

BEARCAT DAY 28

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020

GRADE 7
ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS



ANDERSON COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

7TH GRADE BEARCAT DAY 28

LANGUAGE ARTS	Point of View in Informational Articles Read the following article and answer the four multiple choice questions about the author's point of view.
MATH	STUDY GUIDE PART 3 Answer the questions on the study guide . Use your notes to help you. If you get stuck, email your teacher.
SCIENCE	PLANT DEFENSES Watch the video and answer the questions; if you cannot watch the video you can read the transcript of the video to answer the questions . To turn in work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turn in work to school with YOUR NAME on it• Take a picture to send and send it to your teacher's email.
SOCIAL STUDIES	THE AZTECS Read the chapter and answer the questions .
PE/HEALTH	FOCUSING ON FITNESS Exercise for 30-45 minutes. Write your activity on your log from Monday . Remember to snap a picture of your log on Fridays and email it to brian.glass@anderson.kyschools.us .
LITERACY	NARRATIVE WRITING Continue to work on narrative writing piece.

This leap day and year would be the last ever if two scholars have their way

By Ben Guarino, Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.28.20

Word Count 994

Level MAX



February 29ths, like the one tacked to the end of this month, exist because Earth's orbit and human calendars are slightly out of sync. This is why we have Leap Years. Illustration by: Mbbirdy/Getty Images.

February 29ths, like the one tacked to the end of this month, exist because Earth's orbit and human calendars are slightly out of sync. The planet completes its 584-million-mile loop around the sun in 365 days - plus 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds. Leap days are designed to compensate for the excess time.

But, if two Johns Hopkins University professors had their way, this leap year would be the last of its kind.

They would replace the calendar with a new version. Theirs, the Hanke-Henry Permanent Calendar, is 364 days long. It is consistent: The year always begins on a Monday. Your birthday always falls on the same day of the week.

"The calendar will be exactly the same, every year," said Richard Conn Henry, an astronomer at Johns Hopkins University and one of the calendar's designers.

February would always have 30 days, as would January, April, May, July, August, October and November. The other four months would have 31 days. There would be no February leap days. Instead, "every five or six years," Henry said, "we'll have an extra week at the end when you can party."

It's bold, keeping in the spirit of calendrical reforms. The calendar we use today was hundreds and hundreds of years in the making. About 46 B.C., dictator Julius Caesar reworked for the Roman republic a 365-day calendar, devised by Egyptians, to include a leap day. That was more accurate than previous calendars, but it wasn't perfect - each Julian year added an extra 11 minutes and 14 seconds.

Over the centuries, the bonus minutes added up. The seasonal position of the planet and the calendar diverged. The Easter holiday split away from the vernal equinox and crept toward summer. This so distressed Pope Gregory XIII he changed the calendar by papal bull, "Inter Gravissimas," Latin for "among the most serious," as he referred to his obligation to make the change.

To reset the drifting holidays, the pope erased 10 days. In Italy, Spain and other European countries, the day after Thursday, Oct. 4, 1582, became Friday, Oct. 15. To prevent the drift from happening again, the pope kept leap years but decreased their frequency. Under the Gregorian calendar, a year that is divisible by 100 must also be divisible by 400 to be a leap year (in other words, 1900 wasn't a leap year, but 2000 was). This calendar also established the leap day as February 29.

Outside Roman Catholic countries in Europe, the world was slower to adopt this new calendar. Britain and its colonies didn't follow the Gregorian calendar until 1752.

"There were riots in Britain that year," Princeton University classics professor Denis Feeney told The Washington Post in 2017. "People wanted their 11 days back."

Birthdays shifted with the switch. George Washington, for instance, was born on February 11 in the Julian calendar. After 1752, his birthday became February 22.

"The Gregorian calendar was set up by astronomers, people who knew what they were doing, and it is very accurate," Henry said. "That's the problem. We don't need a terribly accurate calendar. What we need is a calendar that is suitable for human beings to order their lives by."

Henry enlisted his colleague at Johns Hopkins, economist Steve H. Hanke, to help. "Dick brought this up and basically gave me an assignment: 'Hanke, find out the economic implications of this thing,'" Hanke said.

Hanke estimates the upfront costs would be less than the Year 2000 adjustment, which, in the United States, was about \$100 billion.

"The benefits, from just not having to reproduce calendars every year, physical calendars, would pay for the thing right away," he said.

