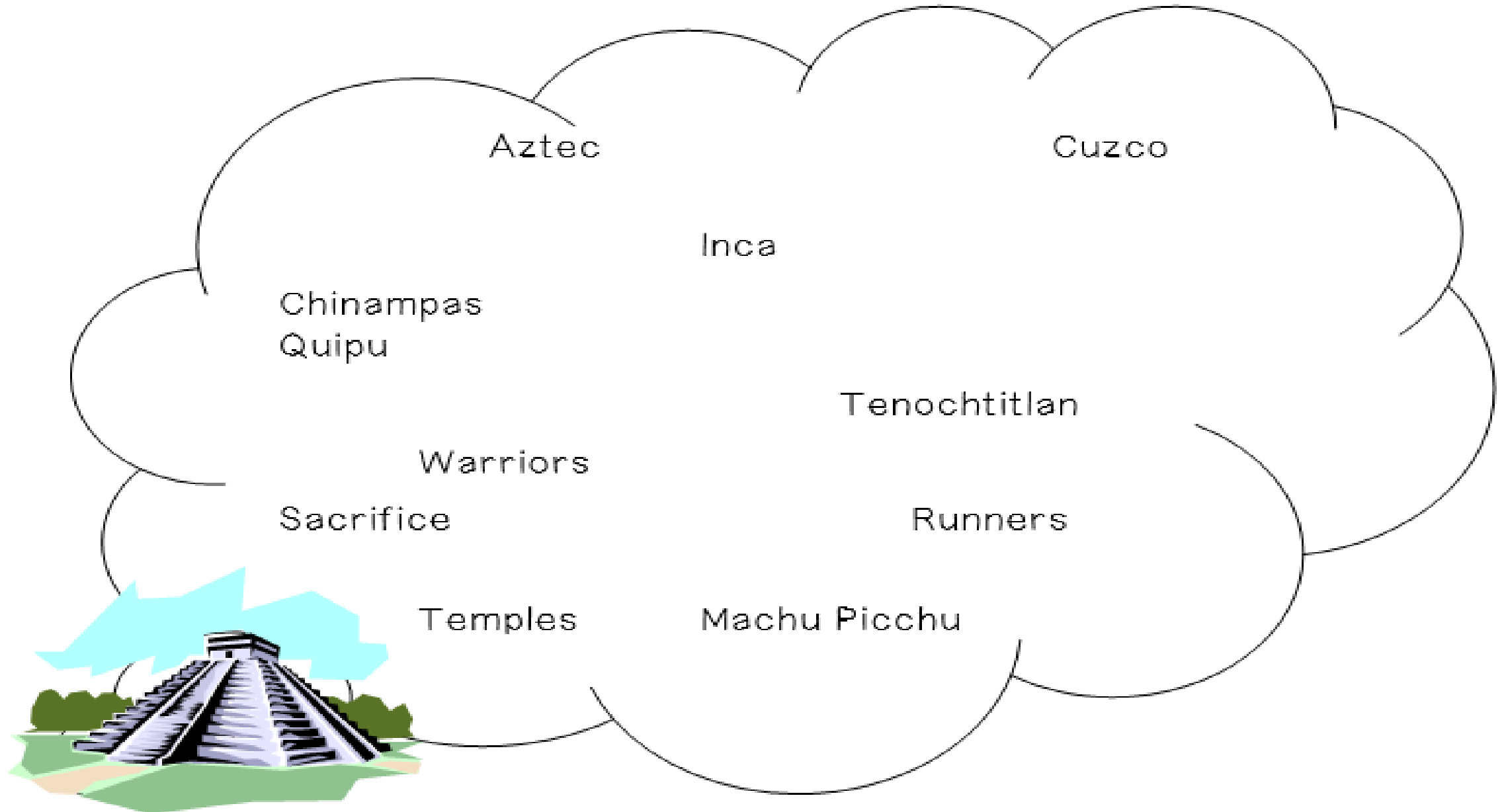


Early Civilizations of Latin America

European Impact on the
Aztec & Inca Civilizations

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA



Early Civilizations
of
Latin America

Part One

The Aztec and Inca, c. 1500

 Aztec

 Inca



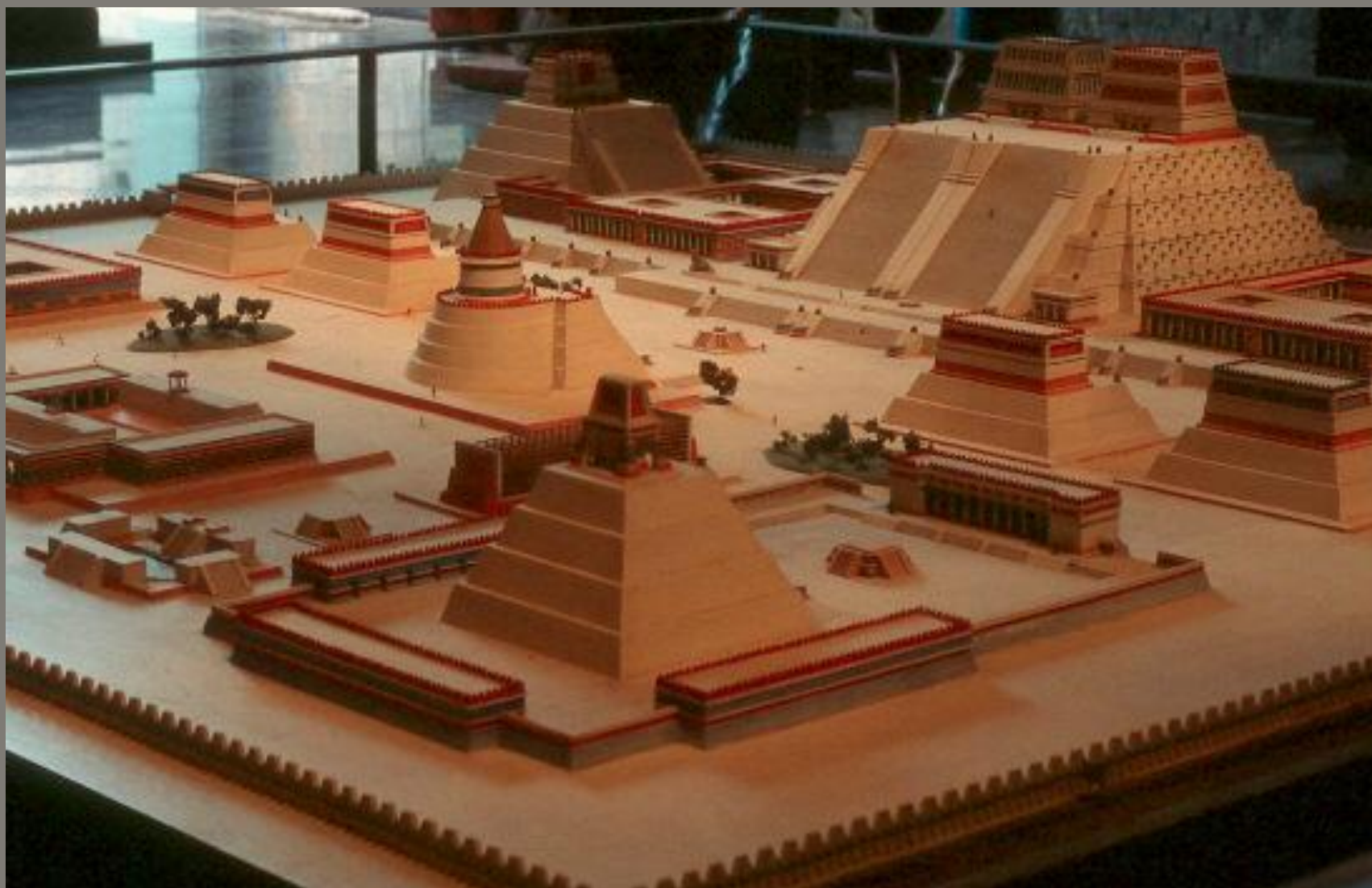
The Aztecs

Aztec Civilization

- Aztecs arrived in the Valley of Mexico in 1100s (central Mexico, including present day Mexico City).
- They wandered about looking for a home site until 1325.
- Aztecs finally settled on an island in the middle of Lake Texcoco.
 - They built a magnificent city called **Tenochtitlan** (now Mexico City).



