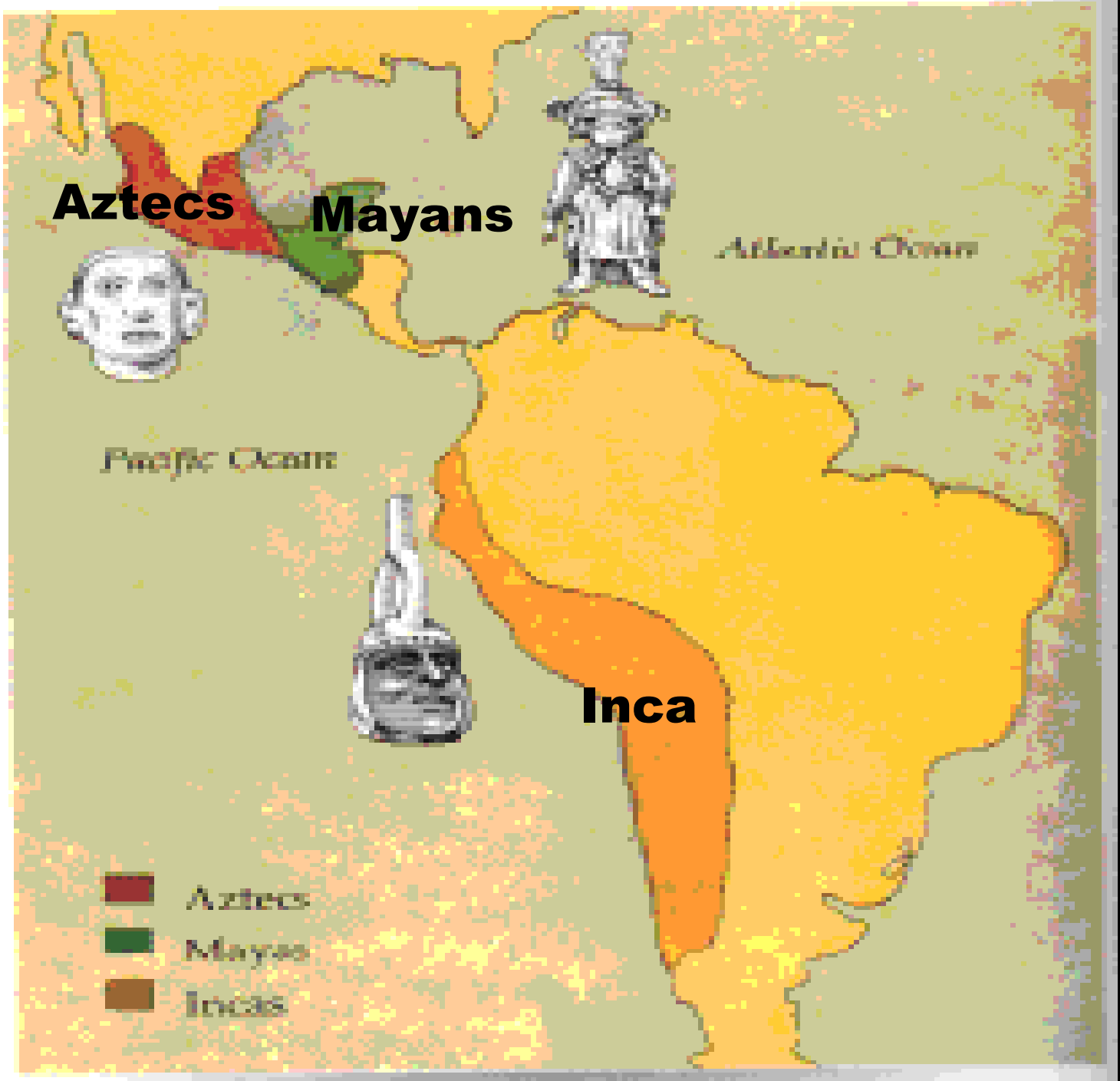
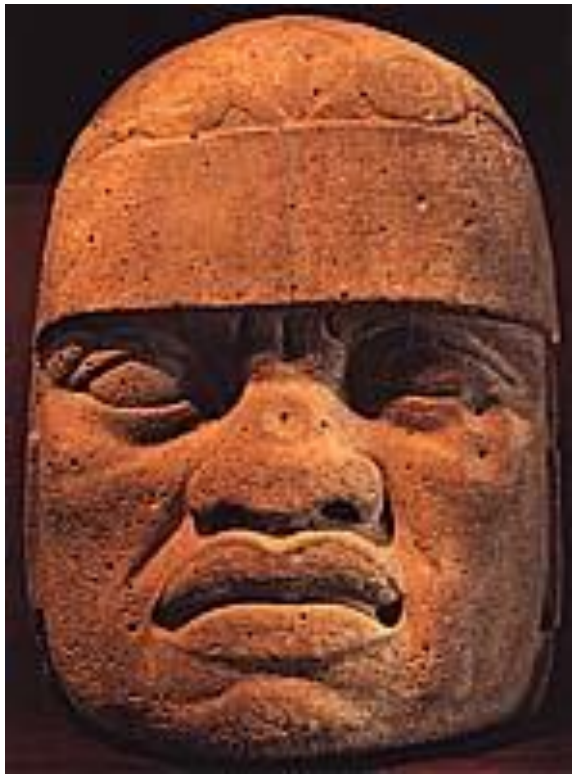

Aztecs
Mayans
Atlantic Ocean
Pacific Ocean
Inca
Aztecs
Mayas
Incas

The Early American Civilizations

- Civilization rose later in the Americas than it did in the classical river valleys
- Developed around smaller rivers & streams
- No wheel nor large animals for work
- Developed in isolation
- b/w 19-50 million people by 1450
- Many cultures were non-literate