Having the date fall on the same day of the week every year eliminates inefficiencies with planning and scheduling that the "herky-jerky" Gregorian calendar has, Henry said.

Every so often, in the Gregorian calendar, companies add a week to their fiscal quarters. Apple did so in the first quarter of 2012, and reported "very good, strong earnings," Hanke said. "Of course, they had an extra week of revenues coming in."

A year later, Apple's first quarter of 2013 appeared comparatively weak - because it lacked the benefit of an extra week, Hanke said - and the company's stock dropped.

"Our calendar fixes that problem," Hanke said, because business would consistently operate on 91-day quarters.

Under their calendar, the major U.S. federal holidays, except for Independence Day (and Thanksgiving), fall on a Monday. Christmas would be on a Sunday, forever.

"You won't be interrupting a week with a federal holiday on a Wednesday or Tuesday," Hanke said. "This disruption avoidance will save a lot of money: Our calculations are that about \$575 per year per person in terms of economic losses will be avoided, because you'll have the long break on the weekend."

When he explains the new calendar, Hanke said, people seem most upset their birthdays will always occur on the same day of the week. Pointing to Queen Elizabeth II for inspiration, he suggests they become more flexible in their celebrations. "The queen celebrates her birthday much later in the year than her actual birthday, because the weather's better in London," he said.

It took a Caesar, and then a pope, to successfully reform the calendar and Henry and Hanke argue a president could do it.

"There is one person who could enact it, and he could enact it immediately. And that is President Donald John Trump," Henry said. "And if I could have half an hour with him in the Oval Office, we would be adopting it this year. There's no question about it." (The president would ultimately be persuaded, the astronomer argued, because he would get to rename the calendar after himself, in the tradition of Caesar and Pope Gregory.)

"We have drafted up an executive order for Trump to sign," Hanke said.

He predicted the states would follow suit after the federal government, then businesses and, ultimately, the world.

Quiz

Grade 7 Bearcat Day 28 ELA

- 1 Which two of the following sentences from the article include CENTRAL ideas of the article?
 1. *"The calendar will be exactly the same, every year," said Richard Conn Henry, an astronomer at Johns Hopkins University and one of the calendar's designers.*
 2. *The calendar we use today was hundreds and hundreds of years in the making.*
 3. *"The Gregorian calendar was set up by astronomers, people who knew what they were doing, and it is very accurate," Henry said.*
 4. *Having the date fall on the same day of the week every year eliminates inefficiencies with planning and scheduling that the "herky-jerky" Gregorian calendar has, Henry said.*
 - (A) 1 and 2
 - (B) 2 and 3
 - (C) 3 and 4
 - (D) 1 and 4

- 2 Which statement would be MOST important to include in a summary of the article?
 - (A) The current calendar has a planned leap year that adds an extra day to the calendar every four years.
 - (B) The Hanke-Henry Permanent Calendar is exactly the same every year with an extra week every five or six years.
 - (C) When Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar, people in Britain were extremely resistant to accepting the change.
 - (D) Most people oppose the Hanke-Henry Permanent Calendar because it will cause birthdays to fall on the same day every year.

- 3 How does the author point out a weakness in Richard Conn Henry and Steven H. Hanke's argument that it could be easy to switch calendars?
 - (A) by raising the main concerns people have surrounding their birthdays
 - (B) by giving an historical example of past resistance to a calendar change
 - (C) by listing the amount of money the new calendar to potentially save
 - (D) by noting the new calendar will still need leap years

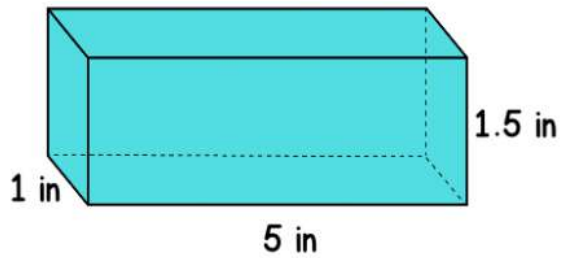
- 4 What is the author's purpose for writing this article?
 - (A) to encourage people to adopt Henry and Hanke's new calendar
 - (B) to show why calendars are so difficult to design
 - (C) to show how some people are trying to fix the problems with the current calendar
 - (D) to show why the Earth's orbit does not match up with the current calendar

Bearcat Day 28 (Study Guide Part 3)

