

Document A:



After learning about your MesoAmerican Perspective, where would your group be located?





Document B:
Primary Source

The Second Despatch of Hernando Cortés to the Emperor: sent from Segura de la Frontera [Tepeaca]. Dated October 30th, 1520

"This great city of Tenochtitlán is built on the salt lake, and no matter by what road you travel there are two leagues from the main body of the city to the mainland. There are four artificial causeways leading to it, and each is as wide as two cavalry lances. The city itself is as big as Seville or Córdoba. The main streets are very wide and very straight; some of these are on the land, but the rest and all the smaller ones are half on land, half canals where they paddle their canoes. All the streets have openings in places so that the water may pass from one canal to another. Over all these openings, and some of them are very wide, there are bridges. . . . There are, in all districts of this great city, many temples or houses for their idols. They are all very beautiful buildings. . . . Amongst these temples there is one, the principal one, whose great size and magnificence no human tongue could describe, for it is so large that

within the precincts, which are surrounded by very high wall, a town of some five hundred inhabitants could easily be built. All round inside this wall there are very elegant quarters with very large rooms and corridors where their priests live. There are as many as forty towers, all of which are so high that in the case of the largest there are fifty steps leading up to the main part of it and the most important of these towers is higher than that of the cathedral of Seville. . . ."

Document C:
Secondary Sources

Source #2:

The Mesoamerican agriculture method known as chinampa relies on small, rectangular plots of fertile arable ground to cultivate crops on the shallow lake beds in the Valley of Mexico. They are constructed for agricultural use on freshwater swamps or lake wetlands, and their proportions guarantee the best moisture retention. The chinampas were developed by the Aztecs around the 14th century in the Valley of Mexico, primarily in the shallow lakes of Xochimilco and Chalco. This region, now part of Mexico City, provided a fertile ground for the growth of the Aztec civilization. The chinampas were created by building small, rectangular plots of land on shallow lake beds, made from layers of mud, decaying vegetation, and other organic matter. These plots were surrounded by canals, allowing for easy transportation and irrigation.

Source #3:

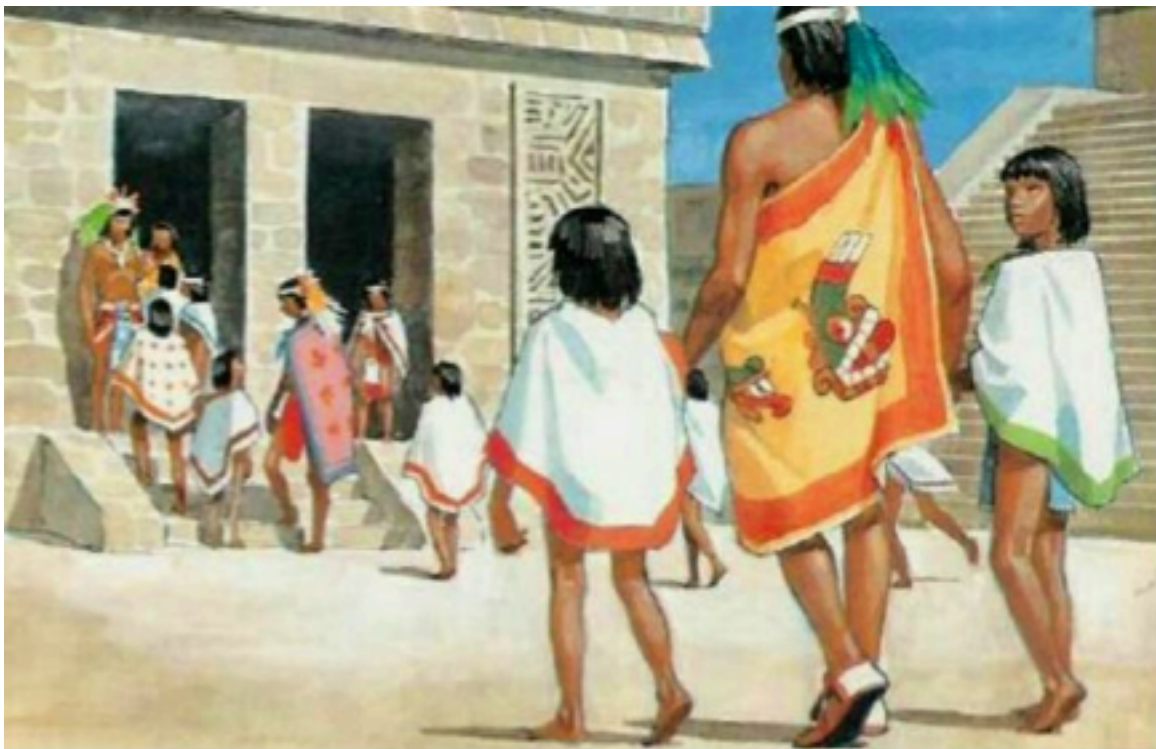
For the first 14 years of life, boys and girls were taught at home by their parents. After that, the boys attended either the noble school, called a calmecac, or the commoners' school, the telpochcalli. Girls went to a separate school, where they learned household skills, religious rituals, singing and dancing or craftwork. Some talented girls were chosen to be midwives and received the full training of a healer. Other athletically talented girls might be sent to the house of dancing and singing for special training. Much of Aztec society was divided into calpullis, a group of interrelated families, somewhat like a neighborhood or clan. Each calpulli had its own schools, both

calmecac and telpochcalli. Boys and girls attended the schools run by their calpulli.

Document D:



The Aztec culture is credited with creating chinampas. Chinampas, often known as "floating gardens," are man made islands that were built by braiding reeds with stakes below the water's surface to form underwater fences. These "fences" would accumulate soil and aquatic vegetation up until the top soil layer was exposed on the water's surface. Because of the illusion they created, these agricultural regions were given this moniker. The canals encircled the chinampa plots, giving the impression that the areas of land were "floating" on the water.



Public schools in MesoAmerica predate almost every culture in the world. The N. American colonies got their first public school in 1635, the U.K. in 1811, Spain in 1813

Document E:



heart

enochtitlan was at the
aim for Spain, as well

as to extend their own wealth, power and prestige.

Ollama was a nobles' game and was often accompanied by heavy betting. Various myths mention the ball game, sometimes as a contest between day and night deities. It is still played in isolated regions.