

The Mayans

Learning Objective:

To consider the effects and implications of the Spanish invasion of Mayan lands.

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Can you
remember who the
Spanish
conquistadors
were?

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The Spanish conquistadors were explorers who came to the New World to gain lands and riches. They came to Mesoamerica in the sixteenth century and discovered the ruins of the ancient Mayan cities.



However, they also discovered Mayan people who had remained in the area after the collapse of the great cities. These people lived in small farming settlements and lived in the same way as Mayans had done in the first century.

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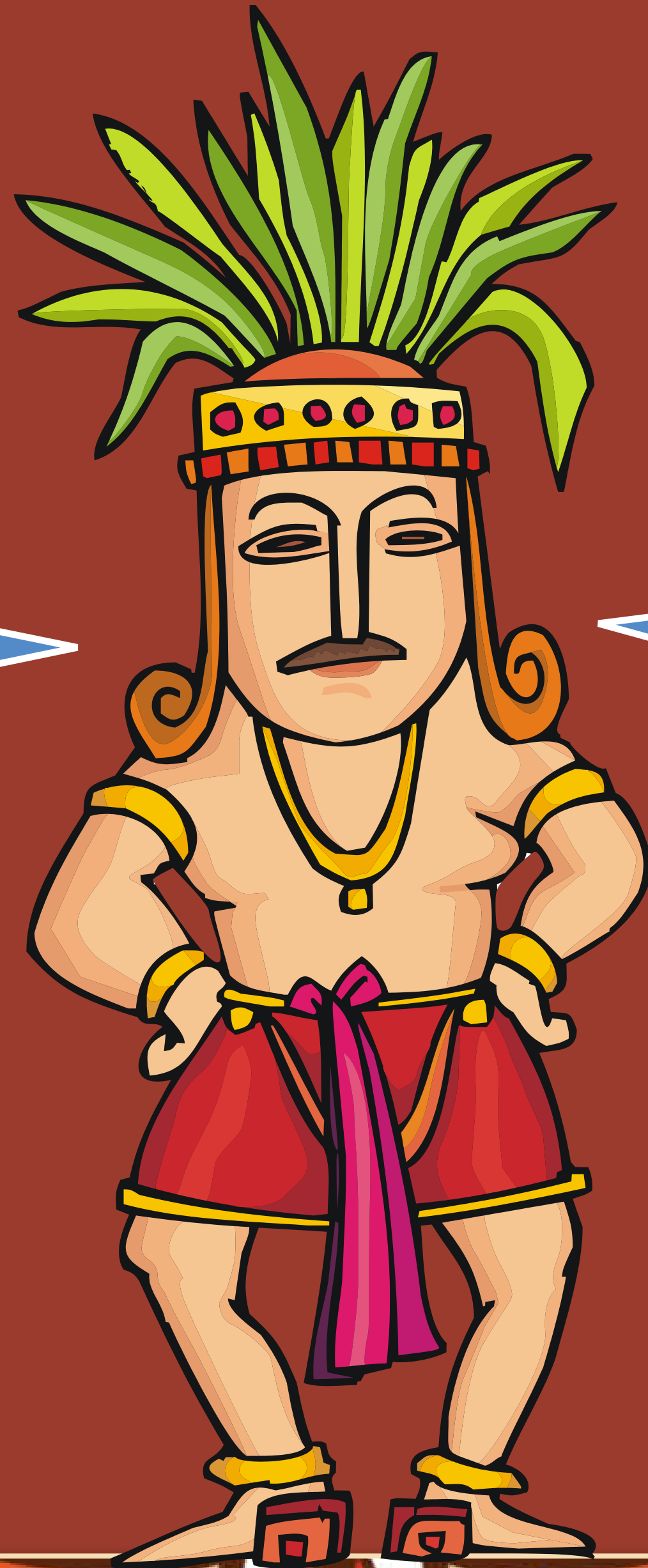
What do you think these two peoples would have thought when they first encountered each other?



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Do you think it was a good thing that the Spanish came to Mesoamerica?



What might the positive and negative effects of this have been on the Mayans?

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What were the effects of these changes brought about by the arrival of the conquistadors?



The Spanish brought new foods such as wheat and sugar to Mesoamerica.

