**II. Aztec (these notes were compiled by your classmates)**

A. Location - Mesoamerica, Modern-day Mexico City, near water sources, Tenochtitlan is an island in Lake Texcoco

B. Agriculture

1. Chinampas- Mesoamerican agricultural method that grew crops on shallow lake beds. Typically rectangle artificial islands of fertile land built by the Aztec in the lake.

C. Govt.

1. Imperial Government- ruled by an emperor; had control over neighboring tribes
2. Tribute- taxes Were collected every 80 days, 6 months, or 12 years; typically were warrior costumes and shields, copal incense, paper, food, and animal products

D. Religion

1. Huitzilopochtli - Aztec god of war. His name means “blue hummingbird to the left”
2. Quetzalcoatl - God of civilization. probably most popular god. Aztec believed the Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes was Quetzalcoatl returning to the Aztec land. Because of this, they welcomed him into their kingdom before realizing who he was and going to war. Cortes will eventually conquer the Aztec.
3. Human Sacrifice - very common, blood from piercings all the way to human hearts. Human sacrifice was used to sustain the gods.

E. Social Hierarchy

1. Emperor - highest social class
2. Nobles - (pipiltin)
3. Warriors - women were not permitted to be warriors and weren’t very high in the hierarchy
4. Priests
5. Middle Class
6. Commoners - lowest social class, (farmers, artisans, merchants) (macehualtin)

F. Spanish Conquest

1. 1519 - Arrival of Spanish explorers.
2. Hernan Cortes - Captured Tenochtitlan in 1521, ending the Aztec empire.