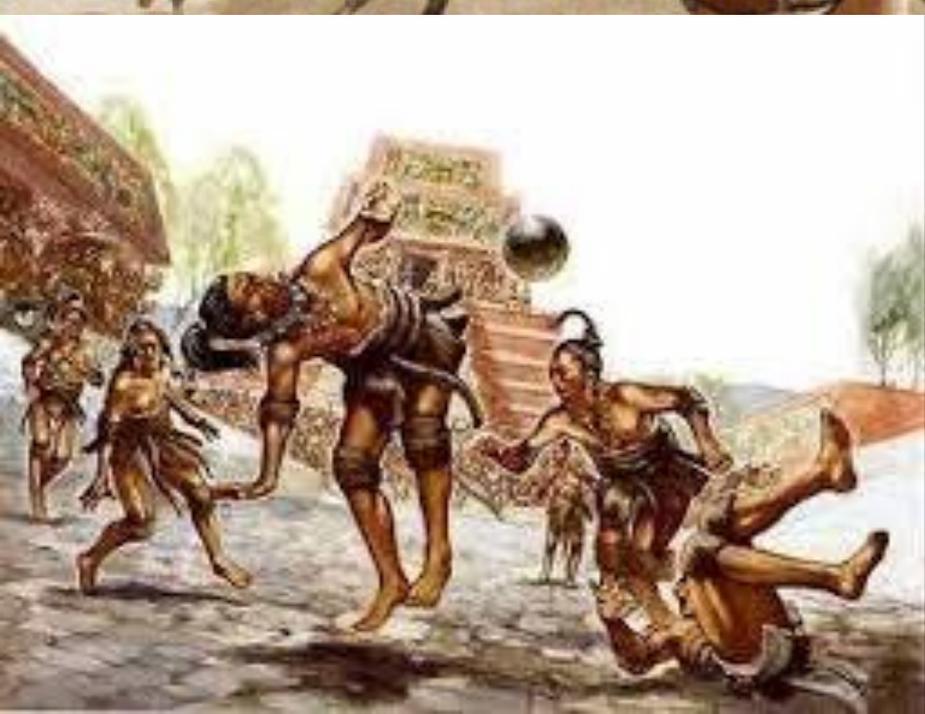


**1. Based upon the image below, what do you suppose the