

The People of the Sun

In what ways do a group's collective beliefs and experiences contribute to shaping a unique identity?

Name: _____

The Physical Landscape

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{What's in a Word?} Where did the word Aztec come from? Explain.

For the Aztecs, a mountain was more than a _____ site. They also saw a _____ as a _____ or holy site, one that, through its _____, brought people _____ closer to the gods. For the Aztecs, the world consisted of two _____:

The _____ and the _____.

They were _____ connected. The temples that the _____ built to _____ their gods were _____ in the _____ of mountains.

As we know, the Aztecs believed that their god _____ had led them to the _____ where they _____. In many ways it was not an _____ location. It was a small, _____ in a lake with salty water. But _____ was a _____ force in Aztec society, and the _____ that their god had sent them to this site gave the _____ the determination to _____ there.

The Power of the Mountains

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The mountains that surrounded _____ gave the Aztecs a sense of _____. Like the walls of a _____, the _____ protected the city from attack by _____. The mountains that

_____ the Aztec also caused problems for them. Because mountains are so _____, rainstorms can cause _____ in low-lying areas. After a great flood swamped _____ in 1500, Aztec _____ built an earthen dam across the lake to the _____ of the city. This _____ control the water levels around their _____.

Mountains can also keep out the _____ that would otherwise bring _____ to that area. To make sure they had _____ of clean _____ water even in times of _____, the Aztecs built an _____. This structure brought in fresh _____ from underground springs _____ the city.

An Island Home {154}

Lake _____, which surrounded _____, also provided safety from their enemies. The Aztecs built three _____ linking the lake to the mainland. _____ that connected the causeways to the city and the _____ could be destroyed to _____ the city from invasion.

In the 200 years that they _____ Tenochtitlan, the Aztec grew from a _____ of a few _____ into a society of _____ hundred thousand. Again their _____ and hard work paid off. They became the most _____ plant cultivators of their time, producing more than enough food to _____ a growing population and a _____ army.

What are [CHINAMPAS]? Explain what they are and how they work.

Changing the Geography

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Observe the map below and answer the following questions.

How did the barrier affect the water on the western end of the lake?

Why would this have been an advantage for the Aztecs?

Besides Tenochtitlan, where else do you see chinampa on the map?

~ Reflect ~

What belief led the Aztecs to decide to settle in Tenochtitlan?

The Sacred Landscape

{158}

Review: The Aztecs believed that the _____ controlled _____ aspect of their _____ and they looked to the gods for signs on how to _____.

Measuring Time: The Aztec Calendars

{160}

The Aztec _____ emphasized the _____ connection between gods and _____ beings, between the _____ and the physical _____.

The Aztecs had two calendars; one was the _____ calendar and was _____ days long.

The great stone _____, which was carved in the mid-_____ was dedicated to Huitzilopochtli. It shows how the world _____ and how it will end. The Aztecs believed that there were four eras before the _____ one and each had been destroyed. According to the legends, the first was destroyed by _____, the second by _____, the third by _____, and the fourth by a _____. According to legend, earthquakes will destroy and _____ sun. The god

of the fifth sun in the center of the calendar has his _____ sticking out. This shows he wants to be _____.

Human Sacrifice: A Reflection

Do the Aztecs belief of human sacrifice make it "right"? Explain.

Tenochtitlan: The Center of the World

{163}

According to Aztec philosophers, the Earth was what?

The Aztecs firmly believed what?

The city itself was divided into four sections, which symbolize what?

What was at the very center?

Why was the mountaintop considered really sacred?

What did the pyramids symbolize?

What was the most magnificent?

Expanding the Empire

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What was the Aztec's attitude toward other cultures rooted in?

As a result of their conflicts, what did they become?

What was one of the empire-building strategies that the Aztecs used?

What two aspects did they take pride in?

Even with their farming skills, the Aztecs could not produce certain things because of their location, such as?

The Aztecs had to trade with the cultures who had these goods. Merchants set off with what on their trade expeditions?

The merchants also acted as what?

Expanding Through War

{167}

What was Huitzilopochtli's ancient prophecy?

What did it help the Aztecs to do?

What was more important to the Aztecs than the individuals?

What object and act symbolized commitment to protect the Aztec people?

Military service was what? What did it mean?

What was the worst insult?

Tribute

{168}

How did the Aztecs profit from wars they fought?

What bean was important to them? Why?

[Pause and Reflect]

Do you think a society's citizens should sometimes be expected to make sacrifices to put the good of society above the wishes of the individual? Why or why not? Give an example and explain.