

Essential Question:  
How did the  
encounter with  
the Spanish impact  
the Aztecs and  
Incas?



Standard:

SS6H1a. Describe the encounter and consequences of the conflict between the Spanish and the Aztecs and Incas and the roles of Cortes, Montezuma, Pizarro, and Atahualpa.



# Aztecs

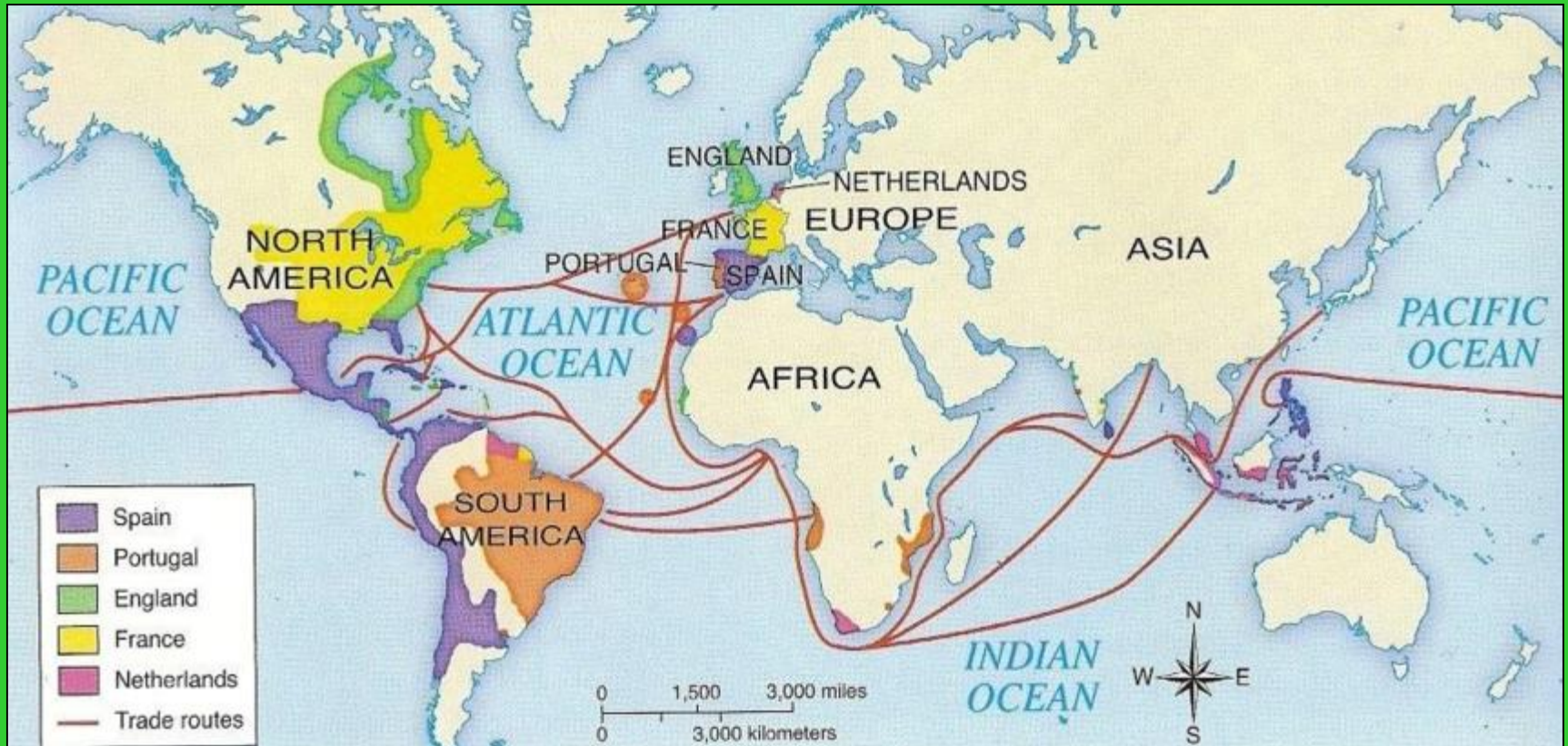
The Aztecs were indigenous (native) people who lived in central Mexico.