Mayans used this location for?**

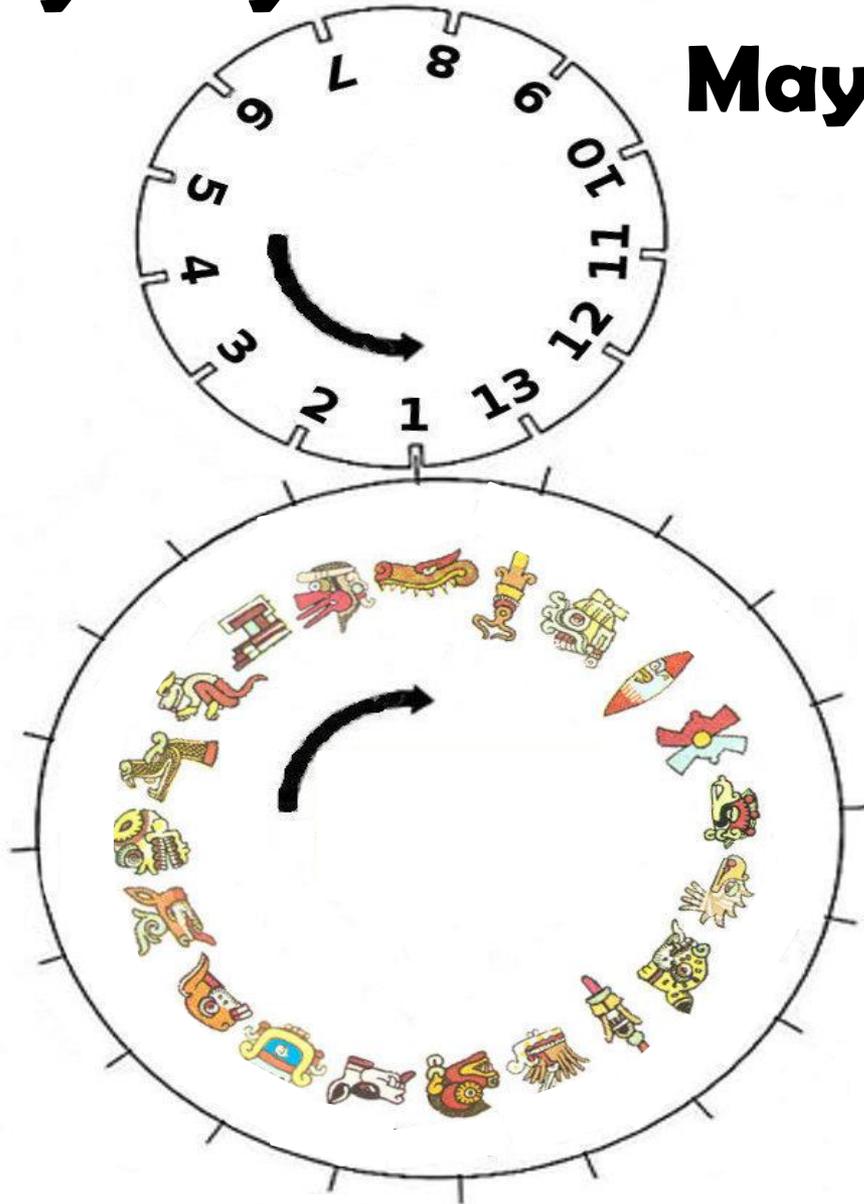


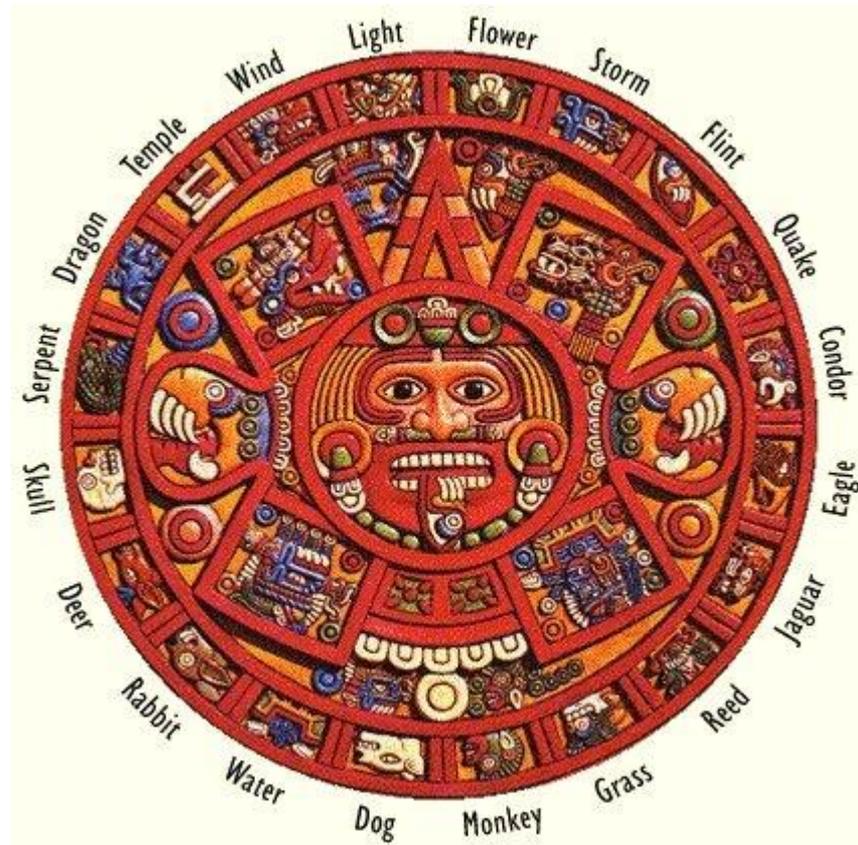
