

Cultural Heritage Lesson 1.3
Moctezuma's Dinner

Name: _____

Read the following quote about Moctezuma's dining habits. Learn more about Moctezuma and Aztec food preparation at Mexicolore www.mexicolore.uk.co. Illustrate the quote by creating an online collage. Include the variety of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables that would have been available to Moctezuma locally and goods brought to central Mexico by merchants (pochteca). Expand your search to include museum collections for examples of braziers and platters.

When Moctezuma dined, according to Cortés himself, '300 or 400 boys brought dishes "without number", of every kind of food - meat, fish, fruit, vegetables - and because the climate was cold, braziers kept the platters warm. All the food was placed in a great room, which was almost always filled, where the emperor ate seated on a "finely made, small leather cushion".

(*The Essential Codex Mendoza* by Frances F. Berdan and Patricia Rieff Anawalt, p.223 mexicolore.uk.co)

Additional sources of food and beverages enjoyed during Aztec times include Sophie Coe's *America's First Cuisines* and *Handbook to Life in the Aztec World* by Manuel Aguilar-Moreno.

For a detailed reading of Moctezuma's elaborate meals read, "The Memoirs of the Conquistador Bernal Diaz del Castillo Written by Himself Containing a True and Full Account of the Discovery and Conquest of Mexico and New Spain"
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/32474/32474-h/32474-h.htm> Chapter XCI