**Aztecs**

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| Society   * A single, powerful emperor that ruled over everyone * Conquered people paid heavy taxes in form of food, gold, or slaves * Emperor on top, then royal family, nobles, priests and military leaders. Then soldiers, then artisans and merchants, then farmers, last slaves * Lots of war * Boys over 15 fought with sword, bows & arrows, and quilted cotton armor * Women could be priestesses * Most women ground flour and cooked and wove cloth | Tenochtitlan   * Built in 1325 in the middle of a lake * Center had an open plaza with pyramid temples * Schools for the sons of nobles * Causeways – raised streets that connected the city to surrounding land * Built aqueducts to bring in fresh water * Built chinampas – island fields in the lake around the city | Religion & Education   * Held ceremonies to win the favor of the gods * Most important was the sun god, he needed human blood to rise and set=human sacrifice * Priests used a calendar similar to the Mayas (13 periods of 20 days) * Kept records using hieroglyphics similar to the Mayas * Schools and a university for noble boys to become government officials, scribes, or teachers | End   * Spanish conquistador, Cortez, invaded with the help local enemies, in 1519 * Diseases from the Spanish killed many of them * 1521 they surrendered to the Spanish thus ending the empire * The last emperor was Moctezuma |