

Cornell Notes Grade 5 Florida NGSSS	Topic/Objective: Aztec Civilization	Name:
	NGSSS: SS.5.A.2.1, SS.5.G.1.1, SS.5.G.3.1, SS.5.G.4.1	Social Studies
	Vocabulary: Civilizations, Nomadic, causeways, technology, trade, city-states, chinampas, glyphs, Codices, Caste,	Date:

Essential Question: How were the Mayans and Aztecs similar? Different?

Questions:	Notes: <b>Aztec Introduction</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around 1100 CE (Common Era) the Aztecs, a wandering people (<b>Nomadic</b>) left their homes in Northern Mexico and traveled south, eventually settling into Central Mexico</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What made the Aztecs leave Northern Mexico? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Wars with other tribes, searching for food and shelter</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around 1325 CE the Aztecs settled to the land west of the remains of the Mayan Civilization.</li> </ul>
	<b>Location</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ West of Yucatan Peninsula, near Lake Texcoco, in the Valley of Mexico, capital was Tenochtitlan</li> <li>◦ Because other powerful <b>civilizations</b> lived in <b>city-states</b> in that area, Aztec people made home on swampy island on Lake Texcoco.</li> <li>◦ Soon became the most powerful <b>civilization</b> in area.</li> </ul>
	<b>The Aztec Empire</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 20,000 people lived in capital city of Tenochtitlan</li> <li>• Built extensive <b>causeways</b>, roadways over water, roads, canals</li> <li>• This <b>technology</b> (tools that make life easier) enabled <b>trade</b>,</li> <li>• Advanced military, used surrounding lakes as protection for city</li> <li>• Life centered in Tenochtitlan, built grand pyramids, temples,</li> </ul>
	<b>The Aztec Culture</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created <b>chinampas</b> (floating gardens) used for farming</li> <li>• Advanced market for trading</li> <li>• Created <b>glyphs</b> (symbols for words) for written communication</li> <li>• Created Codex (book of events) and <b>Codices</b> (books) that told about important events, people, and ceremonies of Aztec people.</li> <li>• Believed in many Gods. Sacrificed humans daily to please Gods</li> <li>• Ceremonies performed at Temples and Pyramids</li> </ul>

## The Aztec People

- Had a **caste** system (people divided by social/economic class)
- Tlatoani (Supreme ruler) ruled for life, had unlimited power over everyone and everything.
- Upper class: Nobles and Lords
- Middle class: Traders
- Common Class: Working people- farmers and craftsmen. Were forced to work and give ruler food, items of wealth.
- Slaves- taken during battles

## The End of an Empire

- 1519 CE- Came to a sudden end after 200 years in power.
- Spanish explorer Hernan Cortez came in search of gold/riches
- Learned that Aztec people disliked Montezuma II and persuaded them to join his army of 500 Spanish soldiers.
- Montezuma II did not stop Cortez, instead, treated them like royalty because he thought he was a God. Invited them into city
- Cortez took Montezuma II as prison, seized the city.
- Took gold and riches, returned to coast, left behind Spanish soldiers.
- War broke out between Aztecs and Spanish, Montezuma II was killed in battle, Aztecs forced Spanish out of city.
- Eventually tens of thousands of Aztecs died from battle injuries or Small Pox (disease carried by Spanish).
- 1521 Cortez returned again to seize the city. City was weak and easy to capture.
- Cortez took control and turned city into a Spanish Colony.
- The customs and culture of the Aztecs were replaced by Spanish culture, most Aztec culture was lost forever.

