1325 – 1521

Aztec Empire Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. Where did the Aztecs found their capital city Tenochtitlan?

- (A) On a hilltop in the Oaxaca Valley
- (B) On an island in Lake Texcoco
- (C) On a plain in the Yucatan Peninsula
- (D) On the coast of the Gulf of Mexico

2. How large was Tenochtitlan at its height?

- (A) 2 to 3 million people, larger than every European city combined
- (B) 20,000 to 30,000 people, about the size of a small European town
- (C) About 200,000 people, larger than almost any European city then
- (D) 50,000 to 60,000 people, smaller than most European capitals

3. What was the Triple Alliance?

- (A) An alliance of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca empires against the Spanish invaders
- (B) An alliance of three rival peoples formed to resist Aztec tribute demands
- (C) An alliance of three cities, led by the Mexica, that became the Aztec Empire
- (D) An alliance of three Spanish captains who planned the conquest of Mexico

4. What was the Templo Mayor?

- (A) The great market in Tenochtitlan where tribute goods were traded
- (B) The great pyramid in Tenochtitlan honoring the gods of war and rain
- (C) The royal palace in Tenochtitlan where Moctezuma II held court
- (D) The stone causeway linking Tenochtitlan to the western shore of the lake

5. How did Cortes manage to enter Tenochtitlan in 1519?

- (A) Moctezuma allowed him in, and he had many indigenous allies
- (B) He slipped in at night while Moctezuma was away at war
- (C) He defeated the Aztec army in a battle outside the city walls
- (D) He built ships and broke through after a 75-day siege

6. What was La Noche Triste?

- (A) The night Tenochtitlan fell to the Spanish after a long siege
- (B) The night Cortes and his soldiers first landed on the Gulf Coast
- (C) The night the Mexica first saw the eagle on a cactus at the lake
- (D) The night Aztec warriors drove the Spanish out of Tenochtitlan

7. What combination of factors ended the Aztec Empire?

- (A) Spanish attack, indigenous allies, and deadly smallpox epidemics
- (B) Spanish attack, a long drought, and a revolt by Aztec priests
- (C) Spanish attack, help from the Inca, and a great flood of the lake
- (D) A civil war between rival emperors and a Maya invasion from the south

8. What Aztec legacy survives in modern language?

- (A) Words like llama, condor, and puma, from Nahuatl
- (B) Words like hurricane, canoe, and hammock, from Nahuatl
- (C) Words like moose, raccoon, and squash, from Nahuatl
- (D) Words like tomato, chocolate, and avocado, from Nahuatl

1325 – 1521

Aztec Empire Quiz: Answer Key

1. **B** On an island in Lake Texcoco

2. **C** About 200,000 people, larger than almost any European city then

3. **C** An alliance of three cities, led by the Mexica, that became the Aztec Empire

4. **B** The great pyramid in Tenochtitlan honoring the gods of war and rain

5. **A** Moctezuma allowed him in, and he had many indigenous allies

6. **D** The night Aztec warriors drove the Spanish out of Tenochtitlan

7. **A** Spanish attack, indigenous allies, and deadly smallpox epidemics

8. **D** Words like tomato, chocolate, and avocado, from Nahuatl