Hi. I'm Peter Weller for the History Channel. Join me while we explore the Ancient Aztecs.

Name: _____________________

Engineering An Empire: Aztecs

1. The Aztec civilization rivaled ___________ in its sophistication. Acqueducts, pyramids, _______ and __________ stood as tribute to the gods.

2. Instead of getting married, what happened to the princess?

3. Peter Weller - Aztec sacrifices were important because without them they believed “the sun would refuse to _______ and the universe ___________________.

4. The Aztecs were chased to a swampy island is Lake _______________. That large valley is now the site of the modern day ________________.

5. Aztec King Tenoch had a vision and saw an “eagle perched on a _______________” and declared this to be the site of their capital city of Tenochtitlan.

6. Tenochtitlan is modeled after a city 25 miles to the north called Teotihuacan. It mean “______________.” The original founders believed the city was the birthplace of the sun and constructed this to honor it - ______________________.

7. How did the Aztec leader Acamapichtl (1376 AD) engineer a solution to the swampy land? (How did they build a base?)

8. Describe a causeway. (What is it? How was it build?)

9. All human labor was used to build everything in the city. One large stone took ___________ men to move it.

10. What did the mainland Tepanex tribe control that the Aztec very much needed and a war would start over? __________________

11. With the help of Nezahualcoyotl (leader of the Texcoco tribe) the Aztec wiped out the Tepanex. The leader of the Aztecs did what with the defeated king’s heart? ______________________ (Signaled the beginning of the Aztec Empire.)

12. How many tubes did the aqueduct have? ______ How far did it run? _______________

13. How many times a day did the king bathe?

14. Montezuma I expanded the borders of the empire. By 1449 it contained _______________ people.


16. What are “sluice” gates with the dike?

17. Describe a “chinampa” or floating island.

18. King Ahuitzotl (1486-1502) ruled during the “Golden Age” of the Aztecs. He constructed “superhighways” and had runners pass messages from one end of the empire to the other. A message could travel __________ miles in just _______ hours.
19. The massive temple built by Ahuitzotl honored two gods, the god of _____ and the god of _____. How many people were sacrificed to honor them? ___________


21. In 1519, Cortez sailed from Cuba to Mexico with 11 boats and 500 men. What did the Mexicans call the boats?

22. If a tribe resisted they were slaughtered. Cortez ended up marrying a chieftain’s daughter who became his ________ and advisor.

23. Montezuma II invited Cortez to the Great Palace. What happened a week after the Spanish were in Tenochtitlan?

24. In 1520, after interrupting a sacred sacrifice, Cortez and his group planned to leave. What does “Noche Triste” ________________.

25. Cortez came back with a vengeance to wipe out Tenochtitlan. In May of 1521, he brought 600 Spaniards, ________ cavalry, and ________________ Indian allies to attack.

26. After defeated by war, disease was the real killer of the native population. How many people died of disease? ________ million, and the population was reduced by _____.%.