AZTECS

**The Big Idea**

The strong Aztec Empire, founded in central Mexico in 1325, lasted until the Spanish conquest in 1521.

**Main Ideas**

* The Aztecs built a rich and powerful empire in central Mexico.
* Social structure, religion, and warfare shaped life in the empire.
* Hernán Cortés conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521.

Main Idea 1

* In 1325, Aztecs migrated south to central Mexico and settled on a swampy island in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The Aztecs rose to power by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and demanding tribute from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The Aztecs controlled a huge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* By the early 1400s, the Aztecs ruled the most powerful state in Mesoamerica with **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** as their capital.
* The Aztecs built canals and three **causeways**—\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* To increase the amount of farmland, the Aztecs created \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Tenochtitlán was home to some 200,000 people at its height.

Main Idea 2

Emperor

* Held the most important position is society
* Attended to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Nobles

* Served king as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and other government officials
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were passed down from father to son.

Warriors and Priests

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more influential than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Led \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and decided when to plant and harvest

**Merchants** **and Artisans**

* Held the position in society below the priests and warriors

**Farmers** **and Laborers**

* Made up the majority of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Didn’t own their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Religion and Warfare**

* The Aztecs worshipped many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* They made as many as 10,000 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ per year.
* Most victims were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ led bloody ritual ceremonies.
* The Aztecs fought wars to supply enough \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for sacrifice.

**Cultural Achievements**

* The Aztecs created stone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Women wore embroidered cloth.
* The Aztec studied the \_\_\_\_\_\_ and created a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ similar to the Maya’s.
* They recorded historical and cultural events.
* They had strong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Main Idea 3

* In the late 1400s the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ arrived, seeking riches and converts to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Hernán Cortés led the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, or Spanish conquerors, in 1519.
* The Aztec emperor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believed Cortés to be the god Quetzalcoatl and gave the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Cortés took the emperor prisoner.
* The Aztec drove out conquistadors, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was killed.
* Within a year, the conquistadors returned and conquered the Aztec by 1521.

**Why the Conquistadors Succeeded**

* They had help from people who resented harsh Aztec rule.
* They used better weapons, including armor, cannons, and swords, and had big horses that terrified the Aztecs.

They spread disease that killed thousands of Aztecs