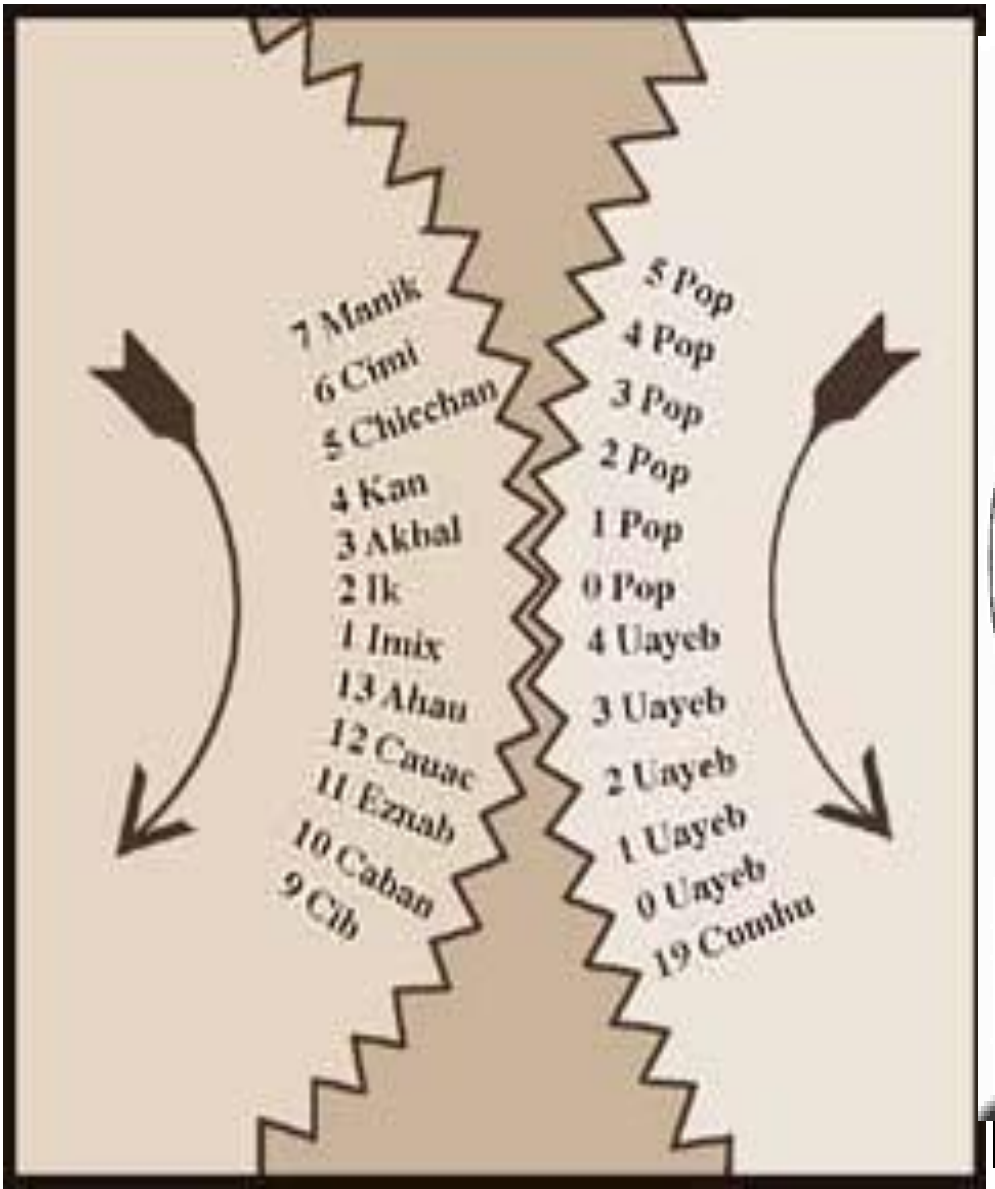


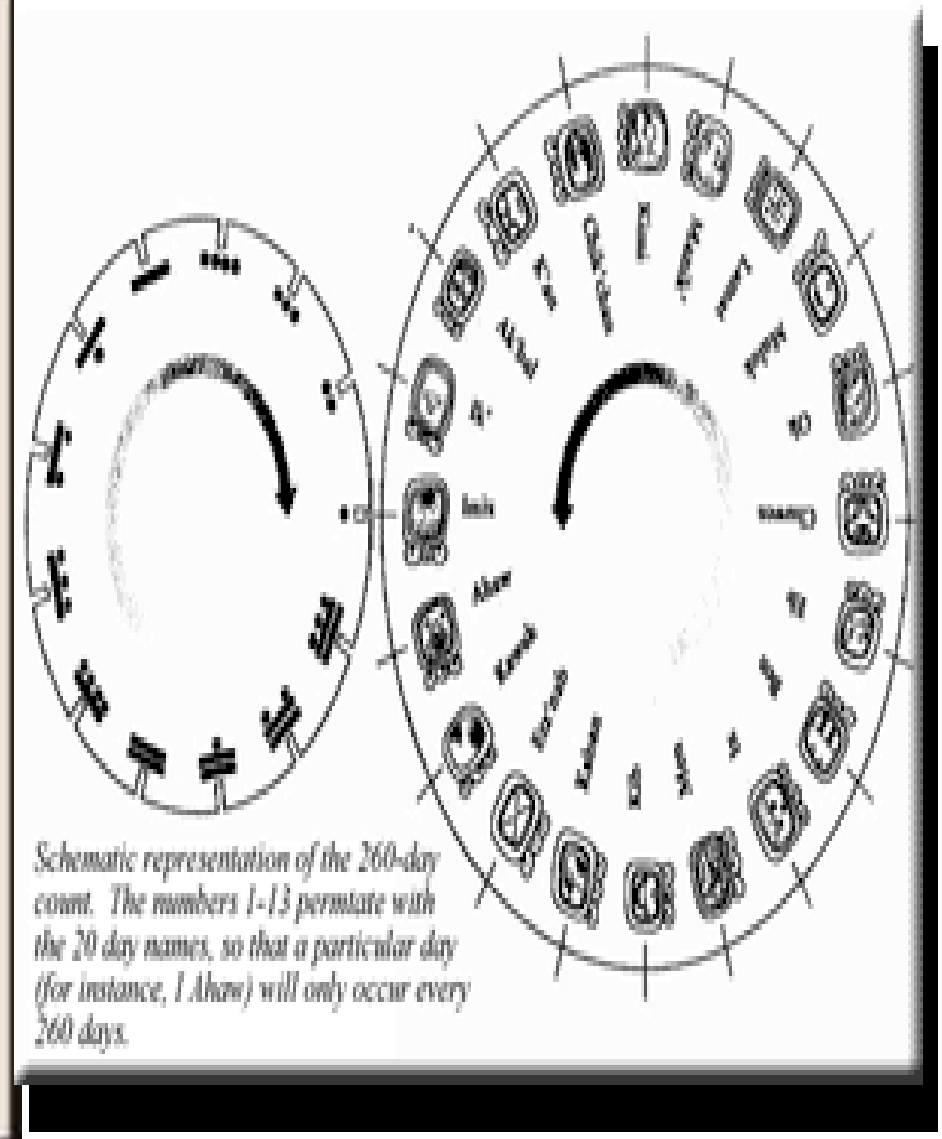
Mayans— "Greeks of the Americas"

- Height in 300 C.E. (Mainly in Guatemala)
- System of writing based on pictographs, glyphs (most advanced in Americas)
- Zero
- Astronomy, predicted eclipses
- Length of year within seconds of its actual length

