# WHAT CAN THIS OLD AZTEC BOOK TELL US ABOUT THE SPANISH CONQUEST?



### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Azcatitlan Codex, a richly illustrated manuscript about the Aztec world and the Spanish conquest, has returned to Mexico for the first time since 1840. It is being displayed at Mexico City's National Museum of Anthropology on loan from France. Created in the late 1500s or early 1600s, the codex shows migration, rulers, warfare, conquest and religious change. Its return has also reopened questions about who should own important historical objects.

### WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

This story gives students a visual source connected to the Aztec Empire and Spanish conquest. It also introduces an important modern question: should historical objects remain in foreign museums, or return to the people whose ancestors created them?

### THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

**"Why is this manuscript important to people in Mexico today?"**

**Source:** Smithsonian Magazine

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/a-rare-aztec-codex-detailing-the-rise-and-fall-of-tenochtitlan-returns-to-mexico-for-the-first-time-in-nearly-two-centurie