** <http://www.mexconnect.com/articles/199-mysteries-of-the-fifth-sun-the-aztec-calendar>

El Quinto Sol refers to the fifth sun on the Aztec Calendar, which represents the center of balance in the universe as well as creation and destruction.

10. **La Pastorela:** <https://www.inside-mexico.com/las-pastorelas-a-centuries-old-christmas-tradition/>

La Pastorela is a traditional Christmas play depicting the birth of Christ, specifically the journey of shepherds as they follow the star to Bethlehem. This tradition is said to

have started with the arrival of the Franciscans in 1528 who introduced the indigenous people of a town called Acolman to their religious traditions, such as singing hymns.

11. **La Noche Triste:** <http://www.newhistorian.com/la-noche-triste/4187/>

La Noche Triste, or The Night of Sorrows, took place on June 30th, 1520. Hernan Cortes was determined to conquer the Aztec Empire and had made his way through Mexico winning over various indigenous populations as he went. As he moved towards the Aztec's territory, Cortes had his troops ransack the city of Tenochtitlan while he used their king to do his bidding. A rebellion broke out and as the food and water supply was running low for the troops, Cortes ordered a retreat. A fight ensued as they tried to cross the Mixcoatechialtitlan canal causing the death of hundreds.

12. **Brujeria:** <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3406300141.html>

Brujeria, the Spanish word for witchcraft, as described by the above website is the darker side of magic usage. Those who practice it are feared for their use in casting spells that cause physical or mental illness and a variation of voodoo dolls. They are also said to be able to shape shift allowing them to spy on others while in the form of an animal in order to unsuspectingly leave behind bad charms or potions.

13. **La Raza Cosmica:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Raza_Cósmica

La Raza Cosmica, translated into English as The Cosmic Race, is an essay written by Jose Vasconcelos in 1925, which expresses the idea of a future "fifth race" in the Americas. This fifth race is to be made up of all the races in the world in which a new civilization known as Universopolis will be erected.

14. **12-21-2012 Mayan Calendar:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_phenomenon

This date referred to the end date on the Mayan Long Count calendar in which many predicted the world would end. December 2012 marked the end of a b'ak'tun, a time period in the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar, which was used by those in Central America prior to the arrival of Europeans.

15. **Mal de Ojo:** <http://medicalspanish.com/cultural-topics/mal-de-ojo.html>

Mal de Ojo, or evil eye, is considered an illness in Central American culture. Babies are particularly seen to be at risk and are typically given some sort of jewelry with an amulet to ward off the effect of the evil eye. One version of a cure is to sweep a raw chicken egg over the body of the victim, which absorbs the negative effects of the evil eye. The egg is then broken into a glass of water and placed under the bed near the person's head. If the egg looks as if it's been cooked then the victim is said to have had been affected by the evil eye.

16. **Dichos:** <http://www.spanishcentral.com/translate/dicho>

Dichos can be translated to sayings or proverbs.