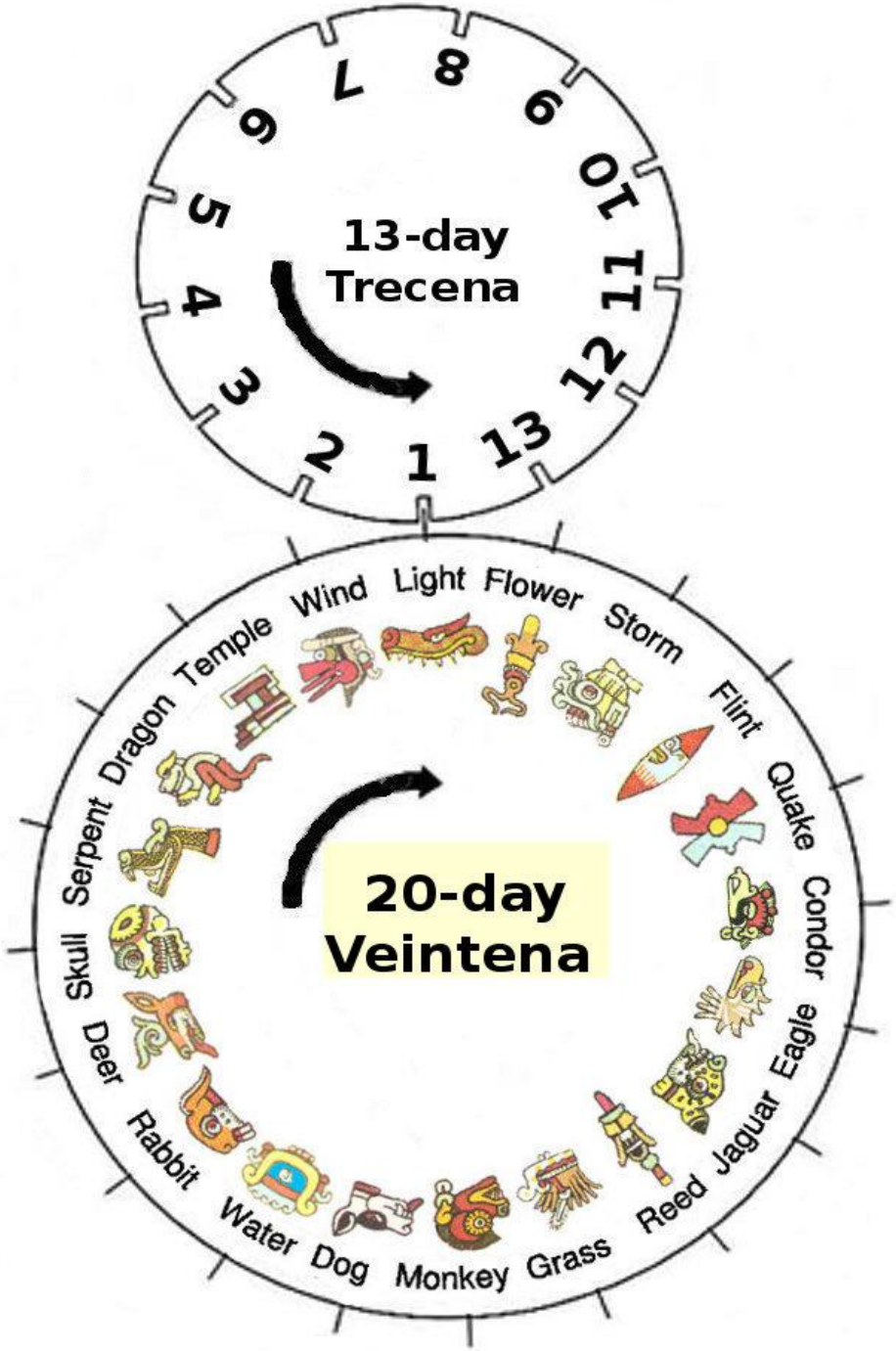
Observatory at Chichen Itza

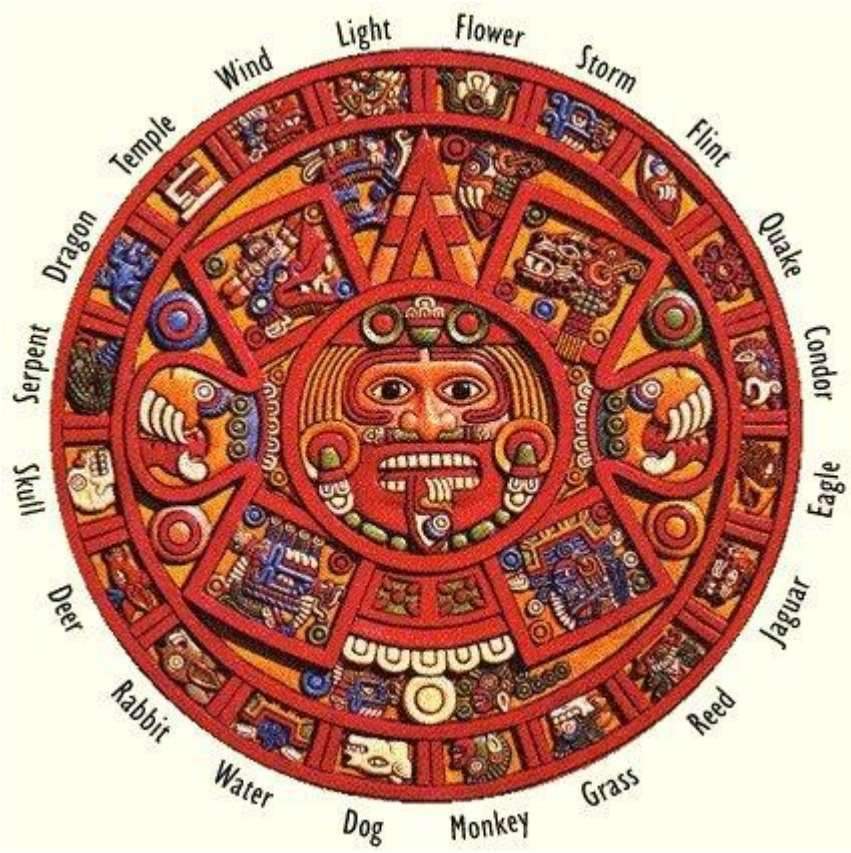
How the Mayan 2 Calendars Work Together





Schematic representation of the 260-day count. The numbers 1-13 permutate with the 20 day names, so that a particular day (for instance, 1 Ahaw) will only occur every 260 days.


13-day
Trecena
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
20-day
Veintena
Wind
Light
Flower
Storm
Flint
Quake
Condor
Eagle
Jaguar
Reed
Grass
Monkey
Dog
Water
Rabbit
Deer
Skull
Serpent
Dragon
Temple


