

Chapter 16 Study Guide - Mesoamerica Empire

Vocabulary

1. Cuzco: Inca Capital
2. Aztec: Civilization that built the city of Tenochtitlán
3. Mita: Labor tax system used by the Incas.
4. Quechua: Inca Empire language
5. Observatories: Buildings used to study astronomy
6. Maya: Civilization that started in the lowlands of Guatemala
7. Maize: Corn, a crop grown by Mayans.
8. ~~Sacrifice:~~
9. Causeways: Raised roads across water/wet ground
10. Hernan Cortes: Leader of the invasion of Aztec lands
11. Conquistadors: Spanish soldiers
12. ~~Quipac:~~
13. Inca: Civilization that is in modern day Peru
14. Francisco Pizarro: Leader of the Spanish invasion of Inca lands.
15. Chinampas: Floating Gardens
16. Atahualpa: Inca leader who was captured.
17. ~~Pachacuti:~~

Complete each question below

18. How did the forests affect the Mayans?

○ Made farming difficult but provided resources.

19. Predict what would have happened if the Mayan stopped fighting with one another?

Maya civilization might not have collapsed.

20. Mayan cities battled one another to gain CONTROL of the land.

21. What factors caused the decline of the Mayans?

Drought, warfare, rebellion from the inside

22. What did the conquistadors bring with them that helped conquer the Aztecs?

Deadly diseases, like smallpox. superior weapons.

23. Why was the Inca road system important?

connected the empire together.

24. What were the Incas experts at?

Expert, masonry, or stonework.

25. What religious practices were common to the Maya, Aztec and Inca societies?

offering sacrifices to the gods & building temples.

26. Which group grew crops on chinampas? Aztecs grew crops on chinampas.

27. Why did the conquistadors ALMOST lose to the Aztecs?

Aztecs had more soldiers!

28. Describe the social structure of daily life in Maya, Aztec and Inca civilizations.

~~Equations~~

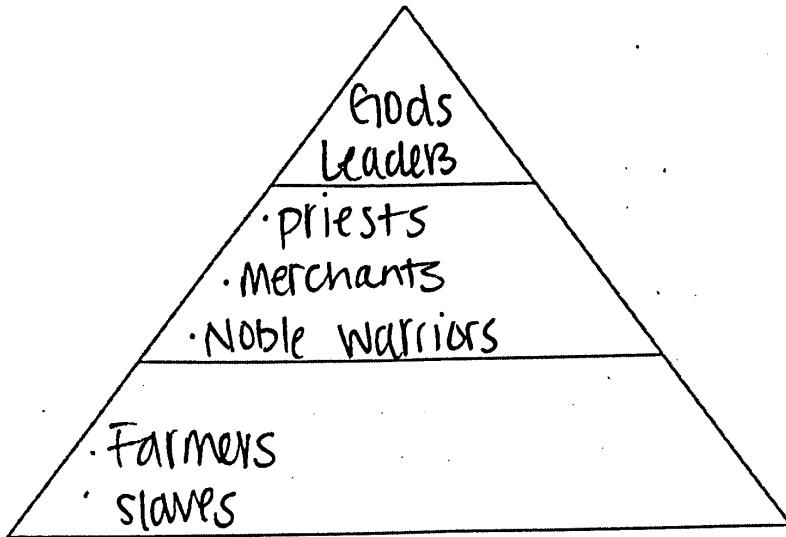
29. How did the Incas unify their empire and establish control over the people they conquered?

- Inca RULERS replaced the leaders of conquered people with their officials

- Built roads connecting

- Used one language

30. Fill in the social structure pyramid of Mesoamerica.



~~31. Label the Aztec and Inca empire on the map below~~



32. The Maya and Incas both believed their rulers were related to the gods. What other ancient society believed the same thing?

~~Egyptians~~ Egyptians

33. How did the Incas preserve their history before they started using a written language?

-oral history

-kept records w/ knots tied in cords to represent numbers

34. What was the connection between Maya religion and astronomy?

They charted the stars for the best time to hold rituals + festivals.

35. What factor do you think played the biggest role in the Aztecs' defeat?

Example: I think the conquistadors bringing unknown diseases helped them defeat the Aztecs. These diseases were unfamiliar to the Aztecs + their immune system couldn't fight.

36. Why do scholars today consider the Maya civilization to have been so advanced?

They built great cities without metal tools or wheeled vehicles. They were skilled mathematicians.

37. Compare and contrast the Maya and Aztec religions. How were they the same? How were they different?

Mayans	Aztecs
· offered their blood by piercing their tongues/skin	· human sacrifices
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Similarities</u></p> · Both worshipped <u>many</u> gods	