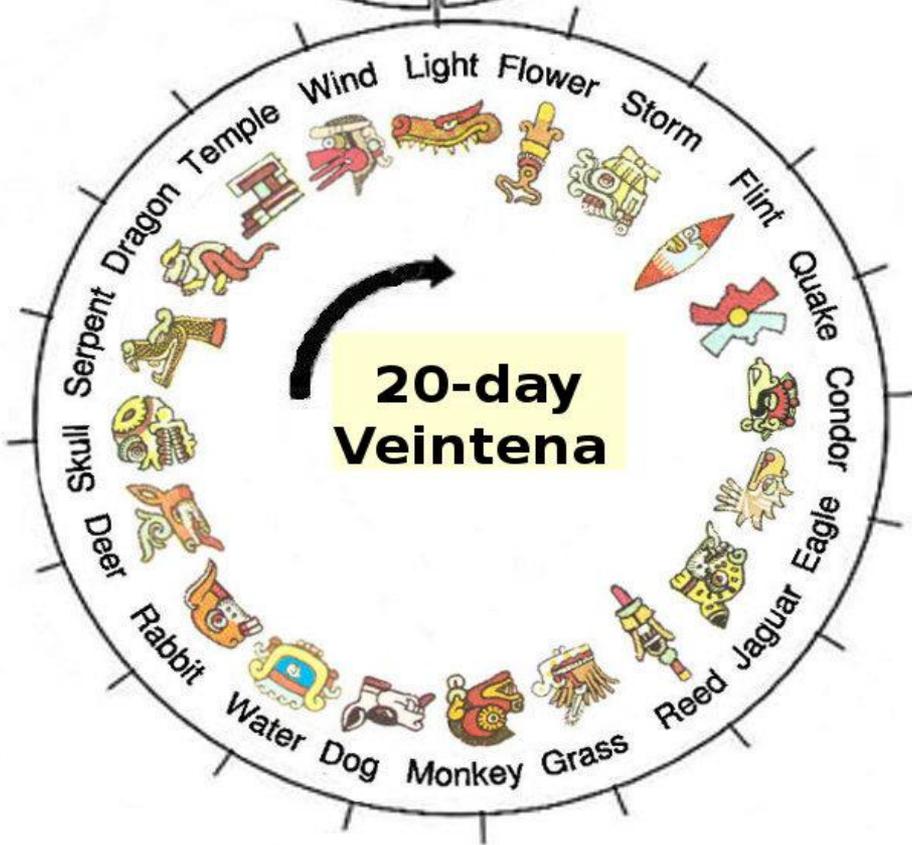
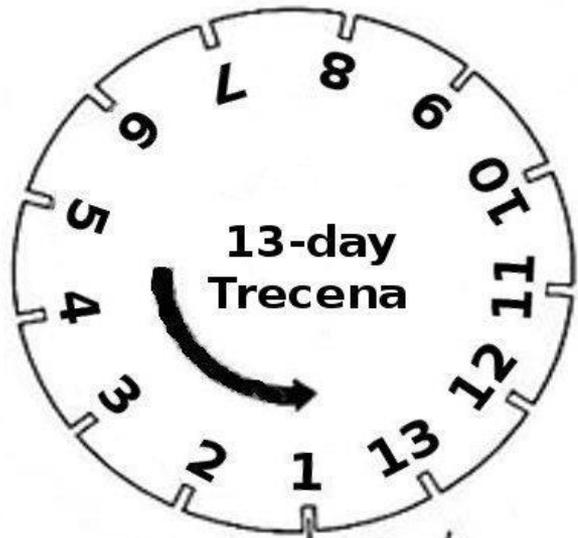