Wind
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Rabbit
Deer
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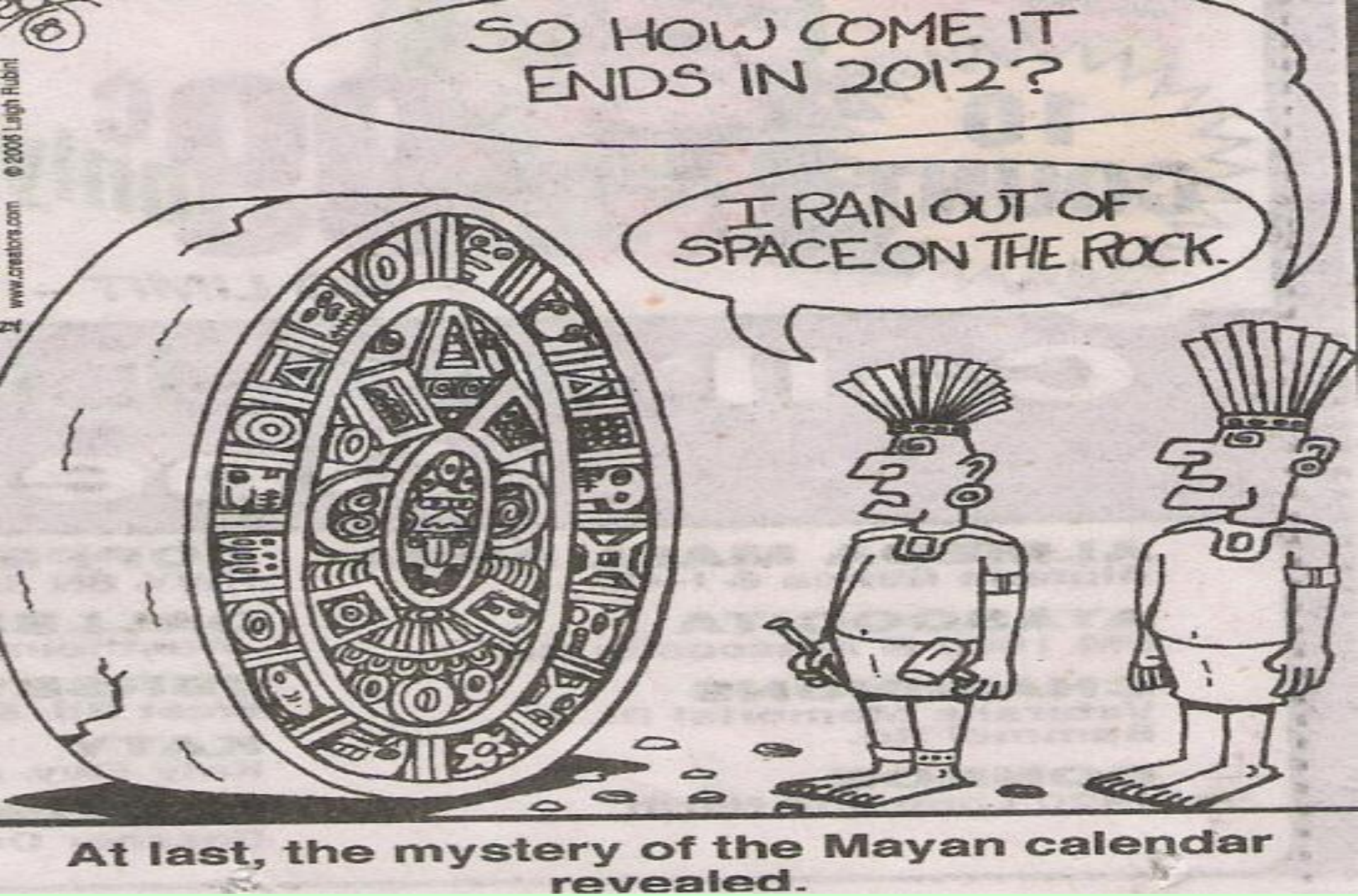
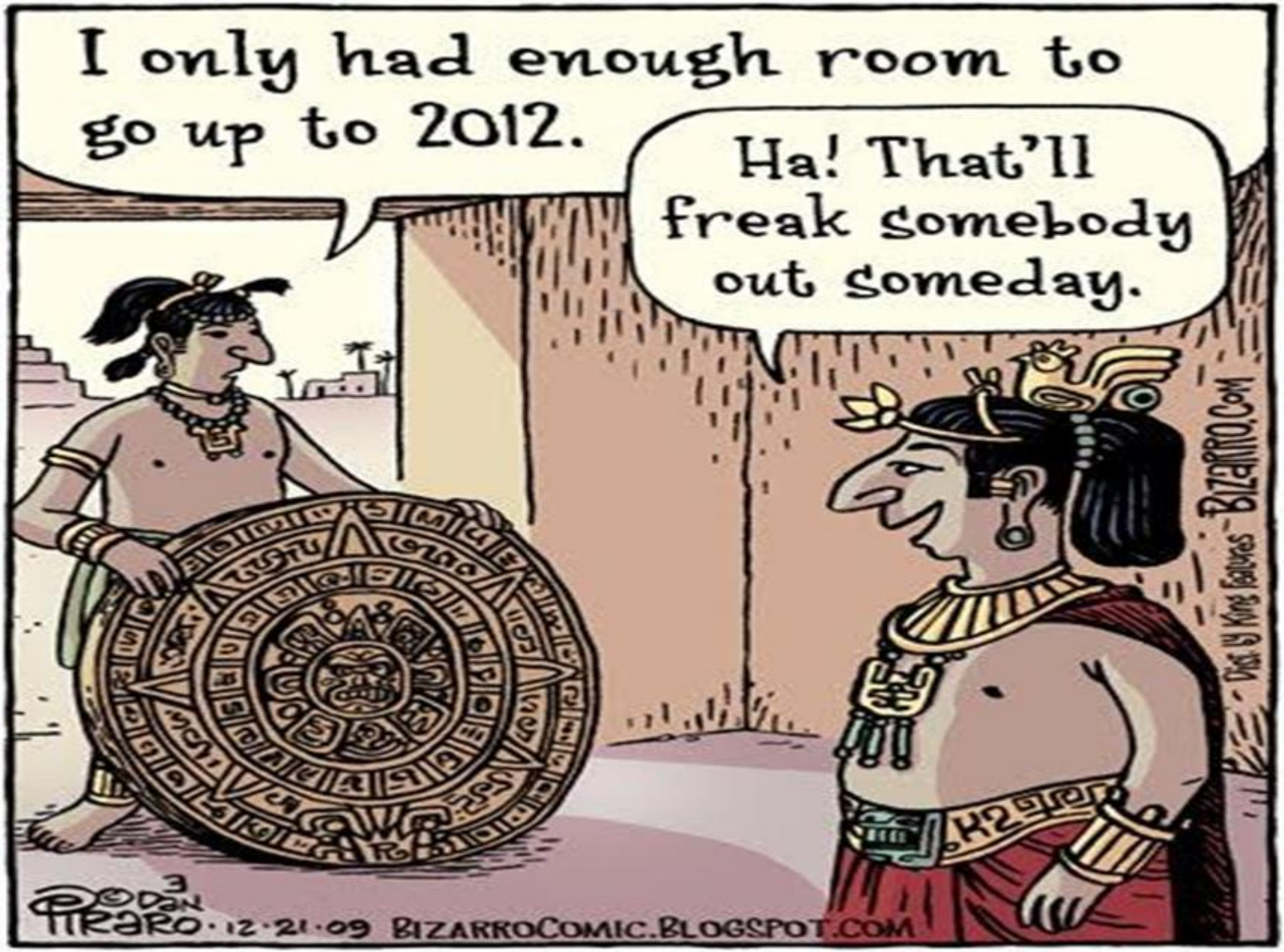
Dragon
Temple



Mayan Calendar ended Dec. 21, 2012 at 11:11am(winter solstice) sun aligned w/ center of Milky Way 1st time in 26,000 yrs.—end of 5,126 year era


I only had enough room to go up to 2012.
Ha! That'll freak somebody out someday.
K2
DAN PIRARO · 12·21·09 BIZARROCOMIC.BLOGSPOT.COM
BIZARRO.COM

Mayan Ball Game

BALL COURT TEMPLE

Mayans

- Small city-states (about 50) ruled by kings who were descendants of the gods
- P.O.W.s ended up as slaves or sacrifices to gods
- Chichen Itza—city w/ buildings to honor rulers and gods
- In 800s began abandoning cities—mystery as to why

Estados Unidos
MEXICO
Gulf de Mexico
Chichén Itzà
Uxmal
Coba
Teotihuacan
Mexico, D.F.
Cholula
Pacific Ocean

Chichen Itza

During the vernal equinox (March 20) and the autumnal equinox (September 21) at about 3 P.M. the corner of the structure casts a shadow in the shape of a plumed serpent, Quetzalcoatl, along the west side of the north staircase. On these two annual occasions, the shadows from the corner tiers slither down the northern side of the pyramid with the sun's movement to the serpent's head at the base.

