Textbook Excerpt:

A small group of conquistadors led by Hernán Cortés reached Mexico in 1519. They were looking for gold. Hearing of this arrival, the Aztec emperor, Moctezuma II, believed Cortés to be a god. According to an Aztec legend, the god Quetzalcoatl was to return to Mexico in 1519. Cortés resembled the god’s description from the legend. Thinking that the god had returned, Moctezuma sent Cortés gifts, including gold. With getting more gold his motive, Cortés marched to the Aztec capital. When he got there, Moctezuma welcomed him, but Cortés took the emperor prisoner.

Source: *World History Medieval to Early Modern Times. Orland, FL: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 2006*

Basic Comprehension Questions:

1. Who was Hernán Cortés?
2. Who was Moctezuma?
3. What happened when Cortés met Moctezuma in 1519?

But, How Do We Know This Account is True?

And Also:

1. Who most likely wrote the accounts of the interaction between Cortés and Moctezuma?
2. Why might we trust these accounts? Why might we doubt them?
3. In what language would Moctezuma’s account likely have been recorded? Why does this matter?