

# Descriptive Text Organizer

Title:

Topic:

Important Details:

Important Details:

Important Details:

Main Idea:

Important Details:

Important Details:

Important Details:

Main Idea:

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Summary:

## Descriptive Texts

Descriptive texts are written to describe an object, person, place, event or idea.

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- Specific characteristics or features are described or explained (size, shape, location, color, etc.).
- Descriptive adjectives are used throughout the text.
- Details are provided to help the reader visualize the topic.
- Examples are often provided (for instance, such as, an example, to illustrate, to demonstrate).
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### Guiding Questions

- **Topic:** What specific topic, person, idea, or thing is being described or explained? (One-two words.)
- **Important Details:** How is the topic being described or explained? (What is it, what does it look like, what does it do, what happens, etc.)
- **Main Idea:** What features or characteristics are important to remember or understand about the topic being described? (One sentence or less.)
- **Summary:** What are the main ideas and important details that are necessary to include? How will you state them in your own words following the structure of the text? (As concisely as possible.)

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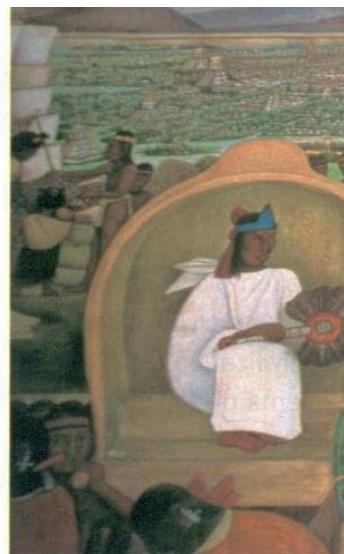
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## The Aztecs

In about 1200, people called the Aztecs began to migrate south from northern Mexico. According to legend, they were following the instructions of one of their gods, who told them to travel until they saw an eagle with a snake in its beak sitting on a cactus. There, he said, they should settle. When the Aztecs reached an island in Lake Texcoco, they at last saw what they had been searching for. Here, in the **Valley of Mexico**, they built **Tenochtitlan** (te noch tee TLAHN), meaning “near the cactus.” Today the eagle, cactus, and snake appear as the central symbols on

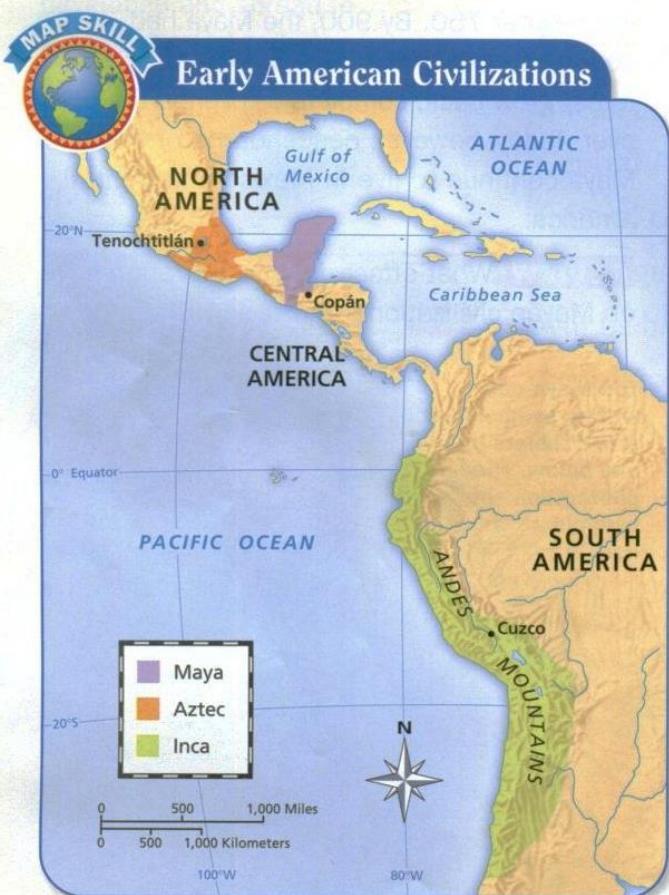
the flag of the country of Mexico.

Tenochtitlan grew into a great city. Causeways, or low bridges, linked Tenochtitlan to the land around the lake. As many as 300,000 people lived there, making it one of the largest cities in the world.



In order to have more land for farming, Tenochtitlan farmers created “floating gardens” around their island city. Farmers on other Aztec lands developed irrigation systems and created more farmland by carving terraces, or wide, flattened steps, into hillsides.

From Tenochtitlan, the Aztecs sent out armies to conquer other peoples in the Valley of Mexico. Soon they had created an empire that stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. An **empire** is a group of lands and peoples ruled by one leader.



► The Aztecs, Maya, and Inca were three powerful early cultures in the Americas.

**MAP SKILL** Place Which mountain range was located in the Incan homeland?