One of 7 New Wonders of the World

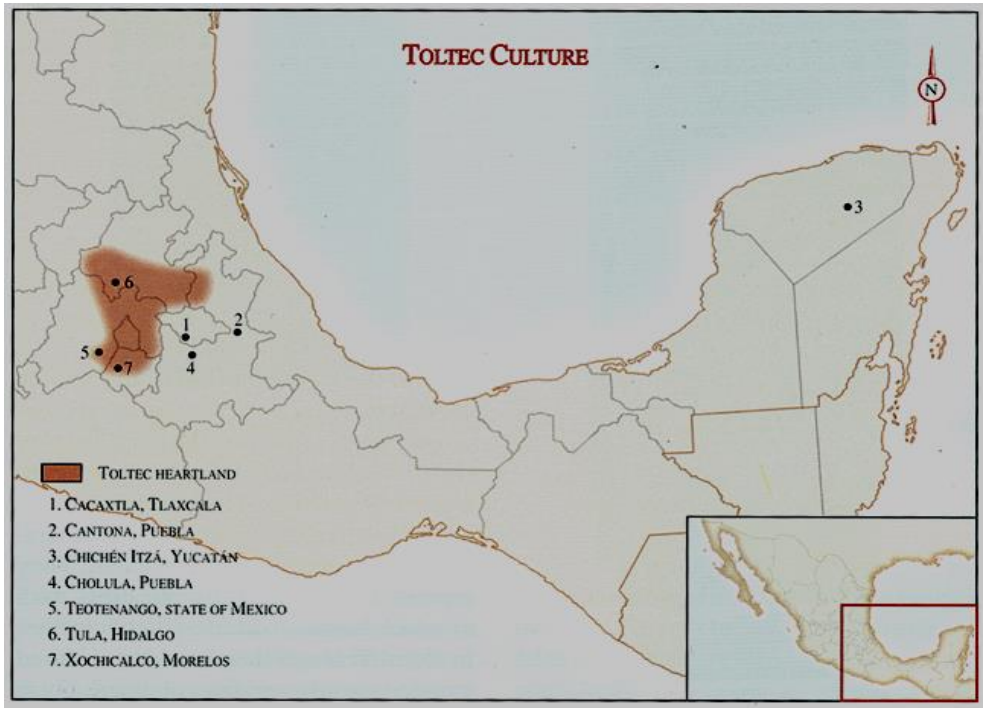
Carvings on the lower walls show one player holding the decapitated head of another player. Some think the losing captain was executed. Others think the winning captain was sacrificed as an honor.

Mayans

Traits of Civil.	Strength Leading to Power	Weakness Leading to Decline
Religious beliefs & theocracy	Uniting culture Loyalty to king	Physical & human resources for religious activity
Independent city-states	Wealthy & prosperous culture	Frequent warfare occurs b/w city-states
Intensive agriculture	Production of more food feeds larger pop.	Soil depletion & pop. Growth creates need for more land

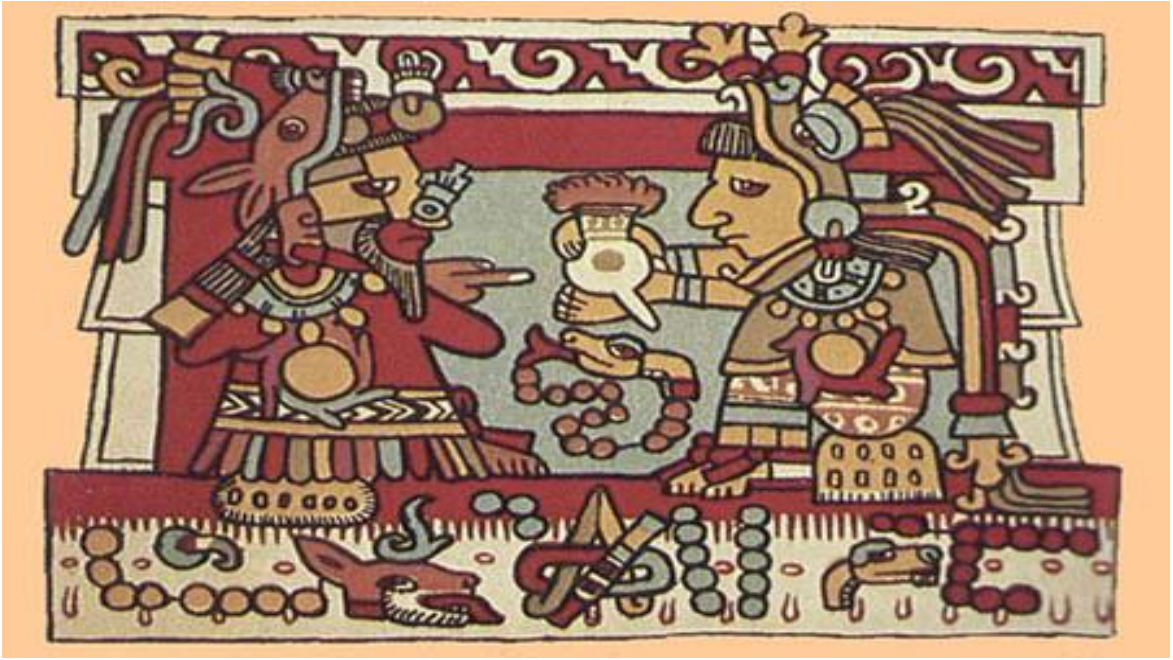
Toltecs

- **Nomadic people who moved into central Mexico after Mayans**
- **Tula = Capital; mid 10th C.**
- **Long-distance trade with southwestern U.S.**
- **Legend of Quetzalcoatl**
- **Aztecs viewed them as the givers of civilization**



Aztecs—Mexica ("me-shee-ka")

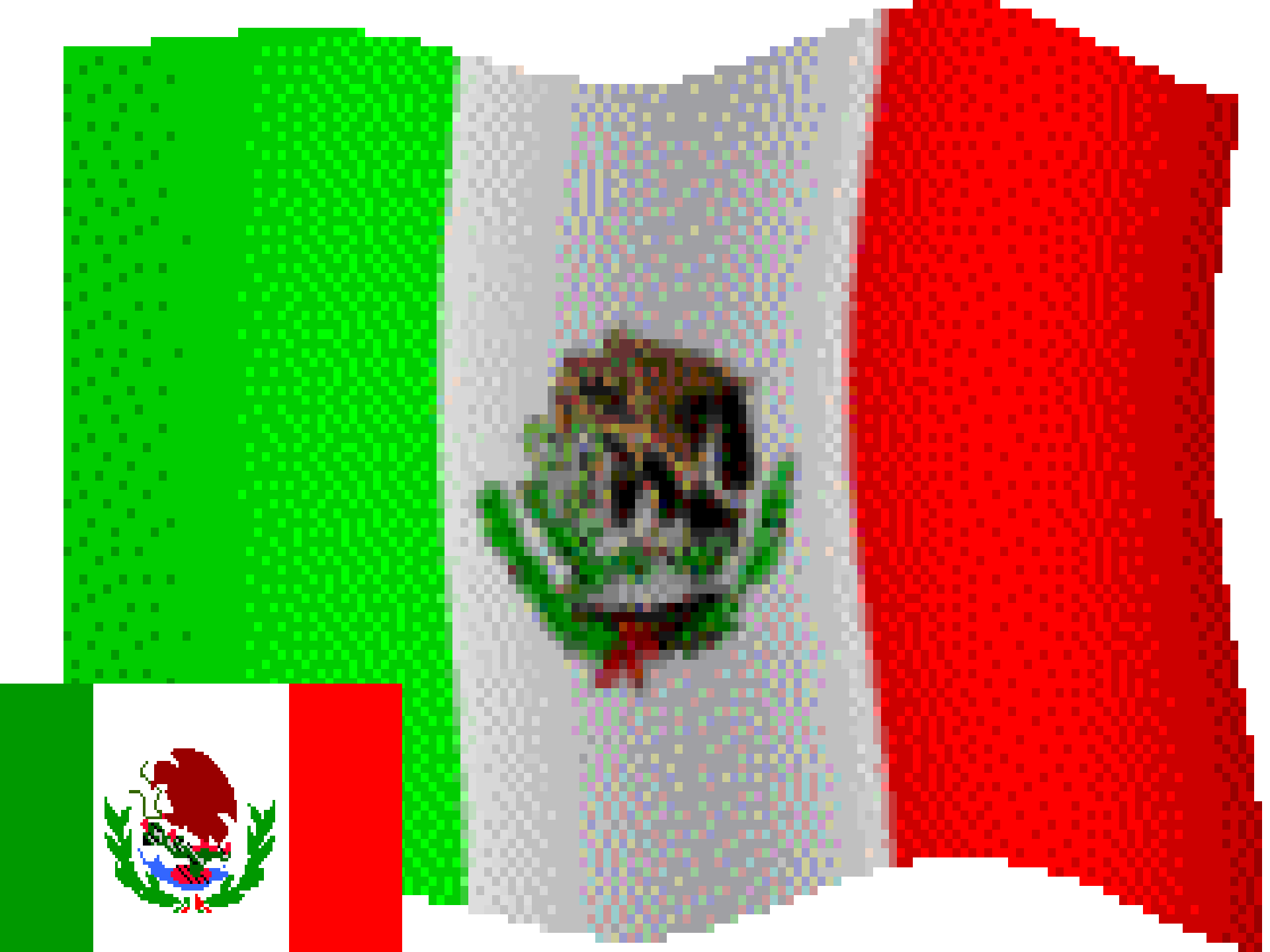
- **Tenochtitlan = Capital; built on an island in the center of Lake Texcoco**
  - **Larger than any European cities at time (500,000)**
  - **Current-day site of Mexico City**
  - **Divided into 60 wards controlled by kinship groups**
- **Cyclical view of history (world continually destroyed)**