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The Spanish used violence to conquer the Mayans.

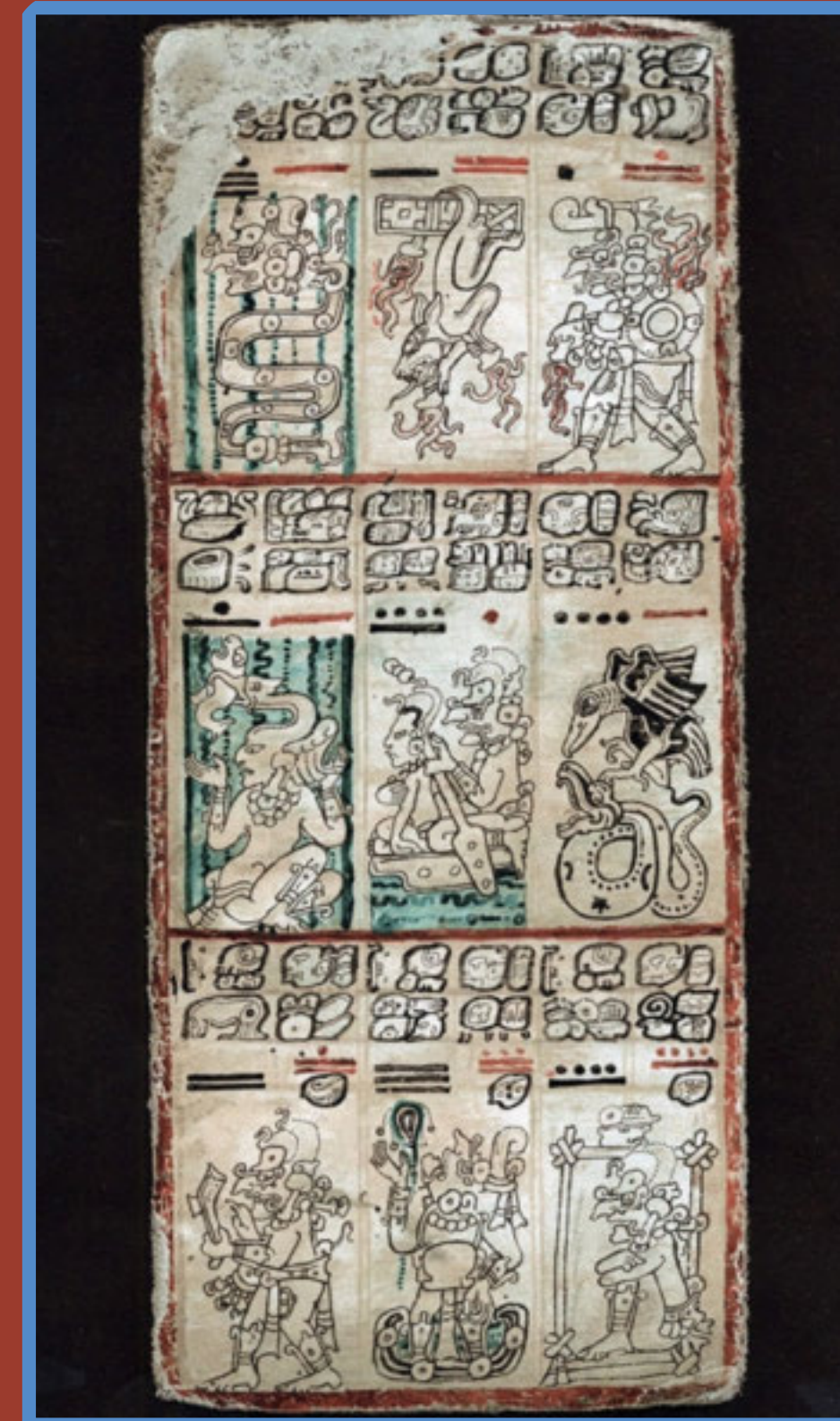


The Mayans adopted many Spanish Christian beliefs.

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The Spanish brought new technologies, including metalwork.



The Spanish destroyed Mayan art and writings as they thought they were evil.

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The arrival of the Spanish conquistadors had a number of implications for the Mayans.



Do you think the Spanish invasion was a good thing or a bad thing for the Mayan people?

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