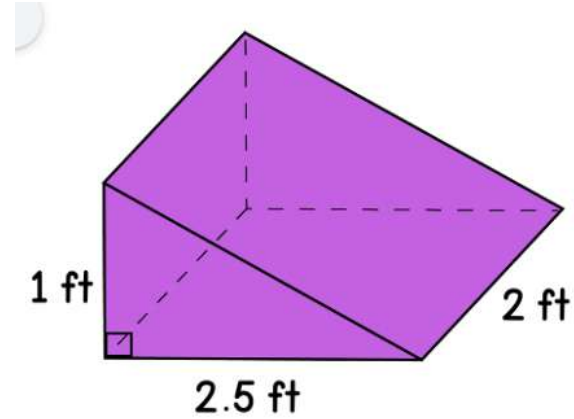
1. Email address *

2. Volume: Find the volume of the rectangular prism shown below.

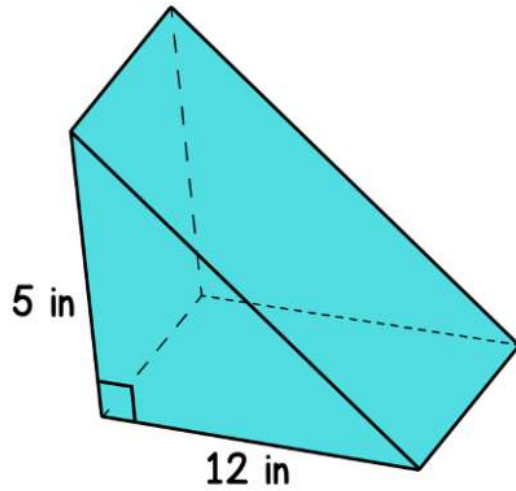
1 point



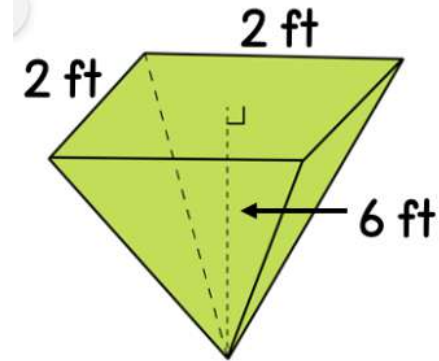
3. Volume: A ramp is being constructed with wood and then filled with concrete. 1 point
How many cubic feet of concrete will be needed to complete the ramp?



4. Volume: Find the volume of the prism shown below if the height of the prism is 3 inches. 1 point



5. Volume: A planter in the shape of a square pyramid is being filled with soil. Soil cost \$0.78 per cubic foot. What is the cost of filling the planter with soil? 1 point



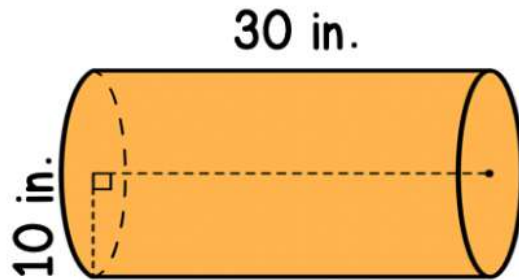
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ \$24
☐ \$8
☐ \$6.24
☐ \$18.72

Grade 7 Bearcat Day 28 Math

page 5 of 5
1 point

6. Volume: Find the volume of the cylinder to the nearest tenth.



Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 314.2 in cubed
☐ 1885 in cubed
☐ 28274.3 in cubed
☐ 9424.8 in cubed

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

Grade 7 Bearcat Day 28 Science

page 1 of 5

Transcript of The amazing ways plants defend themselves - Valentin Hammoudi From TedEd



This is a tomato plant, and this is an aphid slowly killing the tomato plant by sucking the juice out of its leaves. The tomato is putting up a fight using both physical and chemical defenses to repel the attacking insects. But that's not all. The tomato is also releasing compounds that signal nearby tomato plants to release their own insect repellent.

Plants are constantly under attack. They face threats ranging from microscopic fungi and bacteria, small herbivores, like aphids, caterpillars, and grasshoppers, up to large herbivores, like tortoises, koalas, and elephants. All are looking to devour plants to access the plentiful nutrients and water in their leaves, stems, fruits, and seeds. But plants are ready with a whole series of internal and external defenses that make them a much less appealing meal, or even a deadly one.