**2. What do think the image below is of?  
Why do you think it was significant to the  
Mayans?**

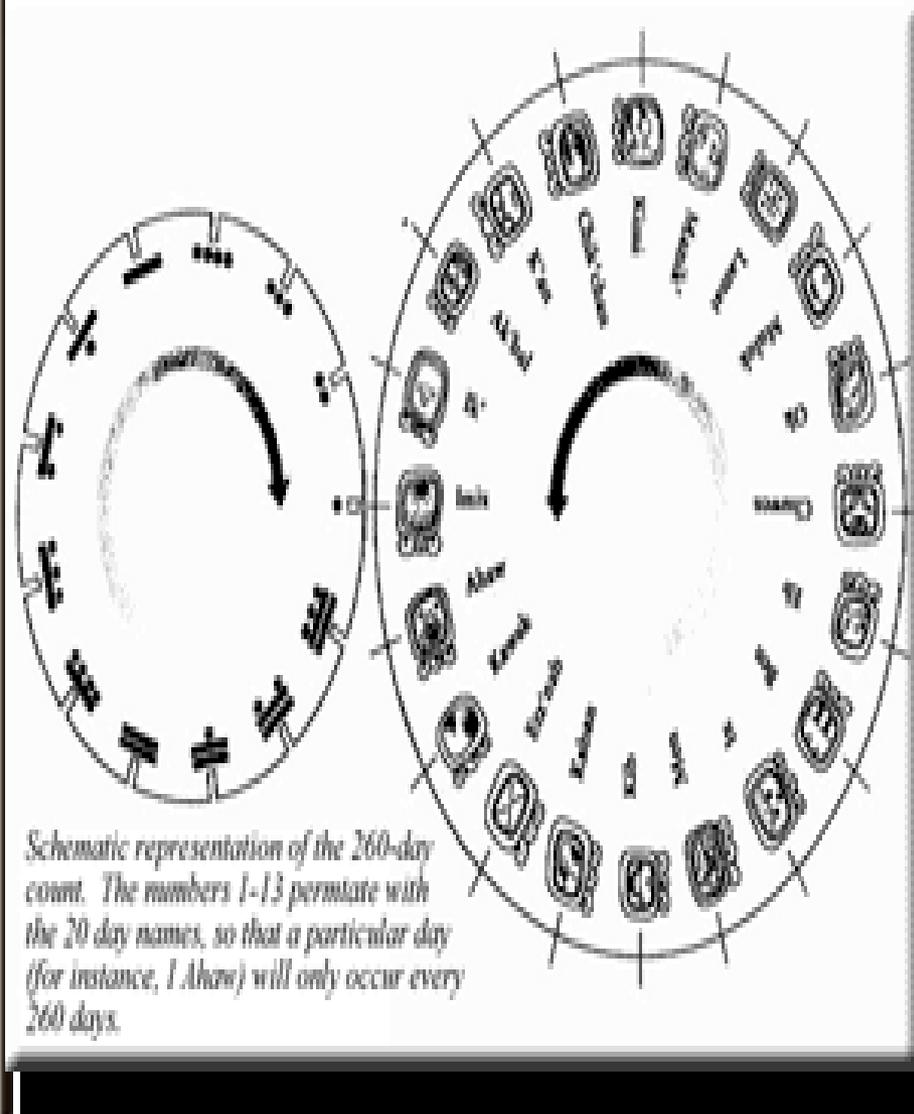
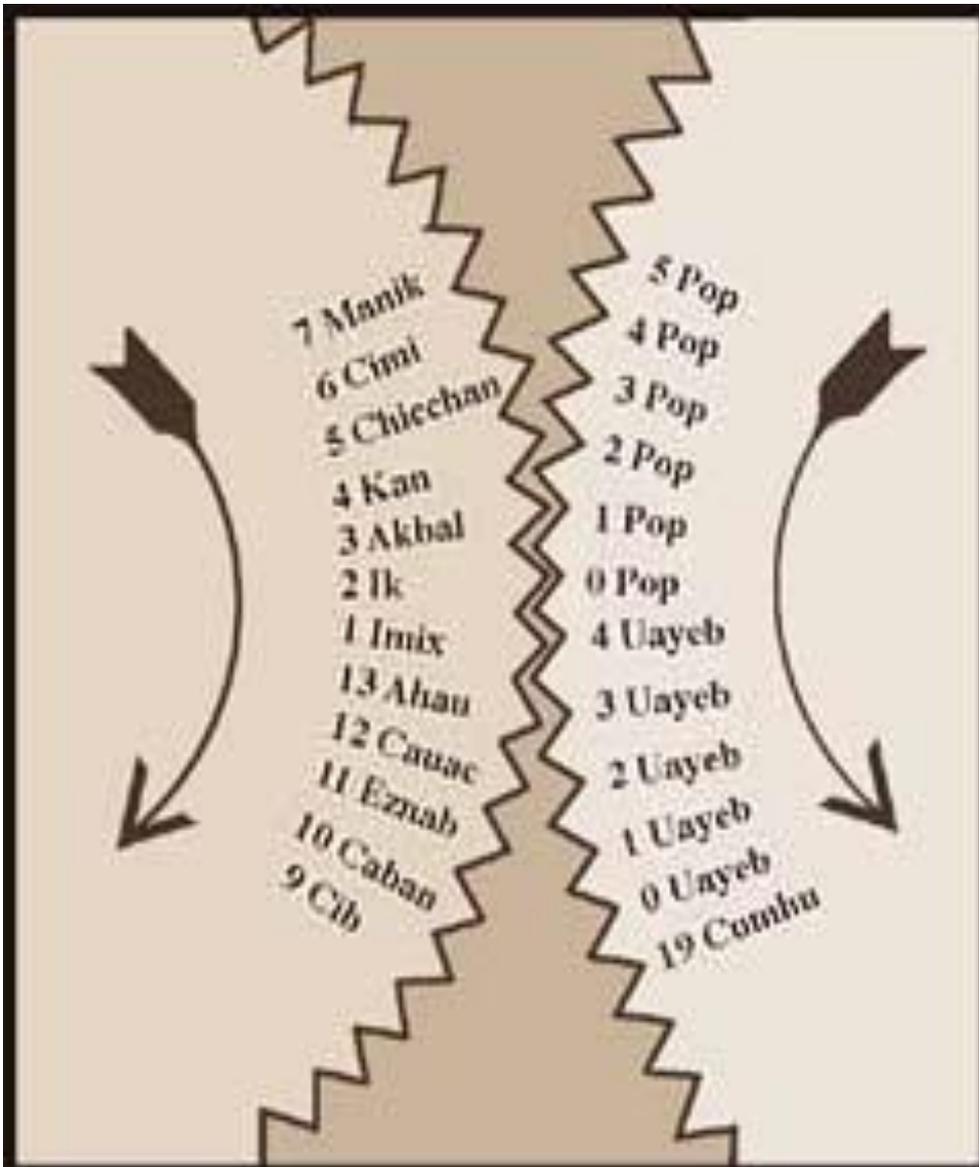




