

HOLIDAY HISTORY

DAY OF THE DEAD



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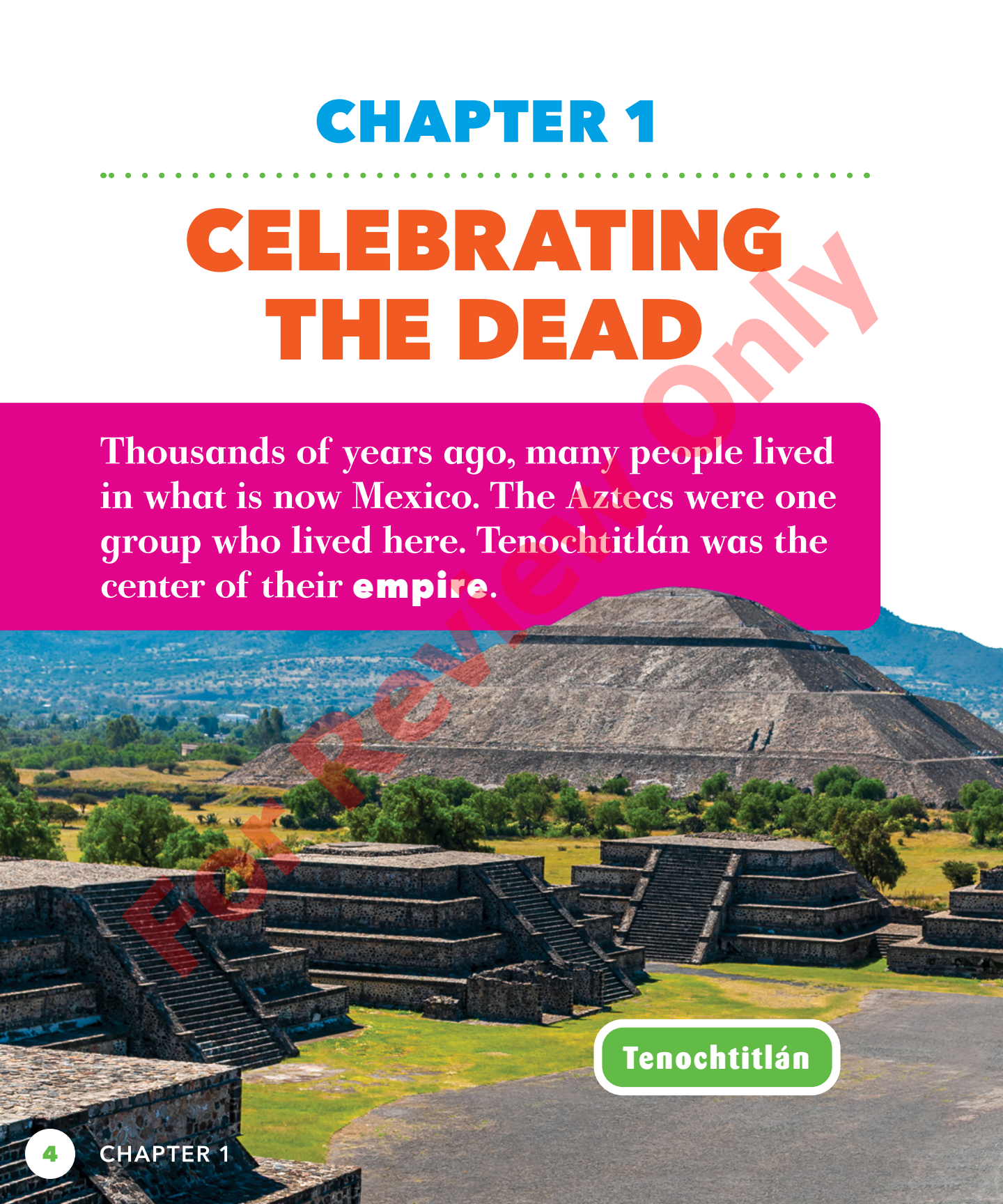
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CHAPTER 1



CELEBRATING THE DEAD

Thousands of years ago, many people lived in what is now Mexico. The Aztecs were one group who lived here. Tenochtitlán was the center of their **empire**.

Tenochtitlán

The Aztecs believed death was part of the **cycle** of life. They celebrated it. Skulls were **symbols** of death. They put out food, water, and tools for the dead. Why? They **believed** these helped **souls** on their journey to the Land of the Dead. This was their **final** resting place.



At this time, many people in Spain were **Catholic**. On November 1, they celebrated **saints** on All Saints' Day. On November 2, they celebrated the dead on All Souls' Day. They visited graves. People brought drinks, bread, flowers, and candles.





grave



A photograph of a man in a dark hoodie playing an acoustic guitar at night. In the foreground, there is a large arrangement of white and orange flowers. The background is dark with some lights visible.

In the 1500s, Spanish **conquerors** came to Mexico. Catholic and Aztec **traditions** mixed. This is how Day of the Dead formed.

This holiday is celebrated on November 1 and 2. Families and friends gather. They invite the souls of loved ones who have died to visit the Land of the Living. It is a celebration!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Day of the Dead combines traditions from different **cultures**. What traditions do you practice? Do you know what cultures they come from?