Rise of the Aztecs

- **Mid-13th C.—Nomadic people who migrated into Lake district of central Mexico**
- **Once Aztecs found their city in Lake Texcoco → active role in politics**
- **Formed Triple Alliance w/ 2 other tribes, but really Aztecs dominated**

Legend says they found Tenochtitlan because the sun god told them to find an eagle on a cactus holding a snake in his mouth



Aztec Government

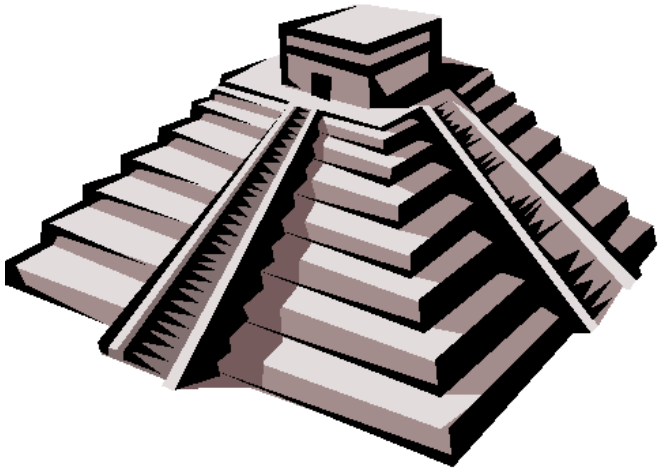
- **Conquered 125,000 sq. miles of surrounding territories; ruled 5-10 million**
  - **Harsh rule of people (power based on conquest)**
  - **Left those territories unchanged as long as they recognized Aztec as supreme & paid tribute**
  - **Most conquered areas rebelled, so Aztecs would reconquer them**
- **No real, strong centralized empire (unlike Inca)**
- **Rulers had supreme powers (emperor—considered a living god)**
  - **People couldn't look emperor in eye**
  - **Required to throw dirt upon their heads as sign of humility**
- **Prime minister—had a lot of power; usually relative of emperor**
- **Dominance of nobles**

Tenochitlan

SPANISH MAP– 1519

Aztec Religion

- **Polytheistic—128 dieties**
  - **Huitzilopochtli: most sacred god**
  - **Quetzacoatl**
- **Human sacrifice most widely practice here (20,000 per year)**
  - **Sacrifices were dedicated to gods b/c they believed the gods were nourished by them**
  - **Prisoners of war or Aztec citizens**



Aztec Human Sacrifice

Aztec Version

Sacrificed in front of large crowds; carved heart out while alive then rolled the body down the steps; priests worshipped in temples decorated with remains.

Aztec Accomplishments

- **Chinampas—platforms of twisted vines with a layer of soil on top—floating gardens**
- **Calendar, similar to Mayans**
- **Hieroglyphics**

Economy:

- **Tribute state—redistributed goods received as tribute**
- **Specialized merchant class**
  - **Huge market in cities**
  - **Used gold and cocoa beans as currency**

Social Structure

- Basic social unit = calpulli (clan)
- king ➲ priests ➲ nobles (only one allowed to wear jewelry & embroider cloaks) ➲ artisans & scribes ➲ commoners

Women:

- If died in childbirth—granted same honor as soldiers who died in battle
  - Could be divorced for: adultery, barren
- Limited technology caused women to be need to work more hours grinding grain for food (30-40 hrs. wk.)
- Could inherit property & will it to heirs
- Politically subordinate to men

Berdaches: "Third Generation", "2 Spirit"

- Male children born into family w/ several male children made to dress like females & assume role of women
- Nobles often had several of them as servants

Aztec Civilization

Traits of Civil.	Strength Leading to Power	Weakness Leading to Decline
Religious beliefs & theocracy	United culture Loyalty to king	Physical & human resources funneled into religious activity
Powerful army	Adds land, power, & P.O.W.s for sacrifices	Need for prisoners changes warfare style to less deadly & less aggressive
Empire of tribute states	Provides $$ & power & P.O.W.s for religious sacrifice	Tribute states rebel & need to be controlled

Aztecs Decline

- **Montezuma II was a cruel, powerful ruler**
  - **At coronation 5,100 were sacrificed**
- **Thought Cortes was Quetzalcoatl returning**
  - **Cortez came with 508 men, 16 horses (& Aztec enemies as allies)**
  - **Montezuma welcomed him**
- **Cortez set up headquarters in Tenochtitlan**
  - **Seizes Montezuma and eventually takes over city**
- **Disease (small pox)**
- **Spanish aided by enemies of Aztecs**