# Mayan Calendar



# How the Mayan 2 Calendars Work Together





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www.creators.com

At last, the mystery of the Mayan calendar revealed.

**Mayan Calendar ended Dec. 21, 2012 at 11:11am(winter solstice) 2012 sun aligned w/ center of Milky Way 1<sup>st</sup> time in 26,000 yrs.—end of 5,126 year era**

I only had enough room to go up to 2012.

Ha! That'll freak somebody out someday.



PESSIMIST'S VIEW:  
THE WORLD WILL  
END ON DECEMBER  
21st, 2012...



ASIN 12  
MONDRIAL  
LE GRETTE



OPTIMIST'S VIEW:  
...2012 IS THE 100<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE OREO COOKIE!

### 3. What do you think is the significance this image?





**4. What do you think is the significance of the rope below?**



# *Early Americas Map*

**Aztecs**

**Mayans**

**Inca**



# 1: Mayans—Cities, Trade

The period from A.D. 250 to 900 is known as the Classic Period of Maya civilization. During this time, the Maya built spectacular cities (at its height there were 50 city-states). One important city is Chichén Itzá (chee•CHEHN ee•TSAH) which is in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. Each of these cities was an independent city-state, ruled by a god-king and serving as a center for religious ceremonies and trade. Maya cities featured giant pyramids, temples, palaces, and elaborate stone carvings dedicated to the gods and to important rulers. Tens of thousands of people lived in residential areas surrounding the city center, which bustled with activity.

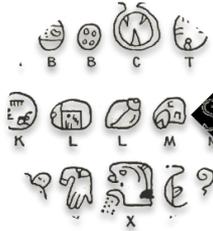
## Trade

Although the Maya city-states were independent of each other, they were linked through alliances and trade. Cities exchanged their local products such as salt, flint, feathers, shells, and honey. They also traded craft goods like cotton textiles and jade ornaments. While the Maya did not have a uniform currency, cacao (chocolate) beans sometimes served as one.

