

QUEST 8-1

THE AZTEC: ISLAND EMPIRE

NOTE: Unless you have earned the MAGIC QUILL power-up, these notes must be COPIED ON YOUR OWN PAPER.

Questions/Interactions	Notes
	<p>Tenochtitlan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Built on an island in the middle of Lake Texcoco.• Fertile (good for farming) soil, but not much of it.• They built chinampas (“floating gardens”) to create more farmland.• It was also easy to protect, but hard to get to.• They built 3 causeways (25 feet wide) – bridges to the mainland.• When discovered in 1519 it was bigger than London, Paris, or Venice. <p>Aztec Empire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was at its peak from 1428 to 1519AD• The empire was based on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Tribute collected from conquered people– Warfare to increase tribute and get laborers / sacrificial victims• no assimilation, no colonies, and no loyalty (a fact the Spanish used against the Aztec when they defeated them). <p>Aztec Class Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• King – ruled from Tenochtitlan• (unlike the Maya, there was one ruler who ruled the empire, but all he really cared about was getting tribute).• Government Officials – collected tribute and led building projects.• Priests – led religious rites and trained children• Commoners – professional traders, spies, artisans• Peasants – farmed land but could not own it• Slaves – war captives or criminals. <p>Family Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Men obtained food and fought wars• Women prepared food and bore children• Marriages were arranged by matchmakers.• polygamy was acceptable