**Aztec Notes: BrainPop Video**

Powerful Society

* Dominated Mexico from 1428-1521

Many Different Tribes

* All over Mesoamerica
* Each tribe had a unique culture
* All tribes spoke Nahuatl language

Independent City States

* Valley of Mexico
* 3 most powerful states formed the Triple Alliance in 1428
* Triple Alliance became the mighty Aztec empire

Mexicas

* The most powerful group
* Ruled from island city, Tenochtitlan
* Expanded empire from Pacific Ocean to Gulf of Mexico
* Conquered peoples could keep customs if they paid tributes

Highly Advanced Society

* Farmers, craftsmen
* Trade and commerce
* Art, poetry, song

Human Sacrifice

* Worshipped many gods
* Offered human lives to repay the gods and balance the universe
* Sacrifices happened 18 times per year
  + Most victims were prisoners of war

Hernan Cortes: Spanish Conquistador

* Led expedition in 1519
* Aztec leader, Moctezuma, believed that Cortes was a god
* Cortes formed alliances with enemy tribes and attacked Aztecs
* Spanish kicked out of Tenochtitlan at first
* Then, smallpox disease killed almost half of the Aztecs
* 1521: Cortes and allies destroyed the Aztec Empire
* Spanish eventually controlled all of Mesoamerica