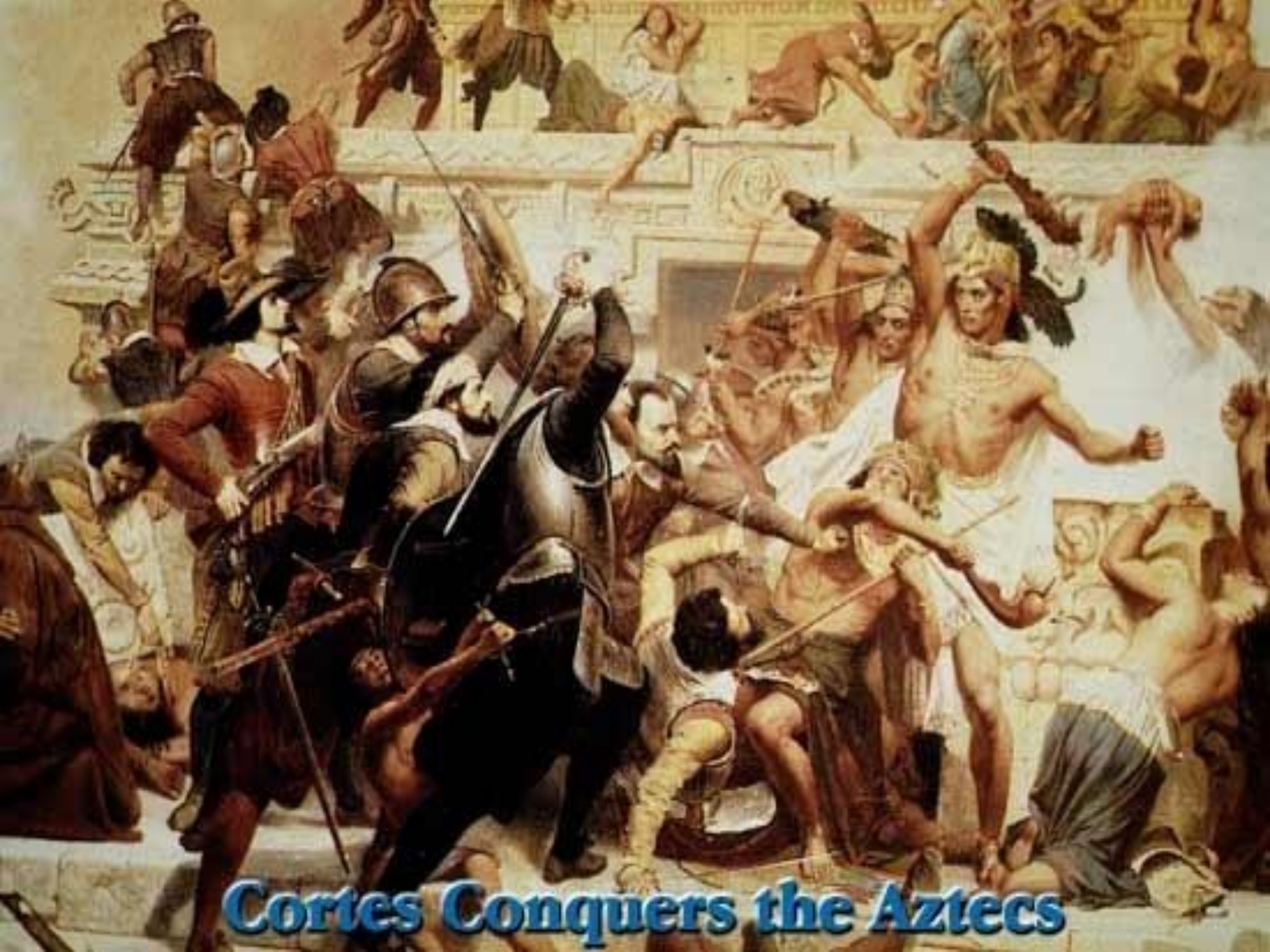
Aztec Empire
c. 1519
TARASCANS
Tenochtitlan
TLAXCALA
Gulf of Mexico
TEOTITLAN
MIXTEC
the Road to Xoconochco
ZAPOTEC
PACIFIC OCEAN
Core States
Tributary States
Allied States

Montezuma II

"It appears that our Lord has returned to his country. Go and receive him worthily."

Montezuma II said of the Spanish

Cortez


Cortes Conquers the Aztecs

INCAS—TWANTINSUYU

- **Pachacuti Inca—ruler who unified empire (1438)**
- **Integrated 11 million diverse people under one empire**
- **Tribute empire (in the form of grain, service,…) from conquered lands**
  - **Mita = mandatory public service or labor on government land (a form of tribute)**
- **Capital = Cuzco**

Machu Picchu— constructed for emperor Pachacuti
it was never found by the Spanish conquerors; discovered in 1911 by Hiram Bingham of Yale University

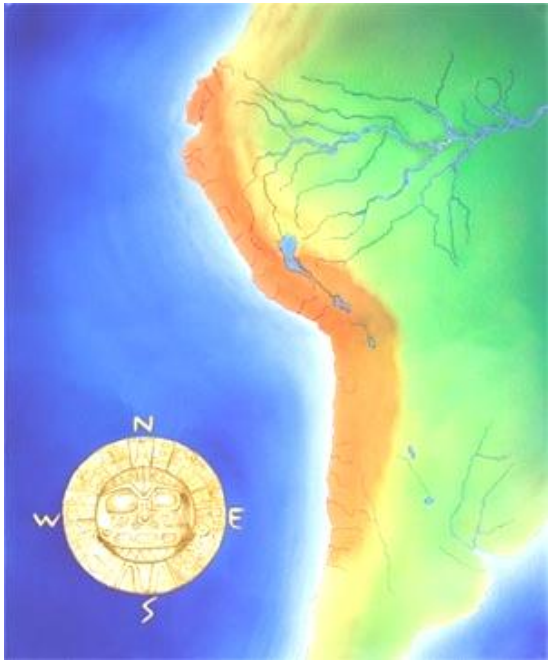
One of 7 New Wonders of the World

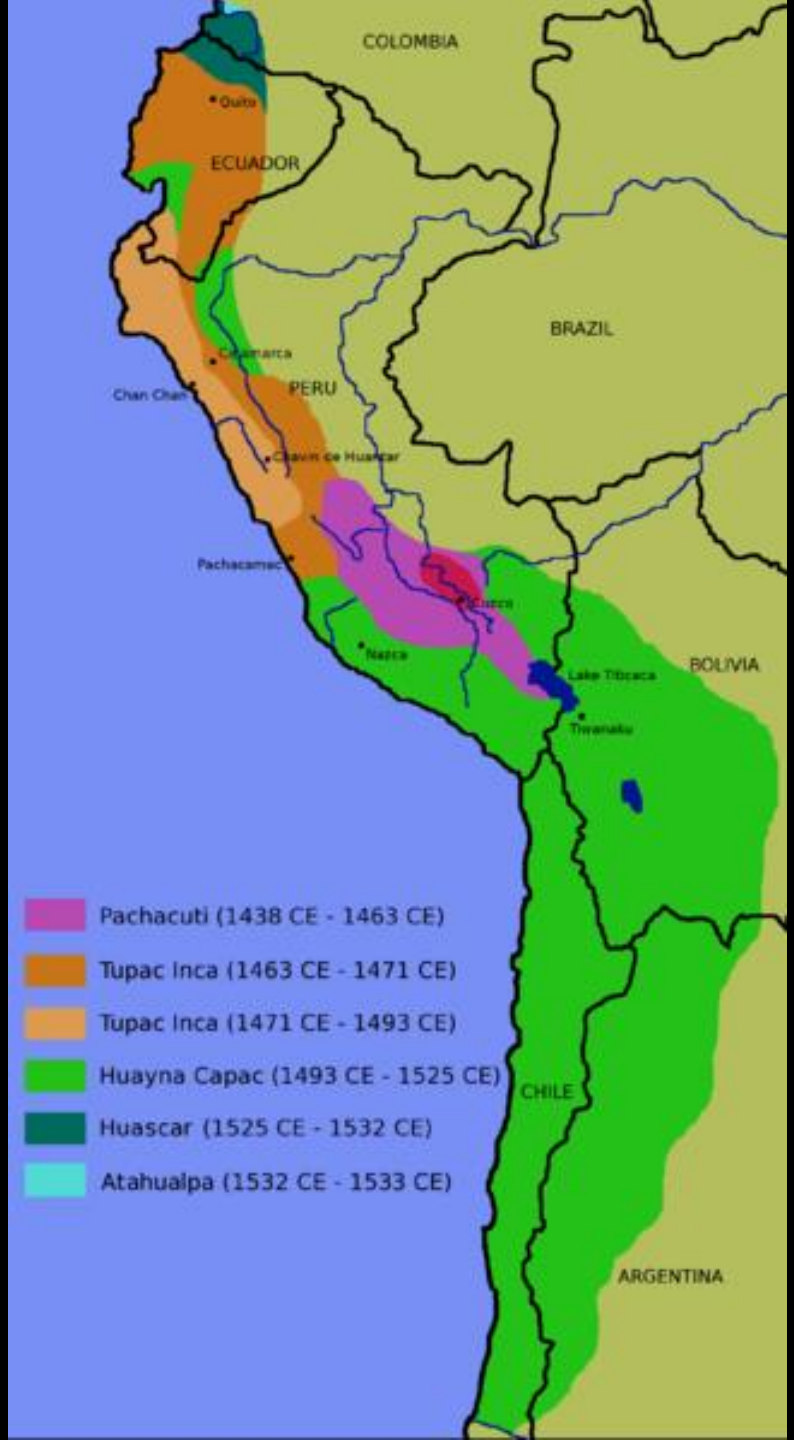
Road to get to Machu Picchu

CultureFocus.com

Inca Government

- More unified than Aztecs b/c they spread their culture, religion, & language
  - Also provided food and land for their people
- Quechua language spread to unify
- Sent Quechua-speaking people to settle throughout the empire to prevent uprising
  - Extensive use of colonization
- Sometimes settled conquered people far away from their homeland
- Royal marriage alliances (to prevent rivals from gaining power)




