Aztec and Inca Empires p. 80-81

Aztec Empire (1325-1519)

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

* + 1325 Aztec settle on an island in Lake Texcoco.
    - Built on a lake, Tenochtitlan was larger than most cities in Europe.
    - Its palaces, markets, and temple pyramids amazed the Spanish.
    - Hernan Cortes, commander of the Spanish, said, “It is hardly possible to describe their beauty.”
  + 1431 Three cities, called Triple Alliance, set up Aztec Empire.
  + 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 Aztec constantly fought with their neighbors in order to gain more territory and capture more people to sacrifice to their gods.
  + Aztec Contributions include architecture, calendar and agriculture.
    - Built large limestone pyramids for religious ceremonies.
    - Developed accurate 365-day solar calendar.
    - Created floating island gardens with lake mud to grow food.
  + The Spanish came to Mexico in 1519.
    - They conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521 and destroyed its capital.

Inca Empire (1438-1533)

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.
    - Powerful emperors greatly expanded Inca territory in less than 100 years.
    - By 1525 the empire stretched 2,600 miles.
  + 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.
  + Inca contributions include architecture, medicine and transportation.
    - Built enormous stone buildings with great precision.
    - Successfully operated on skull injuries.
    - Built an extensive network of roads and suspension bridges.
  + The Spanish came to South America in 1532.
    - They killed the Inca emperor and took over the empire.
      * 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.

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