

Aztec Armor

By Lillian Asbury



Conditions and Factors



- **Climate was a major factor that affected the type of armor used**
- **Weather- dry and hot**
- **Heavy armor would have caused exhaustion or heatstroke**
- **The only metals that the Aztecs worked with was copper, silver, and gold**

<http://burtway.com/27-mexico-baja-california-san-ignacio/>

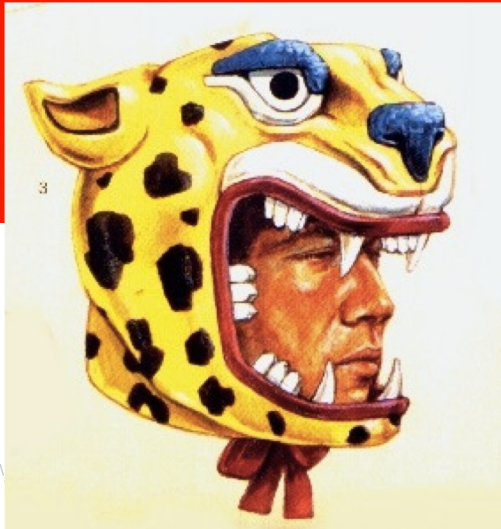
Aztec War Suits: Tlahuiztli



- Unique to each warrior
- Depended on rank (usually only nobles or elite warriors)
- Sometimes adorned with eagle feathers, jaguar pelts, or similar animal items
- A full-body suit containing arms and legs
- Made from lightweight cotton or linen
- Worn over Ichcahuipilli

http://www.famsi.org/research/pohl/pohl_aztec5.html

Aztec helmets: Cuacalatl

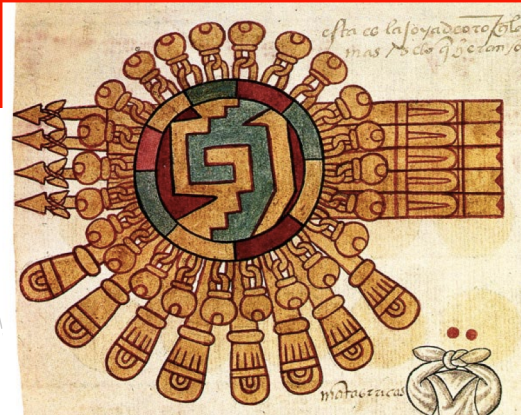


- Only worn by high ranking warriors or nobles
- Made of carved local wood
- Covered a major portion of a warriors head and jawline
- Usually carved in the shape of an animal
- Special orders of warriors, like the Eagle and Jaguar warriors, had highly decorative helmets that represented the animal from their warrior class

http://78.media.tumblr.com/d33625bac7ec7023b3dbfb59d8a1944d/tumblr_inline_npo5y7DEXH1t79fgm_400.jpg



The Aztec shields: Chimalli & Yaochimalli



- Cuauhchimalli- A circular shield, made of wood, adorned with designs/paint/feathers, usually about $\frac{1}{4}$ the height of the warrior
- Otlachimalli- made from woven plants with a cotton backing, decorated with paint, covered with animal hide, or decorated with feathers
- Common for warriors of higher standing to have leather strips attached to help protect their body

<http://www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/artefacts/chimalli>
<http://nuevomundo.revues.org/docannexe/image/1447/img-1.jpg>

Ichcahuipilli



- Most common armor
- About two inches thick
- Able to stop obsidian armor
- Made from cotton and jute (twine) sewn together in layers with a quilted pattern, then soaked in salt brine and dried (Usually edged with leather)
- Ichcahuipilli in Nahuatl means: Ichcatl - cotton, and huipilli - shirt.

<https://theaztecvault.com/2016/10/25/ichcahuipilli-padded-armor/>




Trying to
recreate the
Armor

- **Materials Used:**

- Canvas
- Burlap
- Cotton Batting
- Salt

- **Process:**

- With the canvas on the outside, alternating layers of batting and burlap were sewn together
 - Once finished sewing, the piece was soaked in two pounds of salt dissolved in water. After soaking for two days, the fabric armor piece was dried flat
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Bibliography

- <https://www.warriorsandlegends.com/aztec-warriors/aztec-warrior-armor/>
- <https://theaztecvault.com/2016/10/25/ichcahuipilli-padded-armor/>
- <https://www.historyonthenet.com/aztec-warriors-weapons-and-armor/>
- http://www.famsi.org/research/pohl/pohl_aztec5.html
- <http://www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/artefacts/chimalli>