Diorama of Tenochtitlan

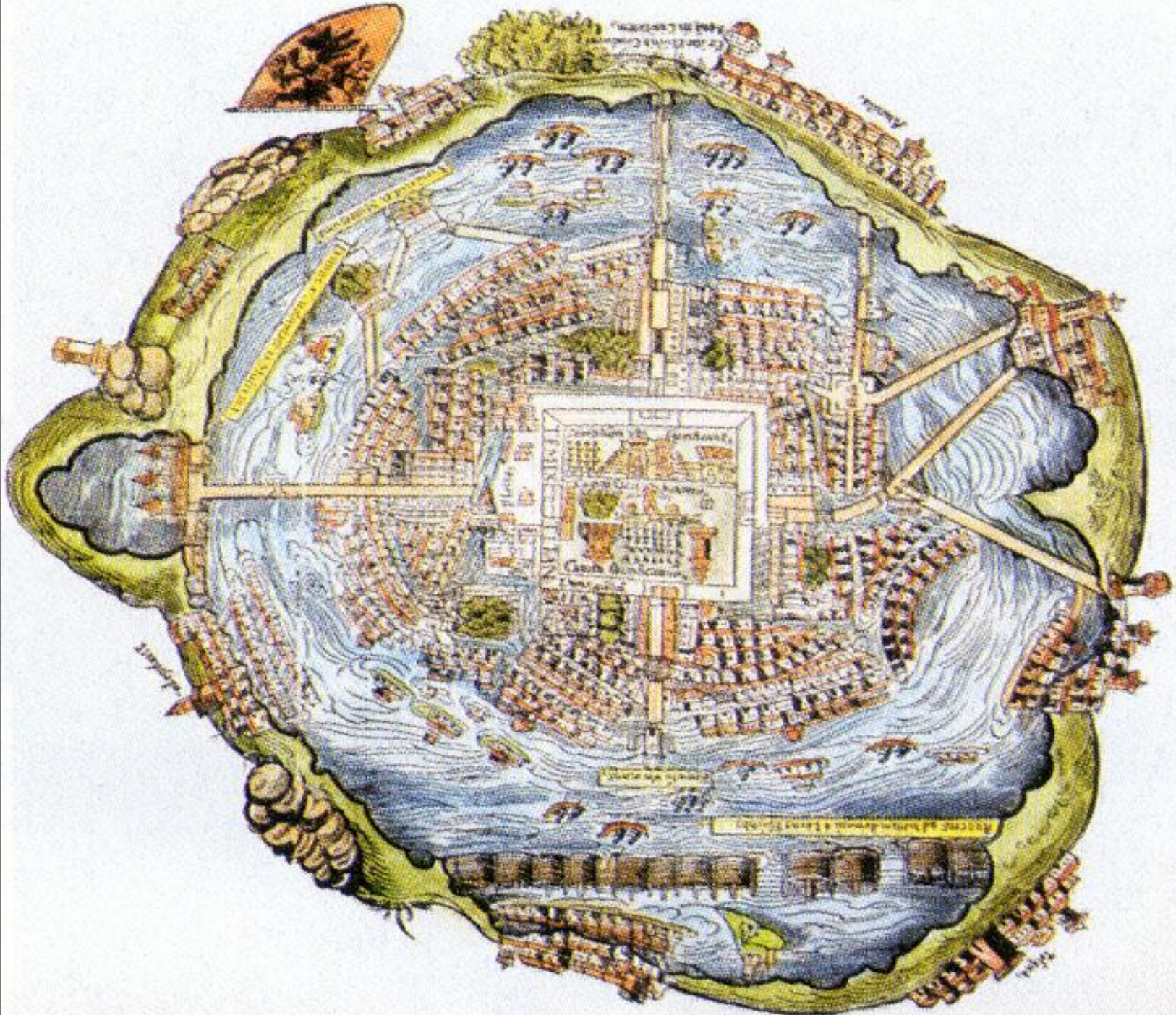


Tenochtitlan

- This was the Aztec's capital.
- It was created in the center of a lake!
- They built floating islands called “chinampas” by piling rich earth from the bottom of the lake onto rafts made of wood.
 - Roots of plants grew down to bottom, anchoring the rafts .