COLOMBIA
Quito
ECUADOR
BRAZIL
Cajamarca
PERU
Chan Chan
Chavin de Huantar
Pachacamac
Cuzco
Nazca
Lake Titicaca
BOLIVIA
Tiwanaku
CHILE
ARGENTINA
Pachacuti (1438 CE - 1463 CE)
Tupac Inca (1463 CE - 1471 CE)
Tupac Inca (1471 CE - 1493 CE)
Huayna Capac (1493 CE - 1525 CE)
Huascar (1525 CE - 1532 CE)
Atahualpa (1532 CE - 1533 CE)

“The Inca always had the mastery, but when the enemies were vanquished, they were not destroyed; on the contrary, orders were given to release the captives and restore the spoils, and allow them to retain their estates. For the Inca desired to show them that they should not be so mad as to revolt against his royal person and reject his friendship; rather they should wish to be his friends, as were those in other provinces.”

Pedro de Cieza de Leon, conquistador, 1540

Inca Mummies—
"Los Ninos"

- They would sacrifice children by marching to the volcano where they were suffocated or left to die from exposure
- Unearthed in 1999 from Mount Llullaillaco
- their frozen bodies were among the best preserved mummies ever found, with internal organs intact, blood still present in the heart and lungs, and skin and facial features mostly unscathed
- No special effort had been made to preserve them. The cold and the dry, thin air did all the work. They froze to death as they slept, and 500 years later still looked like sleeping children, not mummies.

Society, Economy, Religion

Social Structure

- **Parallel descent = Inheritance passed along through both male and female lines**
- **Women—worked in fields, weavers, cared for household; could inherit property**

Economy

- **State regulated trade; no separate merchant class**

Religion

- **Polytheistic; centered around sun god**
- **Mummified rulers**
- **Human sacrifice, but not often**

Inca Advances

- **No writing system**
- **Quipu = knotted cords in various sizes & colors to represent categories of information**
- **Great road system—14,000 miles**
- **Excellent builders, stone cutters, miners**

Incan Roads—14,000 miles

“Cuzco was grand and stately. It had fine streets…and the houses were built of solid stones, beautifully joined.”

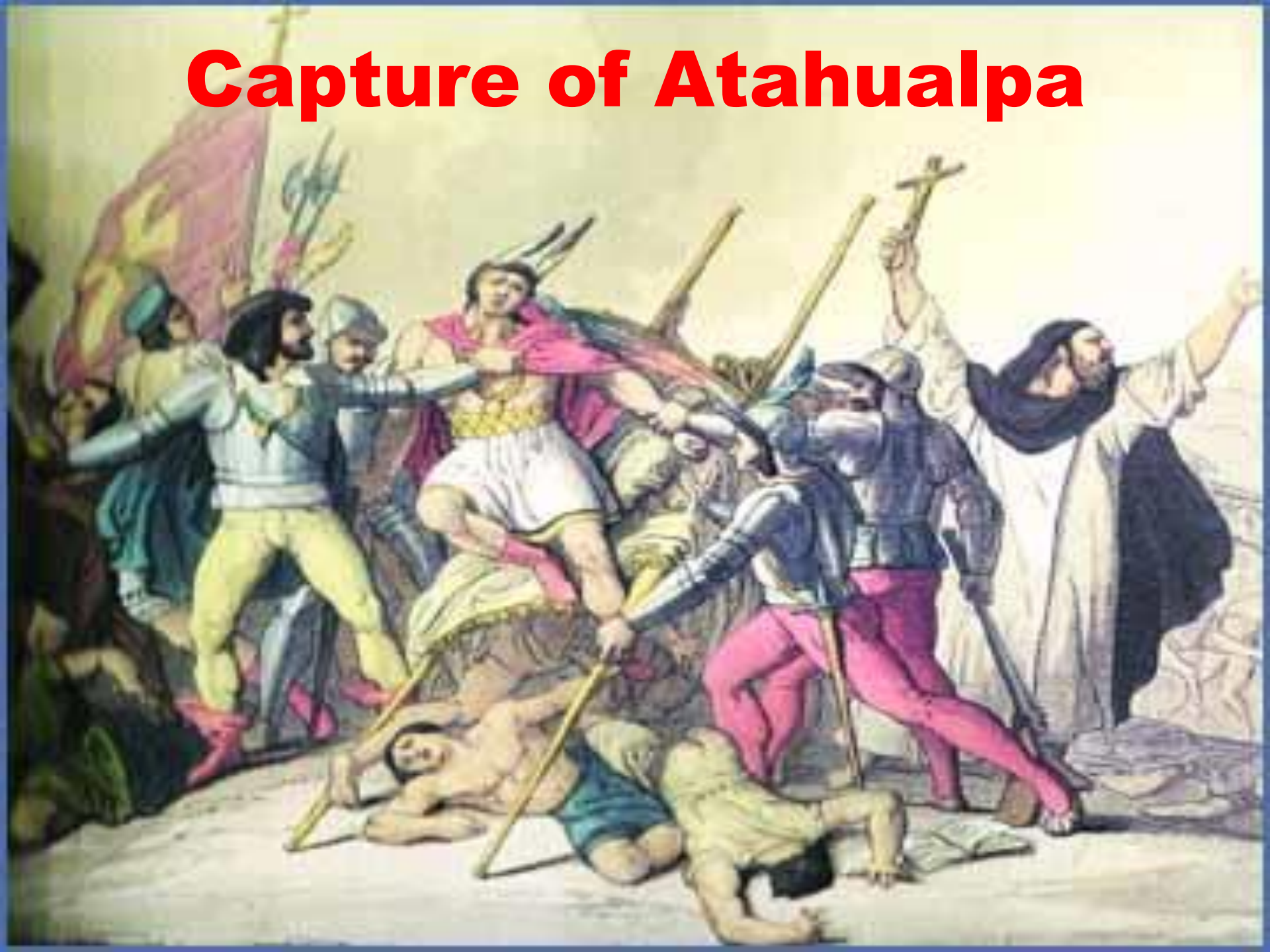
Cieza de Leon, conquistador

(Inca had no iron tools or wheel, yet still transported stones and fit them perfectly without mortar—many still stand undisturbed by any earthquakes)

Incas Decline

- **Civil war** between the sons of the dead emperor left the empire weak
- **Pizarro & the Spanish** divide and conquer—1532
- Pizarro took **Atahualpa**, the Incan, captive
- Incas bribed Pizarro with a room filled with gold for Atahualpa, yet still killed him

Capture of Atahualpa



Incas

Traits of Civil.	Strength Leading to Power	Weakness Leading to Decline
Religious beliefs & theocracy	United culture Loyalty to emperor	Many physical & human resources used for religious actvity
Major road systems	Connected entire empire and aided control	Enemy could also use roads to move
Type of welfare state with huge bureaucracy	Care for entire pop. during good & bad times	People unable to care for themselves with the elimination of the welfare state