# Aztec Empire



In the 1500s, Spanish explorers arrived in Central and South America in search of riches and new land.



A Spanish leader name Hernán Cortés entered Mexico with an army of about 600 soldiers.



At this time, the Aztec empire was vast under the rule of Montezuma II. Its capital city was Tenochtitlán.



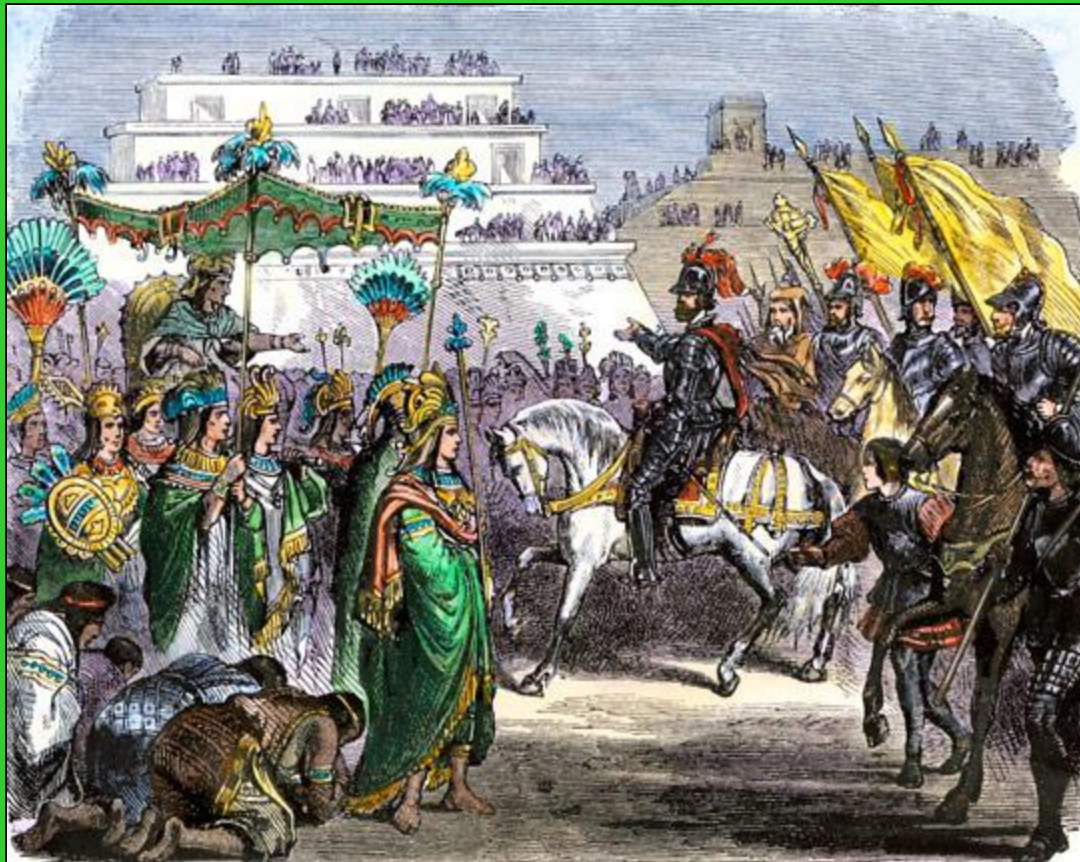
Watch “The Aztecs” video clip for an overview of the Aztec civilization [see resources to download]

At first, Montezuma thought Cortés was a god and welcomed the Spanish into the city of Tenochtitlán.





The Spanish brought horses, guns, and other weaponry with them which frightened the Aztecs.



The Spanish also brought the disease smallpox.



Since the Aztec people had never been exposed to the disease, thousands died as it spread throughout Mexico.

Montezuma soon realized that the Spanish were after gold and fighting began.