Plants' defenses start at their surface. The bark covering tree trunks is full of lignin, a rigid web of compounds that's tough to chew and highly impermeable to pathogens. Leaves are protected by a waxy cuticle that deters insects and microbes. Some plants go a step further with painful structures to warn would-be predators. Thorns, spines, and prickles discourage bigger herbivores. To deal with smaller pests, some plants' leaves have sharp hair-like structures called trichomes. The kidney bean plant sports tiny hooks to stab the feet of bed bugs and other insects. In some species, trichomes also dispense chemical irritants.

Stinging nettles release a mixture of histamine and other toxins that cause pain and inflammation when touched. For other plant species, the pain comes after an herbivore's first bite. Spinach, kiwi fruit, pineapple, fuchsia and rhubarb all produce microscopic needle-shaped crystals called raphides. They can cause tiny wounds in the inside of animals' mouths, which create entry points for toxins.

The mimosa plant has a strategy designed to prevent herbivores from taking a bite at all. Specialized mechanoreceptor cells detect touch and shoot an electrical signal through the leaflet to its base causing cells there to release charged particles. The buildup of charge draws water out of these cells and they shrivel, pulling the leaflet closed. The folding movement scares insects away and the shrunken leaves look less appealing to larger animals.

If these external defenses are breached, the plant immune system springs into action. Plants don't have a separate immune system like animals. Instead, every cell has the ability to detect and defend against invaders. Specialized receptors can recognize molecules that signal the presence of dangerous microbes or insects. In response, the immune system initiates a battery of defensive maneuvers. To prevent more pathogens from making their way inside, the waxy cuticle thickens and cell walls get stronger. Guard cells seal up pores in the leaves. And if microbes are devouring one section of the plant, those cells can self-destruct to quarantine the infection. Compounds toxic to microbes and insects are also produced, often tailor-made for a specific threat.

Many of the plant molecules that humans have adopted as drugs, medicines and seasonings evolved as part of plants' immune systems because they're antimicrobial, or insecticidal. An area of a plant under attack can alert other regions using hormones, airborne compounds, or even electrical signals. When other parts of the plant detect these signals, they ramp up production of defensive compounds. And for some species, like tomatoes, this early warning system also alerts their neighbors. Some plants can even recruit allies to adopt a strong offense against their would-be attackers. Cotton plants under siege by caterpillars release a specific cocktail of ten to twelve chemicals into the air. This mixture attracts parasitic wasps that lay eggs inside the caterpillars. Plants may not be able to flee the scene of an attack, or fight off predators with teeth and claws, but with sturdy armor, a well-stocked chemical arsenal, a neighborhood watch, and cross-species alliances, a plant isn't always an easy meal.

Bearcat day 28- Plant defenses

After watching the video about plant defenses, answer the following questions.

* Required

Name (first and last) *

Your answer

True or False; Plants cannot defend themselves against threats. *

1 point

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

Pick 3 ways plants can defend themselves *

3 points

- ☐ By doing nothing
- ☐ Releasing chemicals
- ☐ Having tough coverings over important parts
- ☐ Having spines or thorns
- ☐ Physically moving away from the threats

Grade 7 Bearcat Day 28 Science

page 4 of 5

True or false: Plant cells have an immune system. *

1 point

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

If part of a plant is damaged, those cells will most likely _____ to protect the rest of the plant. *

1 point

- ☐ Reproduce
- ☐ Self destruct
- ☐ Expand
- ☐ Contract

When part of a plant is under attack, which ways can it alert other parts of itself? *

1 point

- ☐ Hormones, electrical impulses, airborne compounds
- ☐ electrical impulses and guard cells
- ☐ Hormones and wind
- ☐ Sudden death

Grade 7 Bearcat Day 28 Science

page 5 of 5

True or False; If a plant is under attack or threatened it can send messages to warn other plants. *

1 point

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

Some plants, like cotton plants, can recruit help if it under attack. Which organism attacks the cotton plant and how does the cotton plant fight back? Explain your response using details from the video. *

5 points

Your answer

Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

This form was created inside of Anderson County Schools. [Report Abuse](#)

Google Forms

These drawings were created in Mexico around 1540 to show details of Aztec life.

page 1 of 9

The Aztecs

24.1 Introduction

In Chapter 23, you read about the Mayan civilization of southern Mexico and Central America. In this chapter, you will learn about the **Aztecs**, a Mesoamerican people who built a vast empire in central Mexico. The Aztec Empire flourished from 1428 to 1519 C.E., when it was destroyed by invaders from Spain.

