

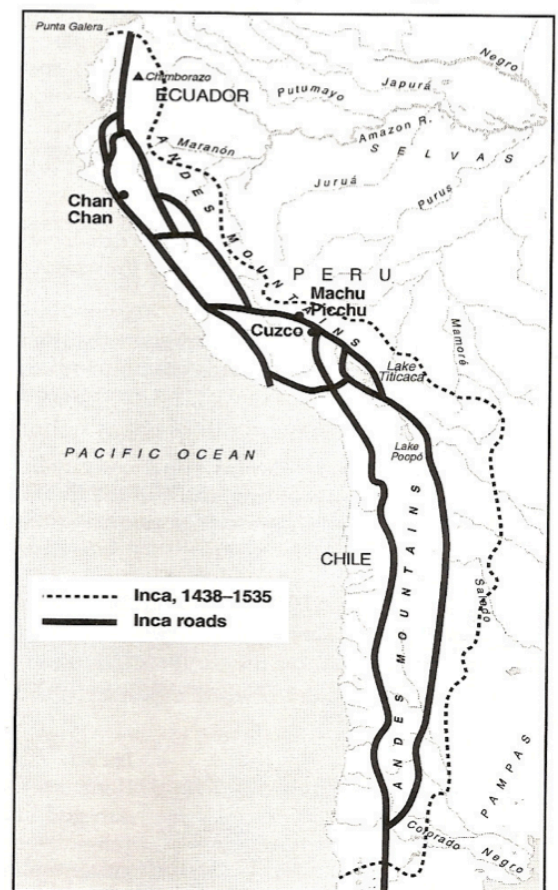
Document 1: This description of farming in the Incan empire in 1539 was provided by Garciasco de la Vega, a son of an Incan princess and a Spanish explorer.

As soon as the Incan ruler had conquered any kingdom and set up his government, he ordered that the farmland used to grow corn be extended. For this purpose, he ordered irrigation channels to be constructed. The engineers showed great cleverness and skill in supply water for the crops, since only scattered sections of the land could grow corn. For this reason, they endeavored to increase its fertility as much as possible.

- Q. Is this source a reliable description of the engineering methods of the Inca?
- Q. How does this source demonstrate human/environment interaction?

Document 2: This map shows the Incan Empire in 1565, and the photos relate to the subject of the map.

- Q. How did the Incan government unite its empire in the Andes mountains?
- Q. How do these sources demonstrate human/environment interaction?



Document 3: The following is an excerpt from the article Farming Like the Incas, in Smithsonian Magazine, September 7, 2011.

In the 1600s, Garcilaso de la Vega, the child of a conquistador father and an Incan noblewoman, described the Incan terracing system in *The Royal Commentaries of the Incas*: “In this way the whole hill was gradually brought under cultivation, the platforms being flattened out like stairs in a staircase, and all the land being put to use.”



The terraces leveled the planting area, but they also had several unexpected advantages, Kendall discovered. The stone retaining walls heat up during the day and slowly release that heat to the soil as temperatures plunge at night, keeping sensitive plant roots warm during the sometimes frosty nights and expanding the growing season. And the terraces are extremely efficient at conserving scarce water from rain or irrigation canals, says Kendall. “We’ve excavated terraces, for example, six months after they’ve been irrigated, and they’re still damp inside. So if you have drought, they’re the best possible mechanism.”

- Q. Why did the environment the Inca lived in require the building of terraces for farming?
- Q. What are the specific advantages of terraces?
- Q. How does this article demonstrate human/environment interaction?

Document 4: The images below show the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan.



In 1519, the Aztec capital had an estimated population of 300,000, five times the size of London.



Artist's reconstruction of Spanish Conquistadores entering Tenochtitlan in 1519 across the main causeway.



Artists reconstruction of the Great Temple and Ceremonial precinct of Tenochtitlan.

Q. Describe the environment in which Tehnochtitlan stood.

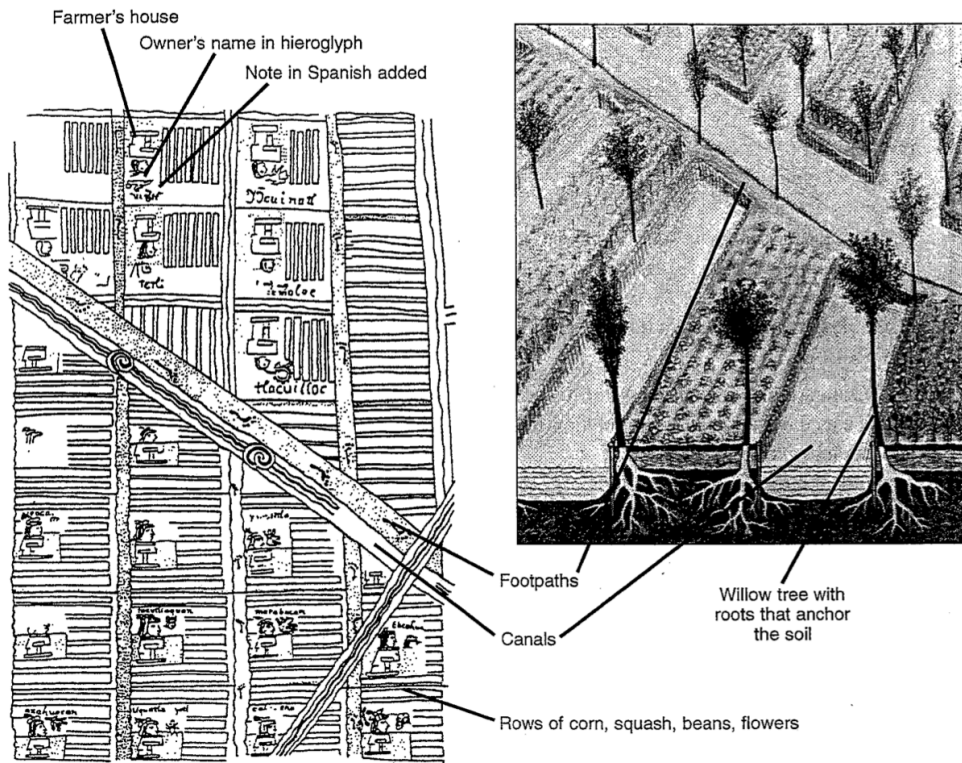
Q. Use the images to describe and define, in your own words, a causeway.

Q. How can these sources be used to support the argument that the Aztecs produced a highly advanced society?

Document 5:

Source: *Matricula de Tributos*, circa 1542, Museo Antropologia in Mexico City, Warwick Bray, *Everyday Life of the Ancient Aztecs*, London, B.T. Batsford, 1968, in David Carrasco and Scott Sessions, *Daily Life of the Aztecs: People of the Sun and Earth*, Westport: Greenwood Press, 1998.

Chinampas Agriculture



Source: Peter N. Stearns et al., *World Civilizations: The Global Experience*, Third Edition, New York: Addison Wesley Educational Publishers, 2001.

In and around Lake Texcoco, the Aztecs developed an ingenious system for irrigating agriculture called chinampas. These were floating islands approximately seventeen feet long and one hundred to three hundred thirty feet wide that rested in reed frames that were anchored to the bottom of the lake. Willow trees were planted at intervals to provide shade. Approximately twenty thousand acres of chinampas were constructed and the yield from them was high: four corn crops per year were possible.

- Q. Why were chinampas necessary given the environment of Aztec capital city?
- Q. How are they similar to the terraces of the Inca?
- Q. How do these sources demonstrate human/environment interaction?