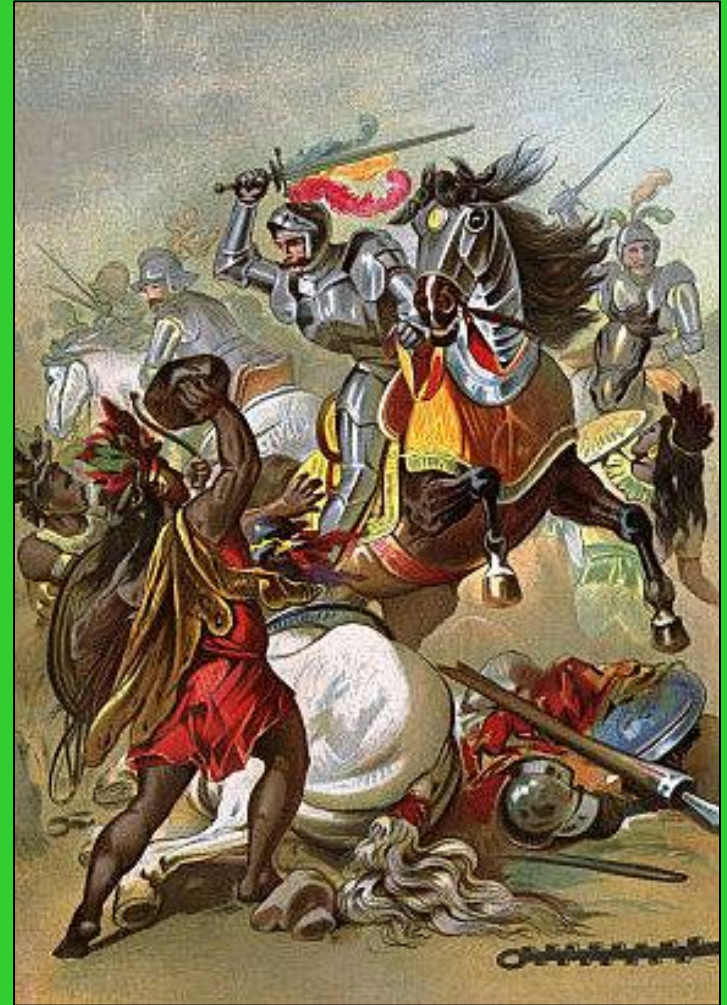
Montezuma was killed and Cortés eventually conquered the Aztecs with the help of other Native Americans who were enemies of the Aztecs.

The Spanish destroyed Tenochtitlán and in its place made Mexico City the new capital.



Turn to a seat partner and discuss the following: What do you think caused the downfall of the Aztecs?

The Spanish had advanced weapons which helped them defeat the Aztecs. Also, the Spanish persuaded enemies of the Aztecs to fight. In addition, many Aztecs died from smallpox.



# Aztec Videos

- <http://www.history.com/topics/aztecs> [2:26]
- <http://www.history.com/videos/the-aztecs#the-aztecs> [1:20]
- <http://www.history.com/topics/aztecs/videos/aztec-encounter> [2:00]
- <https://www.flocabulary.com/unit/conquistadors-and-slavery/lyric-notes/> (Must have Flocabulary account – Sign up instructions on [Schu6.weebly.com](http://Schu6.weebly.com))



# Incas

The Incas were indigenous (native) people who lived in South America.

