Study Guide for Aztec Unit Final Exam

Know and be able to define the following vocabulary and terms:

1. Codices
2. Aqueduct
3. Artefacts
4. Catastrophe
5. Chinampas
6. Conquistador
7. Encomienda
8. Epidemic
9. Expulsion
10. House Arrest
11. Hierarchy
12. Ideals
13. Indigenous Peoples
14. Mestizo
15. Migrate
16. Missionaries
17. Monotheism
18. Montezuma
19. National Unity
20. Polytheism
21. Spanish Inquisition
22. Tenochtitlan
23. Tribute
24. Worldview
25. Hierarchy- social system of the Aztecs. Describe in your own words.

Each group had its own job to do. Everyone knew what their role in society was and what was expected of them.

1. Society was more important than the individual- examples.

People were taught to put the needs of society before their own. Art- didn’t look like people.

War- went to war to help society.

1. What did Cortes motto mean? - Conquer or die.

He was willing to do whatever it took to find gold. He even blew up his ships so his men couldn’t go home.

1. How are the Aztec remembered in Mexico today even though many of their artefacts are destroyed or in Spanish museums?

Art, music, food, holidays, people, dance. Many traditions still exist today.

1. What is imperialism?power and control How does this apply to the Spanish worldview?

The Spanish thought their life was the best and wanted the Aztecs to be just like them.

1. Aqueducts, chinampas, causeways- geographical challenges overcome. Also shows creativity and knowledge.

Aztecs were able to make their land useful even though it was swampy.

1. Why did the Aztecs go to war? – 2 main reasons

To get sacrifice victims, to get tribute and taxes from the tribes they conquered.

1. Tribute often based on agricultural products. Why?

Food was very important. The tribes did not have much else to give as taxes.

1. Waterways were the main form of transportation. Why? No mention of draft animals or large inventions.

Water was everywhere. Not much land and the animals would be too heavy. The slaves did much of the hard labour.

1. What 2 options did Montezuma have when faced with new strangers coming to his empire? Did he wait too long?

To wait and see what would happen, or to fight the strangers and try to send them back to Spain.

1. Nobles, commoners, priests, merchants, artisans- what was each role?

To contribute to the well being of society.

1. How did Cortes beat the Aztecs? Strategy? Weapons? Disease? Be able to discuss each area.

Cortes had the Conquistador’s Formula- a plan to overcome the Aztecs

Weapons- stronger weapons and armour made of steel, muskets, cannons

Disease- Aztecs had no immunity to smallpox

1. Why were the Aztecs nomadic, what sign were they looking for, who sent the sign?

They travelled for many, many years looking for an eagle perched on a cactus. The Sun God told them to find that sign and settle there.

1. Aim of the Spanish Inquisition.

To force people to become Catholic. People were put on trial.

1. Where was Tenochtitlan? What was the physical landscape like?

In the valley of Mexico. Mountains, volcanoes, lake, swamp

1. Human sacrifice- Who? Why? What was the effect on other tribes? Did this help Cortes to strengthen his army when he needed to?

Needed to nourish the Gods and keep them happy. Other tribes hated the Aztecs. Many tribes joined with Cortes to defeat the Aztecs.

1. What items did the Aztecs trade with neighbouring tribes?

Beans, beads, feathers, crafts, blankets, corn, cocao beans

1. How do we know how the Aztecs lived?- codices

Glyphs were pictures of things the Aztecs did. Codices were folded books.

1. Education was valued in the Aztec society. What did they learn? Religious training was very important.

To be good citizens and do what they were supposed to do. Learned how to work for society. Learned crafts, trades, how to read, how to be a warrior

1. How did a good Aztec citizen act?

Like a responsible citizen. Worked for the good of the community.

1. Could slaves ever move to another social class?

Yes, by capturing many victims for sacrifice

1. Geography controls everything- What does this mean?

You have to work with the environment in order to survive. Location is very important.

1. Worldview of Spain- geography, glory, gold, God. Know what these mean.

Geography- getting more land

Glory- getting fame for conquering other nations

Gold- finding new sources of gold, money, possessions

God- converting other people to Christianity, missionaries were important

1. Was Cortes a hero or a villain? Spain vs Aztec worldview

To people in Spain- he was probably a hero for gaining more land

To people in Tenochtitlan- he was a villain for killing and conquering the Aztecs

1. Conquistador’s Formula- what was the main aim? Be able to put it in your own words.

To take over new lands, peacefully if possible, but with force and violence if necessary

1. Why did the settlers in New Spain grow angry after the conquest? What happened?

They had to pay a lot of taxes to the King and Queen in Spain. Finally, the settlers got tired of supporting those people and they revolted.

1. How does the ethnic population of Mexico today show Spanish influence? Mestizos

People are part Spanish-Aztec, food, music, language, customs, art, books, architecture

1. After the conquest, how did life for the Aztecs change? How did life for the Spanish settlers change? How did Spain gain wealth?

Aztecs had to become slaves. Spanish settlers had to get married and stay on the homestead- send money back to Spain. Spain kept collecting money until the settlers wouldn’t go along with them anymore and fought for independence.