The Aztecs had a colorful **legend** about the beginnings of their empire. Originally a wandering group of hunter-gatherers, the Aztecs had a belief that one day they would receive a sign from the gods. They would see an eagle perched on a great cactus with "his wings stretched toward the rays of the sun." In its beak, the eagle would hold a long snake. When they saw this eagle, the Aztecs would know they had found the place where they would build a great city.

In the mid 1200s C.E., the Aztecs entered the high Valley of Mexico, a fertile basin in central Mexico. Several times other groups in the valley pushed the Aztecs away from their lands. In 1325, the Aztecs took refuge on an island in Lake Texcoco. There Aztec priests saw the eagle, just as the gods had promised. And so the Aztecs set about building a city they called **Tenochtitlan**, which means "the place of the fruit of the prickly pear cactus." In time, the island city became the center of the Aztec Empire.

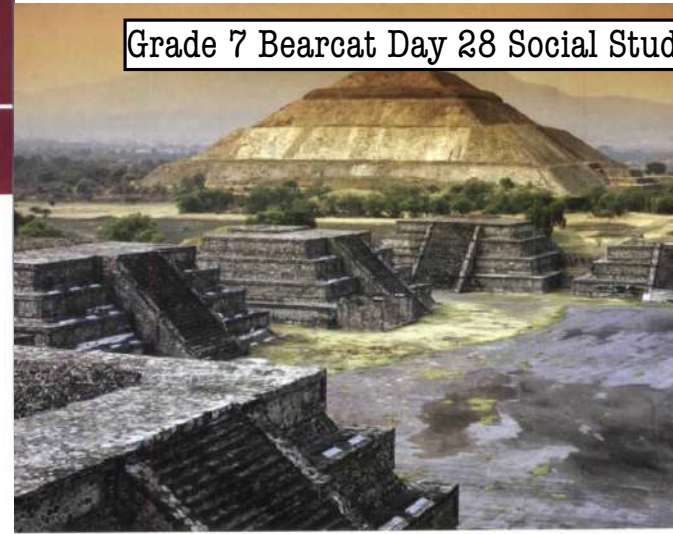
In this chapter, you will learn more about where the Aztecs came from and how they built their magnificent capital city. You'll also discover how this humble band of nomads rose to become the masters of a great **empire**.



Use this drawing of the Mexican flag as a graphic organizer to help you understand the three stages in the development of the Aztec civilization.

24.2 The Aztecs in the Valley of Mexico

The Aztec Empire arose in the Valley of Mexico, a fertile area nearly 8,000 feet above sea level. By the time the Aztecs arrived in the mid 1200s C.E., the valley had been a center of civilization for more than a thousand years. Two groups in particular had built civilizations there that strongly influenced the Aztecs. Let's take a brief look at these civilizations. Then we'll see how the Aztecs came to the valley and gradually rose to power.



Teotihuacan, the "City of the Gods," was an expansive city of plazas, pyramids, and avenues. The Pyramid of the Sun, shown above, was constructed of volcanic rock and limestone.

Civilization in the Valley of Mexico From about 100 to 650 C.E., the Valley of Mexico was dominated by the Teotihuacans. These people built an enormous capital city, Teotihuacan. One of the city's buildings, the Pyramid of the Sun, was more than 200 feet high.

After Teotihuacan's collapse around the 700s, a group from the north, the Toltecs, migrated into the valley. Toltec civilization reached its height in the 10th and 11th centuries. The Toltecs built a number of cities. Their capital, Tollan, boasted large pyramids topped with temples.

During the 1100s, new groups invaded the valley. They took over Toltec cities and established new city-states. But the influence of the Toltecs and the Teotihuacans continued to be felt in the culture that was developing in the valley.

The Arrival of the Aztecs Sometime around 1250 C.E., a new group arrived in the Valley of Mexico. A nomadic band of hunter-gatherers, they called themselves the Mexica. We know them today as the Aztecs.

The name Aztec comes from Aztlan, the Mexicas' legendary homeland. According to Aztec tradition, Aztlan was an island in a lake to the northwest of the Valley of Mexico. The Aztecs had left the island around 1100 C.E. They wandered through the deserts of northern Mexico for many years before coming to the Valley of Mexico.

