

Tenochtitlan, City on the Lake

SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

- Notice the "Peeples" in the center square. They are selling precious items as well as playing a ball game, and sacrificing captured prisoners to the gods.
- The temples in the outskirts of the city were very colorful and all paid tribute to the gods. These temples were shaped like pyramids through the Aztec civilization.
- The Aztec "Peeples" are all yellow Bunnies. The Spanish Conquistadors are the ginger Bread Peeps. Notice how the Spanish are entering the city through a single raised road called a causeway. This was the only way in to the city (other than by boat) and there were 3 separate causeways.
- The wealthy Aztec houses are made to look like a "+" sign. This is because the wealthy Aztec people had a patio in the middle of their homes they used to entertain and relax.
- The Rack of Skulls in the middle of the city was the final resting spot for all those who were sacrificed. The Aztecs killed 10,000 people a year and lined this structure with the skulls to prove it!

ABOUT THE GREAT AZTEC CAPITAL

The Aztec people built the city of Tenochtitlan in the Middle of Lake Texcoco amidst a swampy environment. The Aztec Gods had told them to build their capital where they found an eagle gripping a snake in its talons and lo and behold, this was the spot they saw this rare feat take place.

Tenochtitlan was broken up into 4 main districts. There were 3 suburbs that all included housing, schools, temples, a market place, and floating gardens (an invention they used to plant crops). These districts were heavily populated and were also the main source of food for the entire city.

There were four distinct types of schooling the Aztecs attended. They had a religious, war, community, and citizenship school in which young men and a few lucky

women attended. The wealthy students went to a private school and the poor students stayed at home and learned how to plant crops. Each job was passed down from father to son and there was no movement in class structure unless you were lucky enough to make a lot of money selling goods that you produced.

An aqueduct, or pipe used to channel fresh water into the city was used because they were on a lake and had no usable water to drink (after they bathed and used the restroom in the lake itself). These pipes brought fresh water in from the mountains and helped provide the people with a safe solution to the problem of thirst. There was also an aqueduct that led dirty water out of the city.

In the center square is where the ball court, palace of

emperor Montezuma, Rack of Skulls, calendar stone, 2 temples dedicated to the eagle and sun, and the main temple of worship were located. It was at this main temple that a priest would sacrifice a prisoner to the gods and the crowds would fight below for a piece of human flesh... or dinner.

The Spanish arrived in 1521 with the aid of other Indian tribes from the surrounding area and took the Aztec people over. They were led by Hernan Cortes. They also had superior weapons, horses, and diseases that helped weaken the Aztec empire in their favor.

Thank you so much for coming to see our project and it is Ms. Eck, and Mr. Kirin's pleasure to present to you: Tenochtitlan, City on the Lake!

7TH GRADE STUDENTS WORK HARD TO SURPASS TEACHER'S EXPECTATIONS

First of all, we would like to thank all of the 7th grade students on both the Emerald and Ruby teams. Their constant dedication and belief in this project is clearly shown. Their ethic, behavior, and drive through this adventure was bar none.

Some students chose to do work at home and in the classroom. We would also like to thank the parents of the students who brought things home to complete. Your support has helped this city look incredible.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Middle School for also believing in this idea. It takes a lot of planning and research to do a project like this and with the help of our colleagues we have made something truly special, something we will not soon forget.