

Civilizations of Mesoamerica: The Aztecs

Lesson Objectives:

88. Describe where the Aztec people settled in Mesoamerica. (10)
89. List some advantages and disadvantages of building a city on a lake. (10)
90. Define **tribute** and explain how it brought wealth and power to the Aztecs. (10)
91. Describe the government structure of the Aztecs. (12)
92. Explain how religion and mythology influenced culture. (12)

88. Describe where the Aztec people settled in Mesoamerica.

- Around A.D. 1200 bands of nomadic people from the north migrated into the **Valley of Mexico**.
- They founded their capital city, **Tenochtitlan**, and built it on a swampy island in the middle of Lake Texoco.
- “Tenochtitlan: Building an Island City” - textbook pg. 192.



Mesoamerica



89. List some advantages and disadvantages of building a city on a lake.

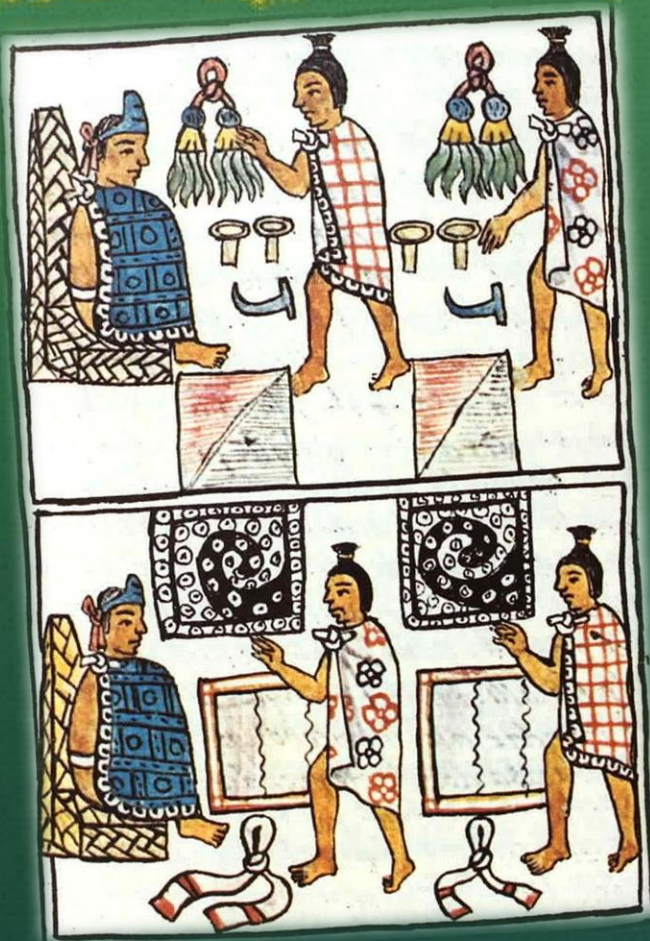
Advantages

- Constant water source-
Chinampas
- Protection
- Food- fish from lake

Disadvantages

- Shortage of farmland
- No way to escape from enemies if surrounded.

