Eyewitness: First Impressions of the Aztec Capital (p.415)

1. What is the capital of the Aztec Empire? How did the Spanish describe the city?

States and Empires in Mesoamerica (p. 416)

2. Who were the most prominent people contesting for power in Mesoamerica after the fall of Teotihuacan?

The Toltecs and the Mexica (p. 416)

3. What present-day city did the Toltec and Mexica surround?

4. Describe the capital cities of the Toltec and Mexica regional states?

Toltecs (p. 417)

5. How did they expand their empire?

Tula (p. 417)

6. Describe the Toltecs relationship with the Mayan?

7. How did the Toltec fall?

The Mexica (9. 417)

8. Describe the reputation of Mexica or the Aztecs.

Tenochtitlan (pp. 417-418)

9. What system of agriculture did the Mexica (Aztec) develop? Describe this system of agriculture.
The Aztec Empire (p. 418)
10. How did the Aztec expand their empire?

Tribute and Trade (pp. 418-419)
11. What was the main objective of the Mexica and triple alliance?

12. What items of tribute did they receive from nearby peoples?

13. What items did merchants take to distant lands to trade for local produce?

14. Describe the political structure of the Aztec empire, including its military.

Mexica Society
Social Structure (p. 419)
15. What group of people made up the military elite?

Warriors (p. 419)
16. What benefits did the warrior elites enjoy?

Mexica Women (p. 419)
17. Describe the role and view of women in Aztec society.

Priests (pp. 419-420)
18. Describe the benefits that the priestly elite class enjoyed.

Cultivators and Slaves (p. 420)
19. Apart from cultivating the chinampas, that was the role of the Mexica commoners?

20. Where did the large number of slaves come from?

Artisans and Merchants (pp. 420-421)
21. How were artisans and merchants viewed in Mexica society?

22. Compare the view of merchants in Mexica society to that of Han China.
Mexica Religion (p. 421)
23. What aspects of Olmec and Mayan traditions did the Aztec adopt and share?

Mexica Gods (p. 421)
24. What other religious beliefs did Mexica absorb that were common to Mesoamerica?

Ritual Bloodletting (p. 421)
25. What was the purpose of bloodletting rituals?

Huitzilopochtli (p. 421)
26. What was the purpose of the sacrificial killing of human victims and why did the Mexica place so much more emphasis on human sacrifice than their predecessors?

States and Empires in South America (pp. 423-424)
27. How did the Incan Empire compare to those of Mexica and in Mesoamerica?

The Coming of the Incas (p. 424)
The Incan Empire (p. 425)
28. Where did the Incans settle, and how did they create an empire?

29. Describe how the Inca ruled.

Incan Administration (p. 425)
30. Describe Pachacuti’s system of government at Cuzco.

Quipu (p. 425)
31. What is quipu?

32. What was quipu used for?

Cuzco (pp. 425-426)
33. What was the purpose of the city of Cuzco? Describe the city.
Inca Roads (p. 426)

34. What was significant of the Incan Roads?

35. What did these roads help spread throughout Incan civilization?

Incan Society and Religion

Trade (p. 426)

36. What type of economy was at the local level?

37. Who controlled long-distance trade in the Empire and what effect did that have on society?

Ruling Elites (p. 426)

38. What were the main classes of Incan society?

39. How did the Incan’s view their ruler?

40. How did the god-king tend to the needs of their living subjects?

Peasants (p. 427)

41. What did the peasants do instead of paying taxes?

42. Where did production from state lands go?

43. What else did peasants do besides agricultural work?

Moral Thought (p. 427)

44. Describe the Inca’s religious beliefs?