##### **Document B- Gold**

**The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico**

*There are only a few Aztec accounts of the arrival of the Spanish in Tenochtitlán (the capital city of the Aztecs) in 1519. The following account describes the first meeting between the Aztec leader Moctezuma and the Spanish leader Hernán Cortés. It was written by an unknown Aztec chronicler and translated by Malinche (a native translator of Cortés) in 1519.*

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| When the Spaniards were installed in the palace, they… questioned (Moctezuma) closely and then demanded gold. Moctezuma guided them to it….  When they arrived at the treasure house called Teucalco, the riches of gold and feathers were brought out to them: ornaments made of feathers, richly worked shields, disks of gold, the necklaces of the idol, gold nose plugs, gold (pieces of plate armor), and bracelets and crowns.  The Spaniards immediately stripped the feathers from the gold shields and ensigns. They gathered all the gold into a great mound and set fire to everything else, regardless of its value. Then they melted down the gold into (a mass of metal for shaping or re-melting)….  And when they had taken all the gold, they heaped up everything else in the middle of the patio.  Source: Leon-Portilla, Miguel, ed. *The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico.* Boston: Becaon Press, 1992. |

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**1st Read:** Highlight or underline any words or phrases related to Gold

**Partner Work:**

* Share two things you highlighted or underlined
* Complete a 2nd read of the document
* Write a one-sentence summary of the document

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