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.

(over)
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.