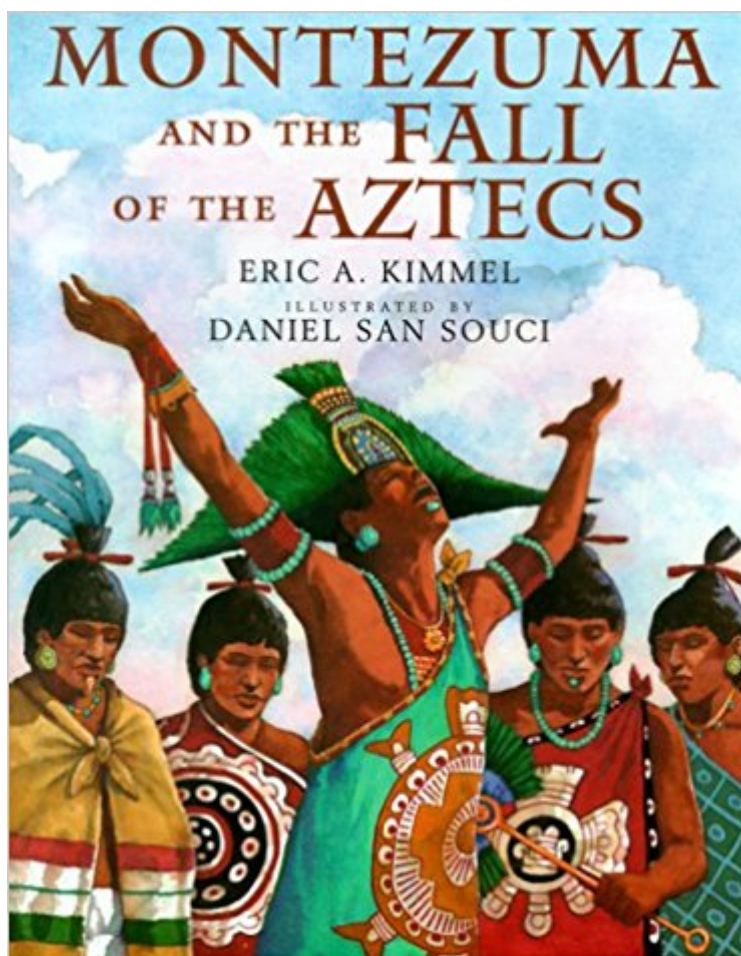


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Montezuma And The Fall Of The Aztecs



Synopsis

Traces the life of the last emperor to rule the Aztec empire in Central America before it was conquered by the Spaniards.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 590L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; 1st edition (March 2000)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 11.1 x 8.8 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #624,050 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Mexico #969 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

Customer Reviews

Kimmel's (*The Two Mountains*, reviewed above) ambitious yet problematic recounting of the Aztec nation's demise opens with a description of Montezuma II and the 16th-century empire over which he ruled in what is now central and southern Mexico. "But all was not well in Montezuma's domain," the narrative continues. Kimmel demonstrates that the Aztecs' penchant for capturing other peoples and sacrificing them to their gods led almost inevitably to the Aztecs' downfall: the Spanish explorer Cortés successfully drafts the conquered people into his cause and overthrows Montezuma. San Souci's (*Ice Bear and Little Fox*) opening watercolors give the Aztecs an exotic air by focusing on the pageantry and grandeur of Montezuma's court; his later illustrations capture the violence (if not the blood and gore) of the battles between the two warring groups. The complexities of Montezuma's and Cortés's characters are necessarily glossed over in a volume this brief; unfortunately, only a final author's note explains that the Spanish rule to follow would prove even more tyrannical than that of the Aztecs. Consequently, readers may come away with the false impression that Cortés was a liberator rather than a conqueror. Ages 6-10. (Mar.) Copyright 2000

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Grade 3-5-Hernan Cortés and his small force of Spanish soldiers arrived on the coast of Mexico in 1519. Within three years an estimated 240,000 people were dead and the Aztec empire had collapsed. Kimmel prefaces his account of these events with a few pages of background information on the empire and Montezuma's rule. The story of Cortés's marches inland, his capture of the native leader, and the siege on Tenochtitlan is simply but dramatically told. San Souci's light-filled, detailed watercolors paint a vivid picture of these adversaries-bearded Spanish soldiers on horseback laden with heavy armor in contrast with the Aztec leaders on foot, adorned with colorful plumage and jade. Use this inviting and clearly written title with Kimmel's *The Two Mountains* (Holiday, 2000) and Mary-Joan Gerson's *People of Corn* (Little, Brown, 1995) to enrich studies of Mesoamerican culture. Daryl Grabarek, School Library Journal Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Accurate and wonderfully illustrated book about the Aztecs and their defeat before the Spaniards. Easy to read and plan to use in my Spanish class.

The authors call the Spanish Conquistadors "adventurers", unusual choice of description. I wonder?

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