**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
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