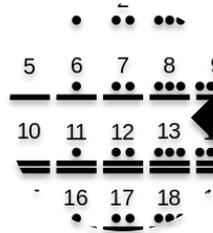
Chichen Itza



# 2: Mayans Advances



**System of writing based on pictographs with over 800 symbols**



## Math

- Zero as a placeholder
- Base 20 number system (we have a base 10)



## Astronomy

- Predicted eclipses



**2 Calendars: 1 religious (260 days), 1 solar (365 days)**

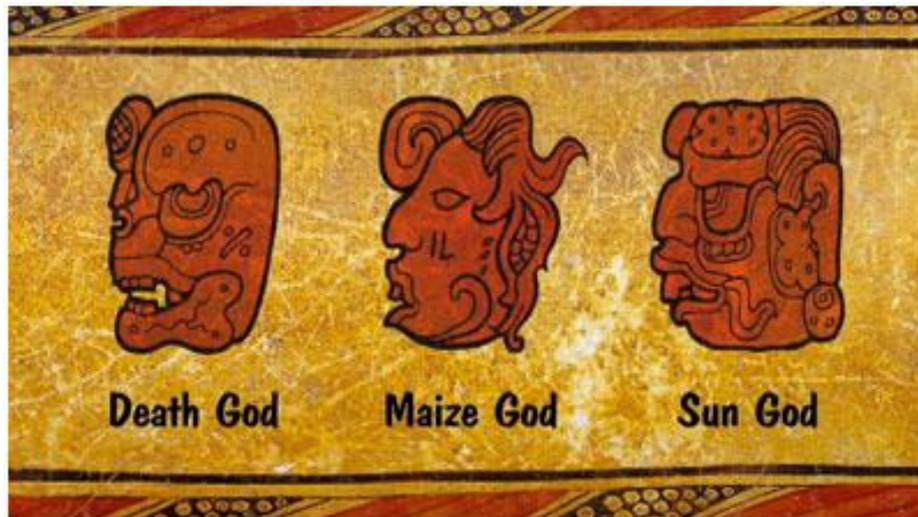
- Length of year within seconds of its actual length

# 3: Mayan Religion

The Maya believed in many gods. There were gods of corn, of death, of rain, and of war. Gods could be good or evil, and sometimes both. The Maya believed that each day was a living god whose behavior could be predicted with the help of a system of calendars.

The Maya worshiped their gods in various ways. They prayed and made offerings of food, flowers, and incense. They also pierced and cut their bodies and offered their blood, believing that this would nourish the gods.

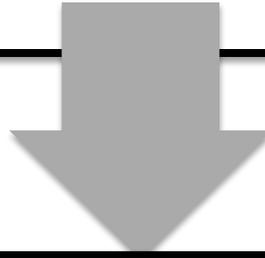
Sometimes the Maya even carried out human sacrifice, usually of captured enemies. At Chichén Itzá, they threw captives into a deep sinkhole lake, called a cenote (say•NO•tay), along with gold, jade, and other offerings. The Maya believed that human sacrifice pleased the gods and kept the world in balance. Nevertheless, the Maya's use of sacrifice never reached the extremes of some other Mesoamerican peoples.



# 4: Mayan Decline

**Late 800s—Maya suddenly abandoned many of their cities.**

- **Invaders from the north moved into their lands**



**The Maya cities disappeared. No one knows exactly why this happened. Experts' theories:**

- **By the 700s, warfare had broken out among the various Maya city-states.**
- **Increased warfare disrupted trade and produced economic hardship.**
- **Population growth and over-farming may have damaged the environment, and this led to food shortages, famine, and disease.**

# 5: Aztec: Foundations

According to one of the Aztec legends, the god of the sun and warfare, Huitzilopochtli (wee•tsee•loh•POHCH•tee), told them to found a city of their own. He said to look for a place where an eagle perched on a cactus, holding a snake in its mouth. They found such a place on a small island in Lake Texcoco, at the center of the valley. There, in 1325, they founded their city, which they named Tenochtitlán (teh•NOCH•tee•TLAHN) a cactus, holding a snake in its mouth. This became their capital city.

