

Student Sample for Letter to a Leader

Montezuma
Temple Palace
Tenochtitlan, New World
November 8, 1519

Hernando Cortez
1518 Conqueror's Trail
Mexico, New World

Dear Senor Cortez:

I have a very strong civilization under my power. We have invented the first piece of chewing gum. The wealthy people of my civilization have made a chocolate drink by crushing the cocoa bean. We have invented a number zero and write in hieroglyphics. We also built pyramids and can predict the next solar eclipse. The Milky Way galaxy has been identified by my astronomers. Those are only a few reasons why my civilization is great.

Let's talk business. I have a variety of items to trade. There are a number of food products I'd like to trade. There is our most important crop, maize. Then there are other crops like tomatoes and sweet potatoes. We will also trade salt that is traded from coast to coast. There is a volcanic glass called obsidian that could be a likely trade item. My people make beautiful clothing and pottery. We also have a green stone called jade. I hope you will be able to find a few items to trade.

Sincerely,

Montezuma
Aztec Emperor