When the Aztecs came to the heart of the valley, they found lakes dotted with marshy islands. Thriving city-states controlled the land around the lakes.

The Aztecs had a difficult time establishing themselves in the valley. The people living in the city-states thought the Aztecs were crude barbarians. But the Aztecs were fierce warriors, and the city-states were willing to employ them as **mercenaries**.

mercenary a soldier who is paid to fight for another country or group

After settling in the valley, the Aztecs began to be influenced by the legacy of the Teotihuacans and the Toltecs. They made pilgrimages to the ancient ruins of Teotihuacan. They adopted Quetzalcoatl, the Teotihuacans' feathered serpent god, as one of their own gods.

The Aztecs viewed the Toltecs even more highly, as rulers of a Golden Age. Aztec rulers married into the surviving Toltec royal line. The Aztecs even began to claim the Toltecs as their own ancestors.

In 1319, stronger groups forced the Aztecs to move away from Chapultepec, a rocky hill where they had made their home. The Aztecs fled to the south, where they became mercenaries for the city-state of Colhuacan. But trouble came again when the Aztecs sacrificed the daughter of the Colhua chief. This led to a war with the Colhuas, who drove the Aztecs onto an island in the shallow waters of Lake Texcoco.

It was here, the Aztecs said, that they spotted an eagle perched atop a cactus with a long snake in its beak. Grateful for the sign they had been waiting for, the Aztecs set to work building the city they called Tenochtitlan.

The island turned out to be a good site for the Aztecs' city. The lake provided fish and water birds for food, and the island was easy to defend. Over time, the Aztecs' new home would grow into one of the great cities of the world.

From Mercenaries to Empire Builders The Aztecs started building Tenochtitlan in 1325 C.E. For the next 100 years, they served as mercenaries for a powerful group called the Tepanecs. Through this **alliance** the Aztecs gained land, trading connections, and wealth.

Eventually, however, the Aztecs rebelled against the heavy-handed rule of the Tepanecs. Under the Aztec leader Itzcoatl, Tenochtitlan joined with two other city-states in the Triple Alliance. In 1428, the alliance fought and defeated the Tepanecs. Together the allies began a series of conquests that laid the foundation for the Aztec Empire.

As Tenochtitlan became a great power, Itzcoatl set out to reshape Aztec history. He burned records that referred to his people's humble origins. Instead, he connected the Aztecs to the distinguished Toltecs.

With their growing power and a glorious (though legendary) past, the Aztecs were ready for their new role as empire builders. Let's look now at the great city that would become the center of their empire.

The Valley of Mexico, About 1500



alliance a group of countries, city-states, or other entities who agree to work together, often to fight common enemies

24.3 Tenochtitlan: A City of Wonders

As the Aztecs' power grew, their capital city of Tenochtitlan developed into one of the largest cities in the world. When Spanish explorers first glimpsed Tenochtitlan in 1519, they were amazed to see a majestic city crisscrossed by canals and boasting impressive temples and palaces. With a population of between 200,000 and 300,000 people, Tenochtitlan was larger than London, Paris, or Venice.

How did the Aztecs turn an unwanted island into such a great city? First they reclaimed land from the lake by sinking timbers into the water to serve as walls and filling in the area between the timbers with mud, boulders, and reeds. In this way they created small islands called *chinampas*,



The Aztecs of Tenochtitlan farmed on chinampas, small floating islands they constructed from mud and plants.

or "floating gardens." Eventually the Aztecs expanded the city's land surface until it covered over five square miles. They even merged Tlatelolco, originally a separate island, with Tenochtitlan.

Gradually, Tenochtitlan grew into the magnificent city that so amazed the Spanish. At the center of the city—both physically and spiritually—lay a large ceremonial **plaza**. Here the Aztecs gathered for religious rituals, feasts, and festivals. A wall about eight feet tall enclosed this area. The wall, which was called the Coatepantli ("snake wall"), was studded with sculptures of serpents. The palaces and homes of nobles lined the outside of the wall.

