



Aztec



- The Aztec occupied the area of the Valley of Mexico around 1100 A.D.
- 225 years later, they moved in the area around Lake Texcoco.
 - Their new home was called Tenochtitlan.
 - “land of the prickly pear cactus.”
 - It is the area that is now near Mexico City.
- Nahuatl was their native language.



- Tenochtitlan was built on a swampy island in the middle of the lake.
- To raise food they built “floating gardens” or “**chinampas**”.
- They grew crops on platforms that floated on water.
- There were more than 200,000 people living in Tenochtitlan.



- In 1430, the Aztec joined another group to defeat the Tepanec.
- The Tepanec had ruled the valley of Mexico.
- Within 10 years, Tenochtitlan became the capital of the Aztec Empire.
- **Empire**- a large area of different peoples controlled by one ruler or government.

- War was an important part of the Aztec life.
- Boys trained to become soldiers from an early age.
- Their goal was to become a knight.
- Soldiers captured their enemies and forced someone of them into slavery.
- **Slavery**- forcing people to work without pay and without freedom.