Tenochtitlan





Chinampas



Expanding Empire

- In the 1400s, Aztec warriors began conquering other people.
- They made them pay taxes; noble Aztecs grew rich.
- Aztecs had an emperor; the nobles and priests helped the emperor—all were very wealthy.
 - Not everyone was rich—most people were farmers.



Eagle Warrior
Sculpture

Men's Work

- The Aztec were very involved in agriculture.
- They used chinampas (man-made floating islands) to grow crops of vegetables, flowers, grasses, and medicinal plants.
- They also hunted and fished.

Women's Work

- The Aztec women spent the day taking care of the children, cooking, knitting, and doing housework.

Women's Work



Achievements

- Doctors developed 1,000s of medicines from plants.
- Astronomers predicted movements of the planets; designed an accurate calendar!
- Priests kept extensive records using hieroglyphics.
- Schooling - Boys studied either religion or military skills; girls learned cloth spinning and cooking.

Aztec Sun Stone (Calendar)



Aztec Golden “Ear Flares”



Mosaic Mask Inlaid
with Turquoise



Discipline

- How did the Aztecs discipline children?
- Some punishments included making them inhale smoke, holding them over fire in which spicy peppers were thrown, and puncturing their skin with thorns!
- Maybe that's what made the warriors so tough!

Aztec Discipline



Religion

- Cities were religious centers; they worshipped their gods in pyramid-shaped temples.
- Sacrifice was an important part of the religious ceremonies (meant to honor the gods).
- **Polytheistic** (worshipped many gods): Sun, Death, Maize, Rulers, Rain, etc.

Aztec Temple



Temples

- Instead of tearing down old temples, Aztec would just keep adding levels to the existing one.
- This one was built over 6 times!
- Rooms for sacrificing are at the top.



