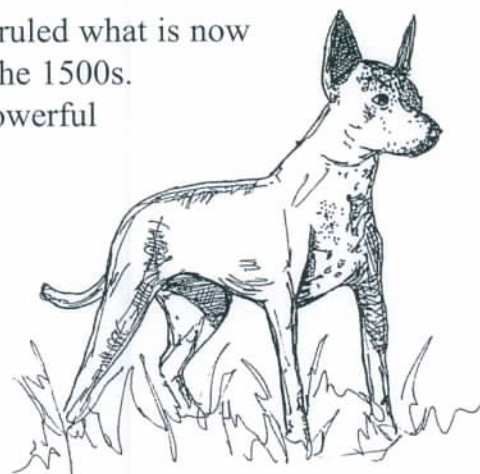


# Sacred Pets

## Review Key Words

- Aztecs** The Aztecs were a group of people who ruled what is now central Mexico from the 1300s through the 1500s. Their civilization was one of the most powerful and organized civilizations of that time.
- comfort** Comfort is the feeling of being at ease, relaxed, or content.
- loyal** Loyal means faithful to or willing to stay with someone or something.
- guard dogs** Guard dogs are dogs that protect certain people, places, or things.



## Read the Story<sup>2-4</sup>

5 Many **centuries** ago, the **Aztecs**  
 13 believed their gods had sent them a gift.  
 20 The gift would heal and **protect** them.  
 28 In return, the Aztecs took special care of  
 37 the gift. And today, it is still around! It  
 46 is one of the oldest **breeds** of dog: the  
 Xolo.

47 Xolos are also called Mexican  
 52 **Hairless** dogs. They were **sacred** pets  
 58 to the Aztec people. The Aztecs  
 64 believed these dogs had special powers  
 70 from the gods. They thought Xolos  
 76 could heal people in pain. They also  
 83 believed Xolos would keep them safe  
 89 after death. Many Aztecs were **buried**

95 with their Xolos. Others were buried  
 101 with clay Xolos.

104 Over time, **cultures** and beliefs  
 109 changed. But Xolos as a breed changed  
 116 very little. People still like to keep  
 123 them as pets. Many still think of them  
 131 as healers too. The Xolo's hairless body  
 138 gives off a lot of heat. This heat can  
 147 bring **comfort** to a body in pain. Xolos  
 155 also continue to make people feel safe.  
 162 They are **loyal guard dogs** in many  
 169 homes.

170 For centuries, Xolos have been  
 175 special pets to many people. They are a  
 183 gift indeed!  
 185

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
- number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

# Sacred Pets

## Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
  - a. The Aztecs believed that Xolos had special powers from the gods.
  - b. The Aztecs believed Xolos would keep them safe after death.
  - c. Xolos were sacred pets to the Aztecs and are still special to many people.
2. Why did many Aztecs want to be buried with Xolos?
  - a. Aztecs thought Xolos would keep them safe.
  - b. Aztecs thought Xolos could heal people in pain.
  - c. Xolos are one of the oldest breeds of dog.
3. What does the word **breeds** mean in this story?
  - a. expensive gifts
  - b. different types
  - c. special rules
4. Why do people still think of Xolos as healers?
  - a. Xolos were sacred pets to the Aztec people.
  - b. The heat from a Xolo's body can bring comfort.
  - c. Xolos are loyal guard dogs.
5. Why did people think Xolos were sacred pets?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Match each word with its definition.

1. cultures	a. ___ keep safe from danger
2. centuries	b. ___ holy or religious
3. sacred	c. ___ 100-year time periods
4. protect	d. ___ ways of life

## Parent Tips

1. Have the student read the ENTIRE story to himself & answer the questions.
2. Time the student while he reads aloud for exactly 1 minute. Do not help fix mistakes.
3. If the student is stuck on a word for 2 seconds, say the word & count it as a mistake.
4. Record the number of words read and the number of errors. Subtract: words read - errors = total words read correctly.
5. Now, help fix mistakes.
6. You may wish to read the story out loud as a model for fluent reading.
7. Repeat the steps other days.