

Lesson 1: Why Start in Mexico?

Duration: 45 min.—1 hr.

Objective: Students will begin to understand that important parts of New Mexico history have their roots in Mexico, beginning with the Spanish conquest of the Aztec/Mexica. This is a stepping-stone for a broader understanding of how different cultures came together and how the future of different peoples was affected by this inevitable meeting.

Materials:

- *You Wouldn't Want to Be An Aztec Sacrifice: Gruesome Things You'd Rather Not Know*, by Fiona MacDonald and David Antram
- KWL Chart
- Classroom maps of North America

Lesson: This lesson will begin with use of the KWL Chart. I will ask the students what they can tell me about NM history. We will record their knowledge in (K) part of chart. Then I will ask students what they want to know (W) and record 5-7 questions. The (L) will be part of a later assessment at the end of the unit for what they have learned.

After KWL, I will read *You Wouldn't Want to Be An Aztec Sacrifice* aloud, facilitating discussion as we go. This book is guaranteed to pique students' interest by highlighting the "ick" factor of history.

We will then look at our wall maps, noting where Mexico City is in relation to New Mexico, and will conclude the lesson by asking students why they think I am starting our state history in Mexico?

This initial lesson is mostly teacher directed, with lots of question and answer time.

ELL Support: For KWL chart, I would have pictures along with words to indicate each section, and allow for student to draw in information, along with writing a key word or two, depending on the vocabulary that arises during discussion. The read-aloud book is filled with pictures and small captions. I would have the student sit close to me in order to clearly see the pictures, and to allow for any extra explanation.

Name _____ Date _____

KWL Chart

Before you begin your research, list details in the first two columns. Fill in the last column after completing your research.

Topic _____		
What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned

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