

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Class _____

Quaestio: _____

Nunc Agenda: Read the two accounts of Tenochtitlan, the Aztec capital, by the eye-witness **Bernal Díaz del Castillo** from his book *The Conquest of New Spain* and answer the questions that follow.

Dream City

“When we saw all those cities and villages built in the water, and other great towns on dry land, and that straight and level causeway leading to [the city], we were astounded. These great towns and [pyramids] and buildings rising from the water, all made of stone, seemed like an enchanted vision. . . . Indeed, some of our soldiers asked whether it was not all a dream.”

Blood All Over

“All the walls of that shrine were so splashed and caked with blood that they and the floor too were black. Indeed, the whole place stank abominably.”

What similarities do the Aztecs have with the Maya?

According to the first quote, what was unique about this city?

The Aztecs

- 1100s- The Aztecs migrated from _____ Mexico to the Southern valleys in search of new _____
- _____ says that the _____ instructed them to find an _____ perched on a _____ eating a _____, which would tell them where to _____
- They found this sign on a swampy _____ in the middle of a lake, but decided to build their _____ there anyway, using _____
- **Chinampas** = “ _____,” artificial _____ of farmland made of _____ piled on rafts and held in place with _____

Rise in Power

- 1420s- Aztecs became more _____ through an _____ with two neighbors, Texcoco and Tlacopan, which controlled a huge territory
- Aztecs ruled 500 city-states with about _____ people, and they were required to pay _____ (money paid by the conquered people to ruler) or be _____
- Conquered people were at times taken as _____ to the gods
- Emperor used _____ as _____ to prevent rebellions and trouble

The Decline

- 1502- New emperor _____ II began to lose control as people began to _____ against the unfair tribute and frequent human sacrifices
- While he tried to deal with the rebellions, the _____ arrived, and allied with the _____ to defeat the Aztec Empire