Aztec Temple



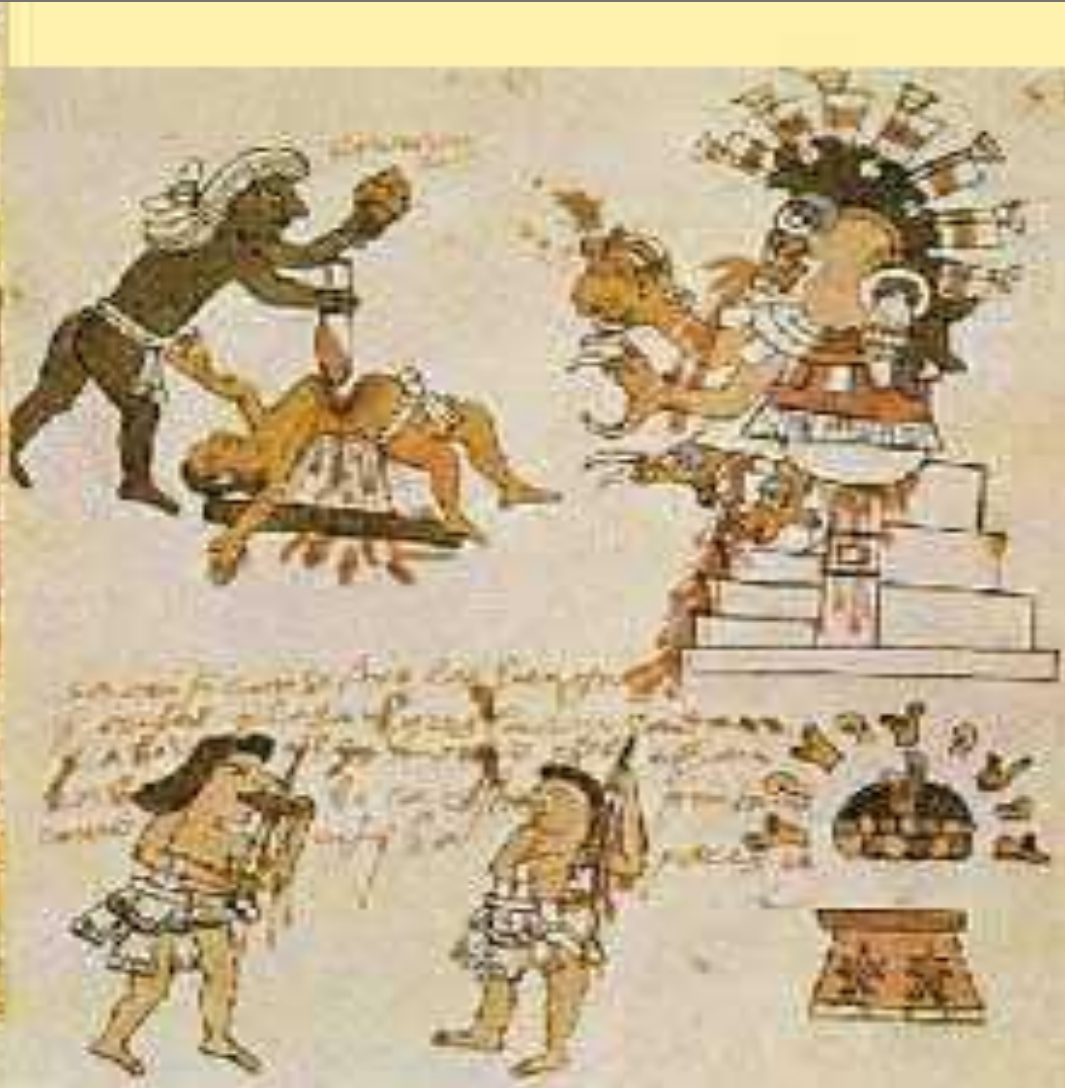
Religious Ceremonies

- The bath was an important part of daily life--not only to be cleaned, but also to be religiously purified.
- Most homes had a steam room attached to living quarters.
- Other religious ceremonies included human sacrifices:
 - usually children or prisoners of war
 - felt that human hearts and blood strengthened the gods

Aztec Bath



Aztec human sacrifice was on a greater scale than anywhere or any time in human history.





Fall of
the Aztec

Spain Vs. Portugal

- Christopher Columbus asks both countries to sponsor his voyage--Spain agrees.
- Portugal soon saw the wealth that Spain was gaining, and wanted to be part of the action.
- The two countries became rivals and tried to stop each other from claiming land in the Americas.

Spain Vs. Portugal

- In 1494, the countries signed Treaty of Tordesillas.
 - This set the Line of Demarcation (imaginary line from the North Pole to the South Pole at 50 degrees longitude).
- Spain got everything to the west, while Portugal got everything to the east.
 - What language is spoken in most of Latin America today?
 - What language is spoken in Brazil?



Spanish Conquistadors

- “Conquistadors” = soldier-explorers who settled in the Americas in hopes of finding treasure
- They were inspired by Columbus to seek fortune in the New World.
- Many came from the part of Spain called Extremadura.
 - Poor soil, icy winters, & blistering hot summers held little chance for wealth.
 - Hernan Cortes and Francisco Pizarro were born in this province.

What are some words that describe us?





Hernan Cortes

- Cortes was a Spanish conquistador who reached Mexico in 1519 in search of treasure.
 - He arrived in Mexico with only 550 soldiers, 16 horses, 14 cannons, & a few dogs.
- His group was met by Aztec emperor, Montezuma II...



HERNAN CORTES

Cortes Invades Mexico

How could such a small force conquer a huge empire?

1. Cortes knew how to use Spanish horse and guns to shock Aztecs.
2. Malintzin (a Mayan woman) gave Cortes the inside scoop on the Aztec empire & helped him form alliances against Montezuma.
3. Cortes had invisible help--diseases that killed more Aztecs than Spanish swords.
4. Montezuma believed Cortes to be Quetzalcoatl--an important Aztec god.



Cortes Defeats Aztecs

- Cortes traveled 400 miles to reach Tenochtitlan.
- Montezuma did not attack right away because he first thought Cortes was Quetzalcoatl.
- The Spanish were able to take control of the city & took Montezuma hostage.
- Cortes ordered the Aztec to stop sacrificing people.



Cortes Defeats Aztecs

- Cortes' orders angered the Aztecs, so they planned a rebellion.
- Fighting broke out & Montezuma was killed.
- The Spanish were outnumbered, so they fled the city.
- Before they could prepare a 2nd attack, smallpox broke out in Tenochtitlan & greatly weakened the large Aztec empire.
- In 1521, the Spanish destroyed the Aztec capital.

After Conquering the Aztec

- Cortes took part in one more expedition to Honduras.
- He served as Governor General of New Spain.
- He returned to Spain a very wealthy man.
- He died in Seville, Spain in 1547.