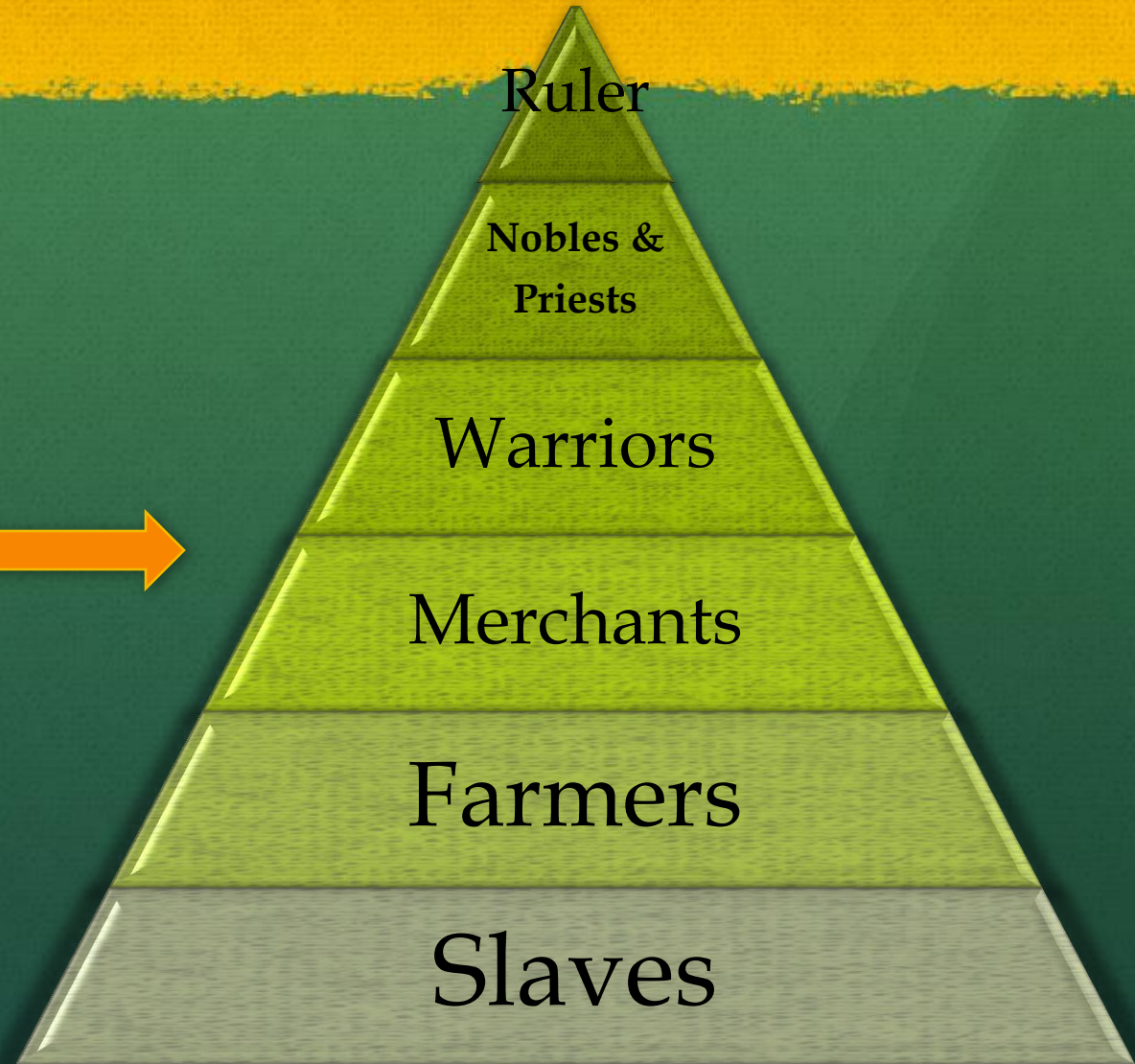
90. Define **tribute** and explain how it brought wealth and power to the Aztecs.



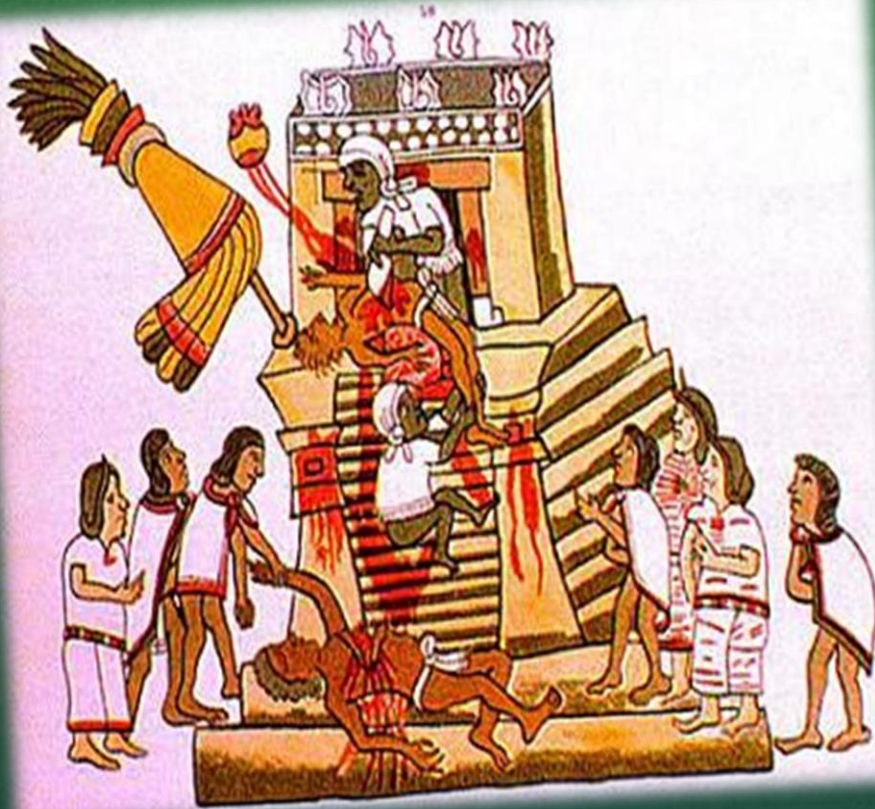
- Tribute- payment from conquered peoples.
- Tribute brought a constant flow of wealth to the Aztecs.
- This wealth was used to build a magnificent city and to build a strong military.

91. Describe the government structure of the Aztecs.

- Unlike the Mayans the Aztecs formed an empire with one ruler.
- Societal Structure →



92. Explain how religion and mythology influenced culture.



- Polytheistic
- The gods had created the world multiple times.
- To give the sun strength everyday human sacrifices needed to be made.
- Most of those sacrificed were prisoners of war.