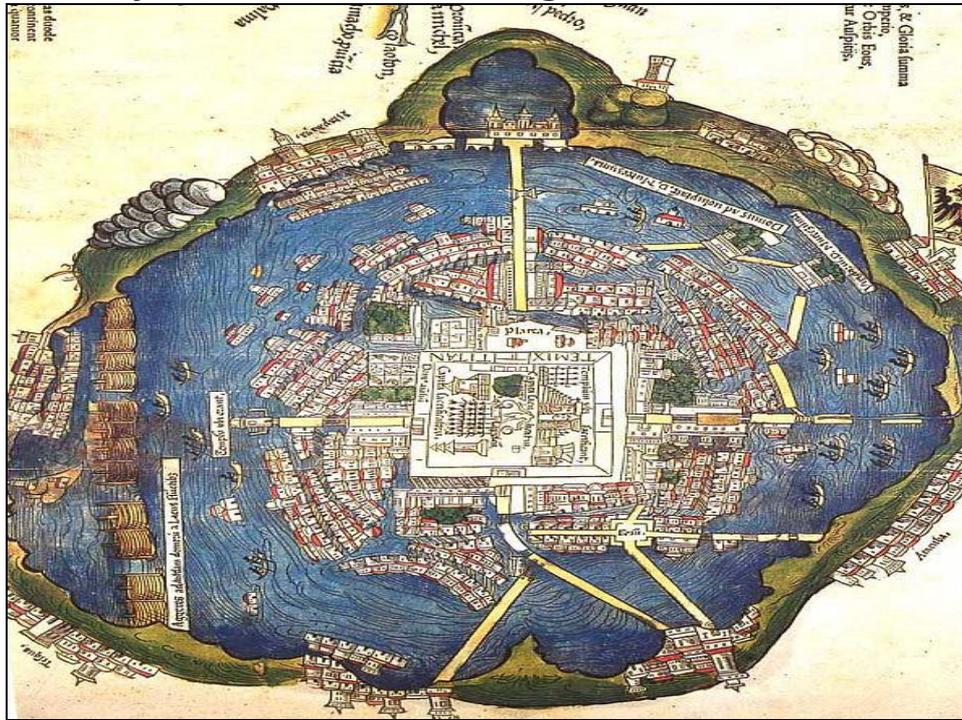
By the early 1500s, they controlled a vast empire that covered some 80,000 square miles. This empire was divided into 38 provinces. It had an estimated population of between 5 and 15 million people.



# 6: Tenochtitlan

Tenochtitlán remained on its original island site. It is current-day site of Mexico City. At its height it had a population of 500,000—larger than any European city at the time.

To connect the island to the mainland, Aztec engineers built three raised roads, called causeways, over the water and marshland. Other smaller cities ringed the lake, creating a dense concentration of people in the Valley of Mexico. Streets and broad avenues connected the city center with outlying residential districts. The canals that intersected with these roadways allowed canoes to bring people directly into the city center. Canoes also brought goods from the farthest reaches of the empire to the economic heart of the city. Over the years, the Aztecs gradually increased in strength and number.



# 7: Aztec Government



**Not strong centralized empire (unlike Inca)**

**Emperor—considered a living god**

- **People couldn't look emperor in eye**
- **Required to throw dirt upon their heads as sign of humility**

**Ruled 5-15 million**

- **Harsh rule of people**

**Military conquest**

- **Loose control over empire—local rulers govern their own regions**
- **Demanded tribute in form of: gold, maize, cacao beans, cotton, jade**
- **Most conquered areas rebelled, so Aztecs would have to reconquer them**
- **If they resist, Aztecs respond by destroying their villages and capturing/slaughtering the people**

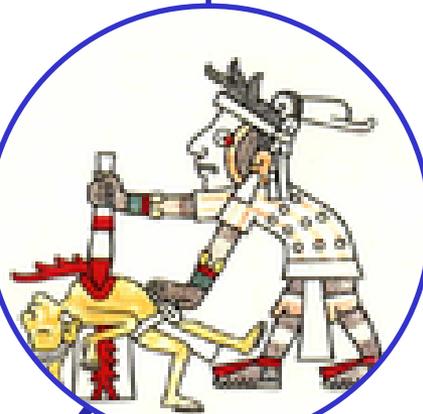


# 8: Aztec Religion



## **Polytheistic—128 deities**

- **Huitzilopochtli (sun god) most sacred god**
  - **He was the central figure of human sacrifice (sun rose from energy of sacrifice)**
- **Quetzalcoatl—serpent god of peace**
  - **Myth said he sailed east on a raft made of serpents**
  - **They believed would come back and rule them in peace**



