

Aztec Empire

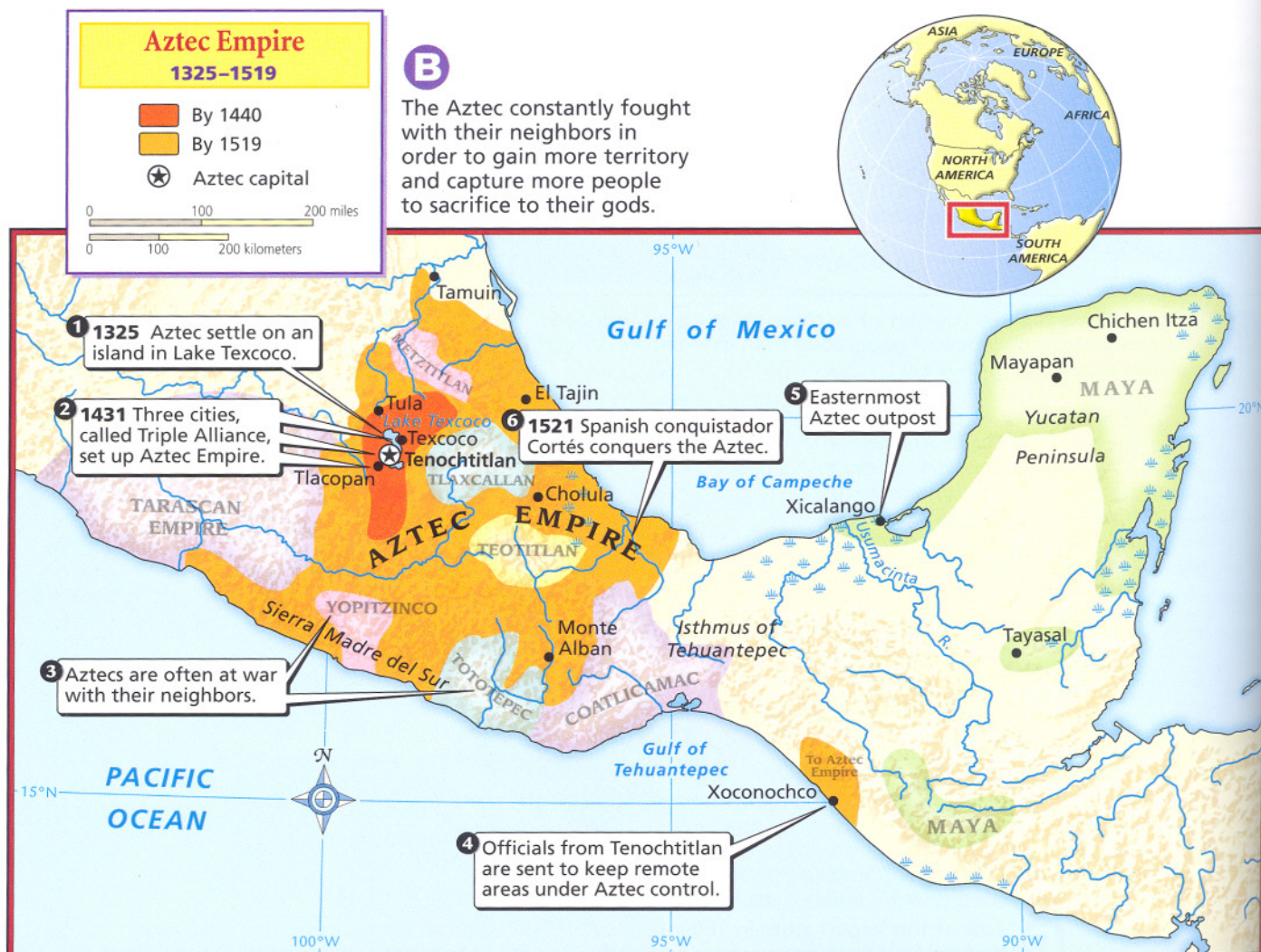
The Aztec migrated from the north to a small island in the Valley of Mexico. They built one of the largest empires of Middle America.

- Religion dominated every part of Aztec life. The Aztec worshipped hundreds of gods and performed many kinds of religious ceremonies.
- The Aztec were fierce warriors. They waged war to expand their empire.
- The Spanish came to Mexico in 1519. They conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521 and destroyed its capital.



A Built on a lake, Tenochtitlan was larger than most cities in Europe. Its palaces, markets, and temple pyramids amazed the Spanish. Hernan Cortés, the commander of the Spanish, said, "It is hardly possible to describe their beauty."

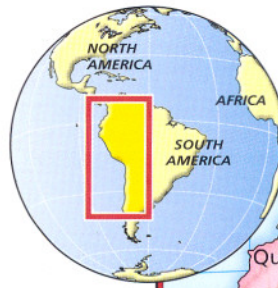
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Inca Empire

Around the same time the Aztec were building their empire, the Inca developed a large empire in South America.

- The Inca built an empire that extended through the Andes Mountains and along the west coast.
- They were excellent architects and engineers and built a vast network of roads and bridges. These helped their strong central government control even the most remote parts of the empire.
- The Spanish came to South America in 1532. They killed the Inca emperor and took over the empire.



Inca Empire 1438-1533


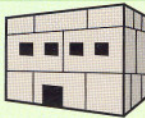


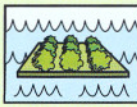

- By 1463
- By 1525
- Inca capital
- Main road
- Desert

0 250 500 miles
0 250 500 kilometers

C Powerful emperors greatly expanded Inca territory in less than 100 years. By 1525 the empire stretched 2,600 miles.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY Aztec and Inca Contributions

AZTEC	INCA
Architecture Built large limestone pyramids for religious ceremonies. 	Architecture Built enormous stone buildings with great precision. 
Calendar Developed accurate 365-day solar calendar. 	Medicine Successfully operated on skull injuries. 
Agriculture Created floating island gardens with lake mud to grow food. 	Transportation Built an extensive network of roads and suspension bridges. 

D Use this chart and the one on page 29 to compare and contrast Aztec, Inca, and Maya contributions.

E Francisco Pizarro, a Spanish conquistador, captured Atahualpa, the Inca emperor, and held him for ransom. When the ransom was paid, Pizarro had Atahualpa killed anyway. This was drawn by a native Peruvian in 1615.

