



Engineering an Empire: *The Aztecs*

Directions:

1. Read each statement and attempt to fill in the missing information.
2. As you view the movie check/edit/complete the statements.

1. The Aztecs rivaled **Rome** in its sophistication in design and engineering.
2. European explorers called the Aztec capital the **Venice of the New World**.
3. The Aztecs engaged in human sacrifice because they believed the **sun would not rise and the universe would die**.
4. The capital was built in **Lake Texcoco** after the Aztecs were banished there by rival forces.
5. The Aztec capital, **Tenochtitlan**, does not exist today because this modern day city, **Mexico City**, was built on top of it.
6. The Aztec capital was modeled after Teotihuacan, the **City of the Gods**.
7. Since there was no foundation to build on the Aztecs drove **wooden pylons** deep into the ground to serve as a foundation.
8. Aztecs used **causeways** to connect their floating city to the mainland provinces.
9. There were no beasts of burden in the Americas so all material transported to the city was done by **human** labor.
10. Aztecs used **aqueducts** and **canals** to transport water to Tenochtitlan.
11. By **1449** the Aztec Empire, under the leadership of Moctezuma, contained **15 million** people.
12. The biggest threat to Tenochtitlan was **water**. To solve this problem **dikes** were built to protect the city.
13. Chinampas, **floating gardens**, greatly increased the farmland to grow food for the rising population.

14. Ahuitzotl, Aztec leader from 1486-1502, greatly expanded the empire. A network of super **highways** was built to help with **trade**.
15. To honor the gods, a massive pyramid known as the **Great Temple** was built. It featured **two** staircases, one for **rain** and the other for **war**. The temple was rebuilt **seven** times. As the empire grew so did the pyramid. The temple was discovered in **1978**.
16. The sacrifice of human blood, known as **precious water**, was used as a **religious** and **political** statement.
17. The Aztec empire reached its peak under Moctezuma II. The empire covered **80,000** square miles and contained **25 million** people.
18. Moctezuma II and the nobles were rich from **tribute** the surrounding **city-states** were forced to pay.
19. The **conquistadors**, led by **Hernando Cortez**, arrived in **1519** and astonished the indigenous population with their **metal armor** and animals they never seen before (**horses**).
20. Moctezuma II was captured by the Spanish soldiers and was made into a puppet ruler. Eventually, the Aztecs and the Spanish broke into massive warfare. The Spanish cut the Aztecs off from the mainland and by **1521** the **Aztecs** were defeated. By the end of the **16th** century the native population was reduced approximately by **90** percent as a result of **European diseases**.