Inside the plaza, a stone pyramid called the Great Temple loomed 150 feet into the sky. People could see the pyramid, which was decorated with bright sculptures and murals, from several miles away. It had two steep stairways leading to double shrines. One shrine was dedicated to the chief god, Huitzilopochtli. The other was dedicated to Tlaloc, the rain god. In front of the shrines stood the stone where priests performed human sacrifices. An altar called the *tzompantli* ("skull rack") displayed the skulls of thousands of people who had been sacrificed. (You will learn more about the role of human sacrifice in the Aztec religion in the next chapter.) Other structures in the plaza included

plaza a public square or other open area in a city where people can gather

more shrines and temples, the ritual ball court, military storehouses, and guest rooms for important visitors.

Just outside the plaza stood the royal palace. The two-story palace seemed like a small town. The palace was the home of the Aztec ruler, but it also had government offices, shrines, courts, storerooms, gardens, and courtyards. At the royal **aviary**, trained staff plucked the valuable feathers of parrots and quetzals. Wild animals captured throughout the empire, like pumas and jaguars, prowled cages in the royal zoo.

The city's main marketplace was located in the northern section, in Tlatelolco. Each day as many as 60,000 people came from all corners of the Aztec Empire to sell their wares. Goods ranged from luxury items like jade and feathers to necessities like food and rope sandals. Merchants also sold gold, silver, turquoise, animal skins, clothing, pottery, chocolate and vanilla, tools, and slaves.

Although Tenochtitlan spread over five square miles, people had an easy time getting around. Four wide avenues met at the foot of the Great Temple. A thousand workers swept and washed down the streets each day, keeping them cleaner than streets in European cities. At night, pine torches lit the way. People also traveled by foot on smaller walkways or by canoe on the canals that crossed the city. Many of the canals were lined with stone and had bridges.

Three **causeways** linked the island to the mainland. The longest of them stretched five miles. The causeways were 25 to 30 feet wide. They all had wooden bridges that could be raised to let boats through or to protect the city in an enemy attack.

The city boasted other technological marvels, like the aqueduct that carried fresh water for irrigation. Twin pipes ran from the Chapultepec springs, three miles away. While one pipe was being cleaned or repaired, the other could transport water. A **dike** 10 miles long ran along the east side of the city to hold back floodwaters.

Thousands of people visited Tenochtitlan each year. Some came to do business. Others came as pilgrims. Still others came simply to gaze in wonder at the capital of the Aztec world.

aviary an enclosed space or cage for keeping birds
causeway a raised road built across water or low ground
dike a wall or dam built to hold back water and prevent flooding

Temples dedicated to various gods rose along the streets and canals of the city of Tenochtitlan.



The Aztec Empire, Early 1500s



24.4 The Aztec Empire

Tenochtitlan began as simply the Aztecs' home city. After the Aztecs and their allies defeated the Tepanecs in 1428 C.E., the city became the capital of a growing empire. Under Moctezuma I in the mid 1400s, the Aztecs extended their empire to faraway regions.

By the early 1500s, the Aztec Empire stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. It covered much of Central Mexico and reached as far south as the current border with Guatemala. At its height, the empire included more than five million people.

An Empire Based on Tribute

Unlike other empire builders, the Aztecs did not start colonies. Nor did they force conquered peoples to adopt their ways. Instead, the Aztec Empire was a loose union of hundreds of city-states that were forced to pay tribute to the Aztecs.

Collecting tribute was the empire's most important business. The Aztecs relied on tribute to support Tenochtitlan's huge population. Tribute took the form of whatever valuable items a city could provide. Cities might pay in food, cacao, gems and stones, cotton, cloth, animals, animal skins, shells, building materials, or even soldiers. Tax collectors stationed around the empire made sure that cities paid regularly.

Each year, huge amounts of goods flowed into Tenochtitlan. An average year brought 7,000 tons of maize; 4,000 tons each of beans, seed, and grain; and at least 2 million cotton cloaks. Warriors, priests, officials, servants, and other workers all received payment in tribute goods.

Warfare The demands of the empire made war the center of Aztec life. Successful battles allow the Aztecs to increase their sources of tribute. They also gained more territory, laborers, and sacrificial victims. As you will learn in the next chapter, the Aztecs believed that their chief god, Huitzilopochtli, required human blood for survival, so in war they took as many prisoners as possible to use in sacrifices. They also used the threat of human sacrifice to frighten city-states into paying tribute.

Every male Aztec was trained to be a soldier. In battle, the Aztecs used weapons such as bows and arrows, spears, clubs, and wooden swords with sharp stone blades. Warrior knights carried shields decorated with figures of animals such as the jaguar and eagle. The figures

represented different strengths that the Aztecs believed they received from these animals.