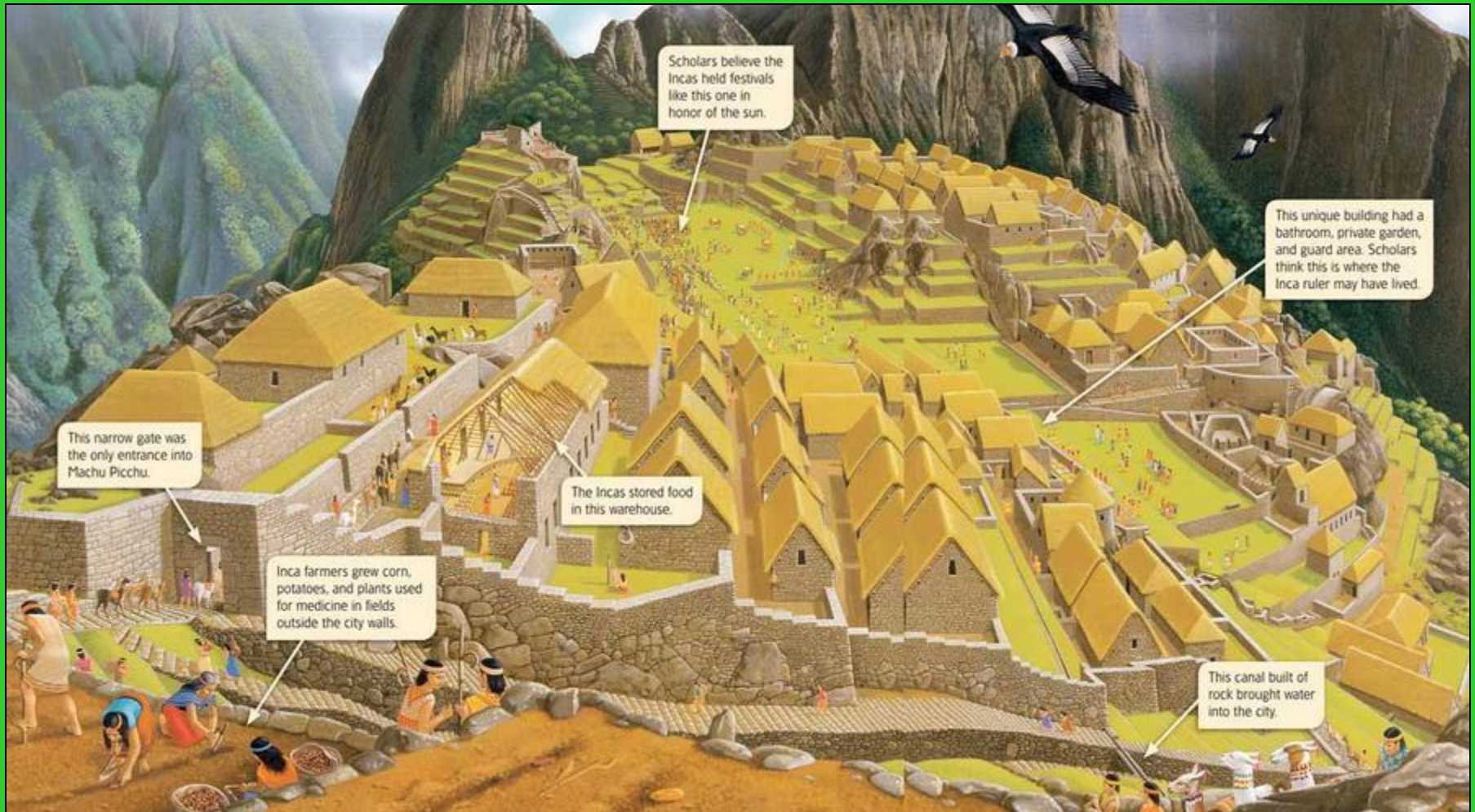


# Inca Empire





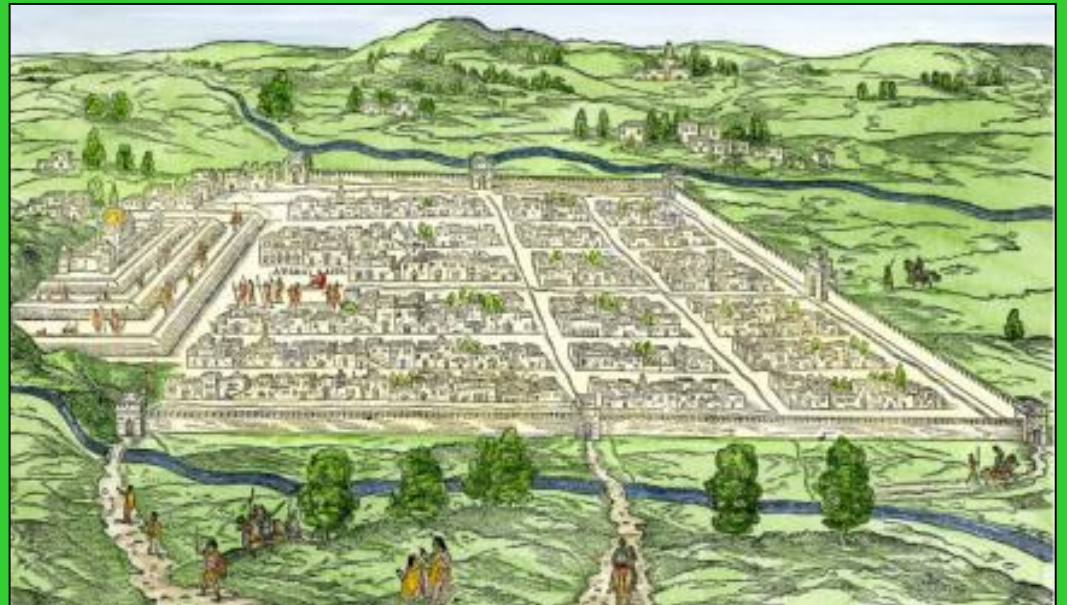
# Life as an Inca



# Life as an Inca



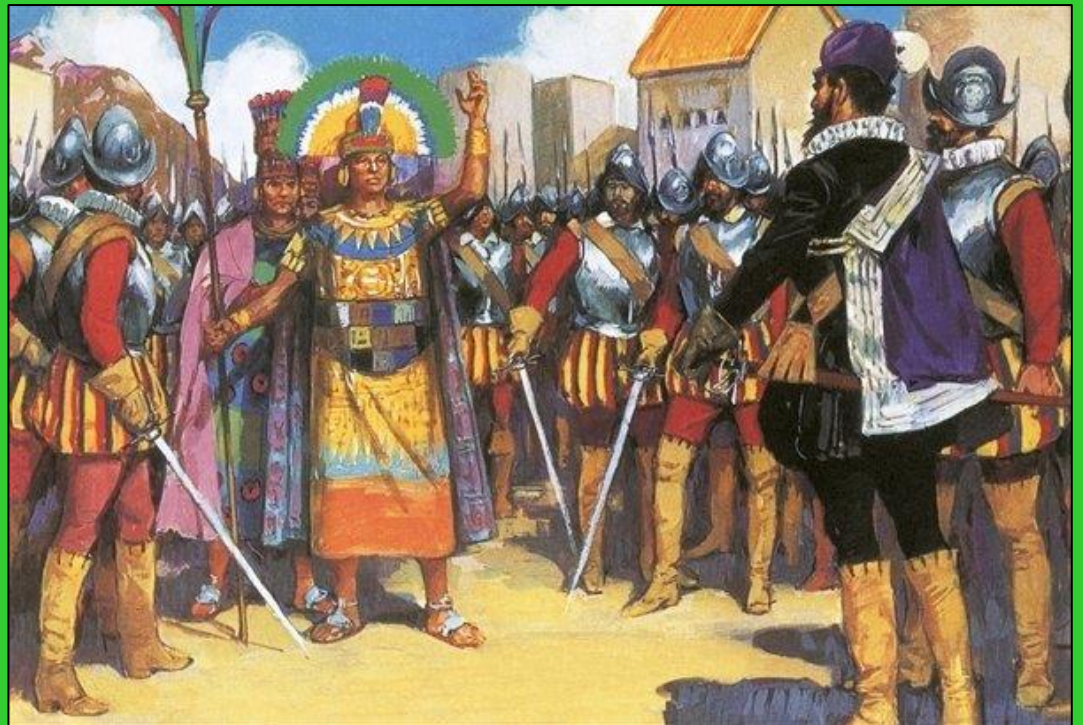
At this time, the Inca empire was great in size and number. Atahualpa was the Inca emperor. The capital city was Cuzco.



Around 1532, the Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro arrived in South America with about 180 men.



Aiming to conquer the land and sail home with gold and silver, Pizarro captured the Inca emperor Atahualpa.



Atahualpa offered Pizarro gold and silver for his release.



Pizarro agreed, but then changed his mind and killed Atahualpa.

After Atahualpa's death, Pizarro captured the Inca capital city and then moved to other Inca lands.



As in Mexico, the Inca army outnumbered the Spanish invaders. How were the Spanish able to overtake them?

Again, smallpox and weapons brought by the Spanish played an important role in Pizarro's conquest.

In addition, Pizarro convinced other tribes under Inca rule to join them in defeating the Inca Empire.



# Inca Videos

[select one of the videos below]

- <http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/other-shows/videos/assignment-discovery-incas/>
- <http://www.history.com/topics/machu-picchu>
- <https://www.flocabulary.com/unit/conquistadors-and-slavery/lyric-notes/> (Must have Flocabulary account – Sign up instructions on [Schu6.weebly.com](http://Schu6.weebly.com))