1325 – 1521

Put the Events in Order

Name _____ Date _____

These 10 events from the Aztec Empire timeline are out of order. Write a number from 1 to 10 in each box, from the earliest event (1) to the latest (10).

☐ **Cortes Enters Tenochtitlan**
Moctezuma II allows Cortes and his soldiers to enter the capital; Cortes eventually takes Moctezuma prisoner inside his own palace.

☐ **Cortes Arrives**
Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes lands on the Gulf Coast with about 500 soldiers, plus horses and cannons, which the Aztecs had never seen before.

☐ **Dedication of the Great Temple**
The Templo Mayor — the great pyramid at the heart of Tenochtitlan — is expanded and rededicated with elaborate ceremonies.

☐ **Moctezuma II Becomes Emperor**
Moctezuma II becomes the ninth tlatoani (ruler) of Tenochtitlan, presiding over the empire at its height.

☐ **Colonial New Spain**
The Spanish build Mexico City on the ruins of Tenochtitlan and establish New Spain; Aztec culture, religion, and people are suppressed but never fully erased.

☐ **The Empire Expands**
Under rulers like Moctezuma I and Ahuitzotl, Aztec warriors push the empire to the Gulf Coast, into Oaxaca, and down the Pacific coast to Soconusco, demanding tribute from hundreds of towns.

☐ **Tenochtitlan Founded**
Following an omen their god had promised — an eagle on a cactus devouring a snake — the Mexica people found their capital city on an island in Lake Texcoco.

☐ **La Noche Triste**
Moctezuma dies while a prisoner of the Spanish. Days later, Aztec warriors drive the Spanish out of Tenochtitlan in a night of fierce fighting, and Cortes suffers heavy losses.

☐ **Triple Alliance Formed**
The Mexica join with the nearby cities of Texcoco and Tlacopan to form the Triple Alliance, launching rapid conquests across central Mexico.

☐ **Siege of Tenochtitlan**
Cortes returns with tens of thousands of indigenous allies and lays siege to Tenochtitlan for nearly three months; the city falls on August 13 and the last emperor Cuauhtemoc is captured.

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Put the Events in Order: Answer Key

1325	1.	Tenochtitlan Founded
1428	2.	Triple Alliance Formed
1440–1502	3.	The Empire Expands
~1487	4.	Dedication of the Great Temple
1502	5.	Moctezuma II Becomes Emperor
1519	6.	Cortes Arrives
1519–20	7.	Cortes Enters Tenochtitlan
1520	8.	La Noche Triste
1521	9.	Siege of Tenochtitlan
1521 onward	10.	Colonial New Spain