Mexico

History through Murals

Aztec Era 1345-152 1



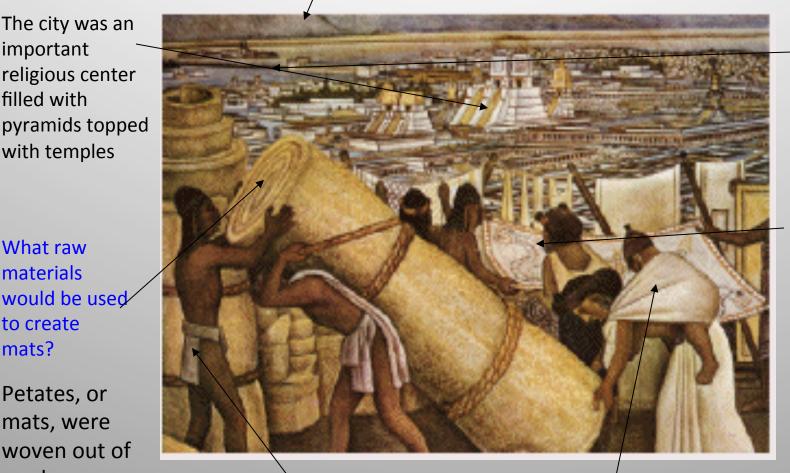
Aztecs called themselves Mexica

Mountains and lake provide natural defense of city

Tenochtitlan Marketplace by Diego Rivera

> 1345 Aztecs built Tenochtitlan at Lake Texcoco

Snake on cloth represents Quetzalcoatlgoddess of creation



What raw materials would be used to create mats?

The city was an

religious center

important

filled with

with temples

Petates, or mats, were woven out of reed

> Slave laborer is identified by simple loin cloth

Importance of family as mother carries child in rebozo

Moctezuma II 1502

Spanish Conquest & Colonialism 1521-1810



Spanish Conquest

Hernan Cortes 1519

Aztecs surrender 1521

Cortes is carrying an iron sword – resting on dismembered bodies of Aztec victim

Aztecs had no metal to match iron's strength

Small pox decimated
Aztecs

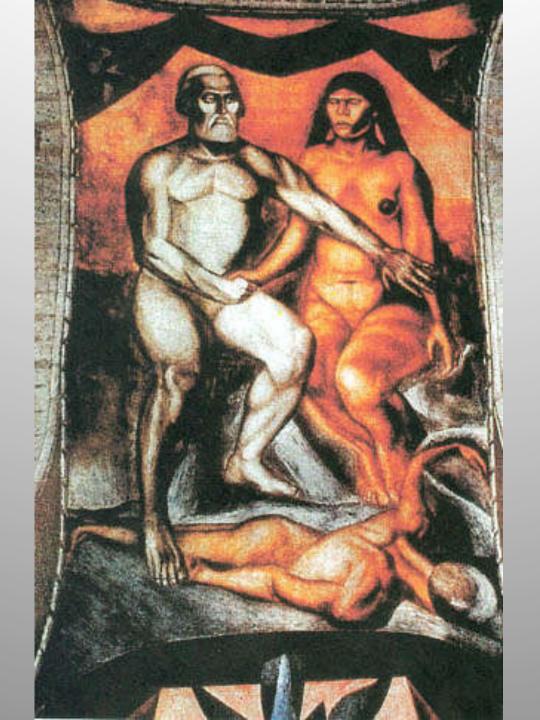


Winged angel shows partnership of Church and Cortes

Fire in background represents widespread destruction of Spanish soldiers and smallpox.

What is this?

Cortes is a machine... symbolic of European technology



Absorption of the Indian by Jose Orozco

White European,
Hernan Cortes, sits with
an Indian woman,
Malinche.

Symbolic of mixing of two groups to create mestizo people.

Mestizo make up majority of Mexicans today

Dead mestizo shows unhappiness and illtreatment of mestizo



Partnership

Yet, restraint – many Mexicans consider Mayan Malinche a traitor

Legend: Malinche was given to Cortes as a translator – later they produced a son



Cross, Spanish flag and sword represent colonization

Cuauhtemoc, last Aztec emperor, bowing to conquistadors

Conquistadores use branding iron to brand Indian slave

Rivera attempted to summarize 300 years

Colonial Domination by Diego Rivera



Bag of gold

Describe the European faces...

Euro faces drawn as animals

Brutal labor of gold mines

Yoked to plow

Huge land grants given to Spanish encomiendas

Total Indian population fell from 25 million to 1 million by 1700