An Aztec declaration of war followed a ritualized pattern. First, the Aztecs asked a city to join the empire as an ally. The city had 60 days to agree. If the ruler refused, the Aztecs declared war.

The battle began when thousands of Aztec warriors descended upon the city. As the armies faced each other, a general gave the signal to attack. Aztec warriors excelled at hand-to-hand fighting. Most wars ended after one battle, usually with an Aztec victory.

After the city had fallen, the Aztecs brought their captives to Tenochtitlan. Some became slaves, but most were sacrificed to Huitzilopochtli.

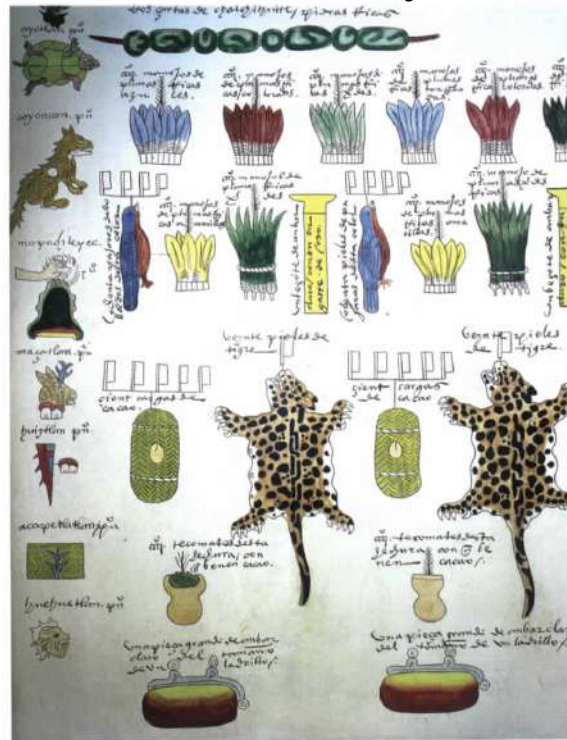
The Aztecs made only a few demands on the defeated city. The people had to pay tribute, honor the god Huitzilopochtli, and promise obedience to the Aztec ruler. Otherwise, conquered cities remained independent. They kept their religion, customs, and language. They usually even kept their leaders.

These lenient conditions made it easy for the Aztecs to rule. But most of the conquered people never thought of themselves as true Aztecs. They wanted their freedom. These feelings led to a lack of unity in the Aztec Empire. Eventually, the Spanish would take advantage of that weakness by making allies of the Aztecs' enemies when they invaded Mexico in 1519. You will learn more about the Spanish conquest of the Aztecs in Unit 7.

24.5 Chapter Summary

In this chapter, you learned about the rise of the Aztecs from a band of nomads to the masters of a great empire. The Aztecs arrived in the Valley of Mexico in the mid 1200s C.E. In 1325, they began building their capital city of Tenochtitlan. But the Aztec Empire only began to emerge in 1428, when the Aztecs and their allies rebelled against the Tepanecs.

Over the next 100 years, the Aztecs expanded their empire through warfare and alliances. Eventually the empire included hundreds of cities and millions of people. In the next chapter, you will learn about the daily life of the Aztecs at the height of their empire.



These modern drawings of Aztec life show some of the forms of tribute paid to the Aztecs, such as feathers, jade, and tiger skins.

Instructions: Read the chapter and answer the ten questions below.

24.2 The Aztecs in the Valley of Mexico

1. Name two important groups that lived in the Valley of Mexico before the Aztecs. How did each of the two groups influence the Aztecs? Give an example for each.
2. How did other groups already living in the Valley of Mexico treat the Aztecs?
3. According to Aztec history, how did they know where to build their new city of Tenochtitlan? Why was this a good location?

24.3 Tenochtitlan: A City of Wonders

4. How did the Aztecs build their capital in the middle of a lake?
5. Name at least one important building in Tenochtitlan, and describe what happened there.
6. Describe at least two aspects of Tenochtitlan that allowed so many people to live there comfortably.

24.4 The Aztec Empire

7. What kinds of goods did the Aztecs receive in tribute from conquered peoples? Why was tribute so important to the Aztecs?
8. Typically, what happened before, during , and after an Aztec declaration of war?
9. What did the Aztecs demand of cities they defeated?
10. Name one advantage and one disadvantage of this Aztec policy.