

**7.66 Create a graphic organizer or concept map explaining how and where each empire arose (how the Aztec and Incan empires were eventually defeated by the Spanish in the 16th century)**

# Aztec

- Greatest empire of Central America
- Warlike empire-builders
  - Nomadic warriors
  - Took over land and created alliances
  - Power from military conquests
  - Let local rulers govern as long as they paid tribute

# Aztec

- Major city: Tenochtitlan built on Lake Texcoco (modern day Mexico City)
  - In 1500s, larger than London or any other European city
  - Planned city with wide streets and avenues
  - Economic center of empire
  - Goods from empire traded at the market
  - Used Cacao beans for currency



1. de Groot fonteyn  
op den  
Oude Eker,  
en Audepoort.

Quaer  
Lindich,  
Lindichpoort

Quaer  
Lindich,  
Lindichpoort

an de  
kant  
van de  
poort

# Aztec

- Downfall of Aztecs came at the hands of Hernando Cortes from Spain
  - Cortes was known as a conquistador (Spanish for conqueror)
  - Left Spain in 1519 looking for riches of the new world

# Aztec

- Aztec leader, Montezuma, believed Cortes may have been the return of a god
  - They had never seen white men before
  - Cortes and troops came with armor, cannons, and large ships
- How did Cortes win?
  - Guns
  - Diseases not known to Aztecs: smallpox



# Inca

- Kingdom expanded from small valley to large empire through conquest and diplomacy
- Unified government policies across empire
  - Language (no written language)
  - Schools
  - Political calendar
  - Records kept by system of strings and knots
  - Even had a ‘postal service’



# Inca

- Capital city of Cuzco
- Major builders
  - Roads, bridges, terrace farming
  - No iron tools; no WHEEL!
  - Fitted building blocks together without mortar
  - Buildings lasted even through centuries of earthquakes





# Inca

- Inca defeat came at the hands of Francisco Pizarro
  - Born in Spain
  - Traveled to Panama in 1502
  - 1530 heard about vast empire in South America that had enormous amounts of gold

# Inca

- Inca Empire in 1530s was HUGE
- Pizarro was able to defeat a 80,000 man army with 160 men
  - Plan: capture Inca leader with only close bodyguards, make him sign over gold and silver
  - Works!! (after Pizarro kills leader)
- Pizarro becomes governor of Peru and opens South America up for Spanish rule

