The Aztec Empire was the group of people who lived in central Mexico from the 1300s to 1500s before the Spanish conquerors arrived. Because they were one of the first groups of people to live there, they are called indigenous. The Aztecs spoke a language called Nahuatl. The descendants of the Aztecs living in Mexico still speak Nahuatl today.

The Aztecs had two calendars: one for agriculture that had 365 days and one for religious purposes that had 260 days. The calendar above is their religious calendar, called a tonalpohualli in Nahuatl. The Aztecs believed in over 200 gods and goddesses, each with his and her own part of the universe to supervise. The Aztec gods and goddesses were grouped into three categories based on what they were in charge of. One group was in charge of the heaven and sky. The second group was in charge of the rain, fertility, and agriculture. The third group was in charge of war and sacrifice.

According to the Aztecs, the universe is very delicate because it is being balanced by the various gods and goddesses. Because the universe’s stability is in constant danger, the Aztecs created the tonalpohualli calendar to tell how time is divided between gods and goddesses.