## **Human sacrifice most widely practice by Aztecs (20,000 per year)**

- **Sacrifices were dedicated to gods b/c they believed the gods were nourished by them**
  - **Specifically the sacrifices were to Huitzilopochtli**
- **Carved out the hearts of sacrifices in front of large crowds**
- **Either prisoners of war or Aztec citizens**

# 9: Aztec Decline

In 1502, a new ruler, Montezuma II (MAHN•tih•ZOO•muh), was crowned emperor. Under Montezuma, the Aztec Empire began to weaken. For nearly a century, the Aztecs had been demanding tribute and sacrificial victims from the provinces under their control. Now, with the population of Tenochtitlán growing ever greater, Montezuma called for even more tribute and sacrifice. A number of provinces rose up against Aztec oppression. This began a period of unrest and rebellion, which the military struggled to put down.

## **Spanish Conquistadors—1521**

- When the Spanish explorers came, the Aztecs thought Spanish, specifically their leader Hernan Cortes, was Quetzalcoatl returning to rule his people in peace.
- Cortes came with 508 men and 16 horses and were aided by Aztec enemies.
  - Spanish had superior weapons
- The Spanish made alliances with enemy tribes of the Aztecs to aid in the fight.
- Many of the Aztecs caught the disease small pox after the arrival of the Spanish. Smallpox quickly spread among the population and people had no resistance and did not know how to treat it. It is believed that 25% of the empire was lost to the disease. But more importantly, the Aztec chain of command was in ruins. Many of the leaders of the army died of the disease.
- In the end: Aztecs & other natives become enslaved to Spanish

# 10: Primary Sources

## Document 1



## Document 3

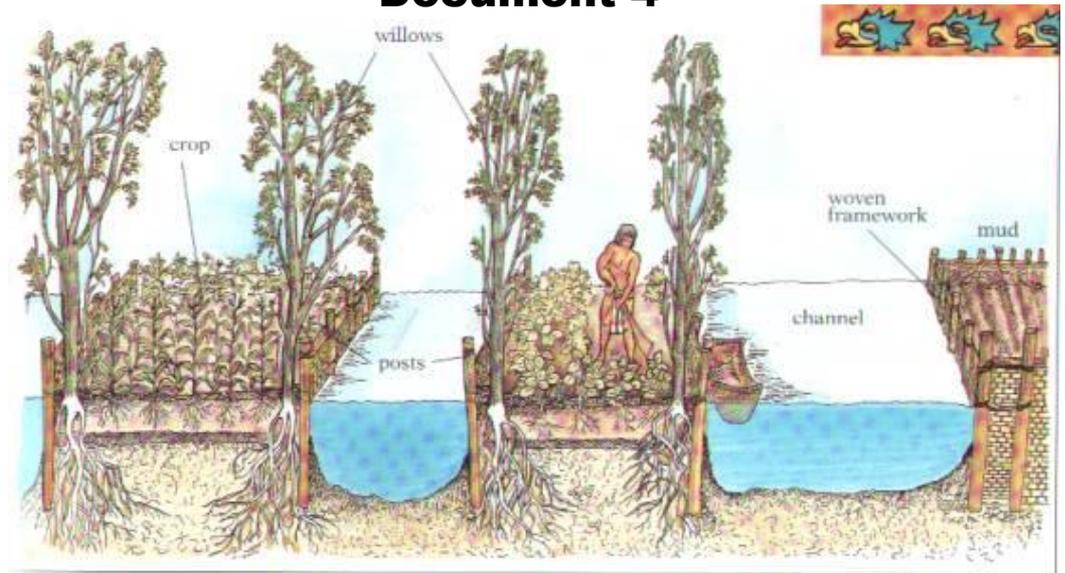
0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24

## Document 2

“The city has many squares where markets are held and trading is carried on. There is on1e square...where there are daily more than 60,000 souls, buying and selling, and where are found all the kinds of merchandise produced in these countries, including food products, jewels of gold and silver, lead, brass, copper, zinc, bones, shells, and feathers.”

1519, Hernán Cortés described the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán

## Document 4



<https://goo.gl/jBE7zC>

For document 4, view the video. Either use the QR Code or type in the URL above.

