

**ORAL QUIZ ON AZTECS AND INCAS**

In order to cover both the Aztecs and Incas, we have included more questions than usual in this quiz, and some of the questions are more involved than is generally the case. We suggest that you choose the number of questions and level of detail appropriate for your student. NOTE: Many of the names and places in this week's study may be difficult for young students (and adults too!) to pronounce, so feel free to prompt them as needed. Having an atlas at hand may also be useful.

**Aztecs**

1. Describe the type of people the Aztecs were before they settled down.  
*The Aztecs were a wandering, warlike, bronze-skinned people.*
2. What is important about Tenochtitlan, and where was it located?  
*After the Aztecs moved into central Mexico, they established Tenochtitlan as their capital. It was built on a group of tiny islands located at the edge of Lake Texcoco, where Mexico City is now located.*
3. Did the Aztecs believe in one god or many gods?  
*The Aztecs were polytheistic; they believed in many gods.*
4. Did the Aztecs live peaceful lives?  
*No, the Aztecs were constantly at war with neighboring tribes.*
5. In 1519, Spaniards came to Mexico in search of gold and land. Who commanded the Spanish troops? Who was the Aztec leader, and how did the Aztecs respond to the Spanish arrival?  
*Hernando Cortes was the Spanish commander. Montezuma was the Aztec king. The Aztecs were terrified of the Spaniards. They had never before seen such strange, light-skinned men, who carried guns and had horses. Thinking Cortes was an Aztec god, Montezuma sent gifts and invited Cortes and his men to visit Tenochtitlan.*
6. What eventually happened between the Aztecs and the Spaniards? Why do you think this story is called, "The Sad Night"?  
*The Aztec king Montezuma was taken prisoner by the Spaniards. One night, fighting broke out between the Aztecs and the Spaniards. Montezuma was killed in the bloody conflict. Cortes and his men fled, and the Aztecs prevailed for a short time. A year later, in 1521, Cortes and a small army returned to the Aztec capital and completely conquered the Aztecs. Spaniards called this story "The Sad Night" because of Spain's horrible loss of lives, horses, and gold in the bloody conflict with the Aztecs. While this was true, the Aztecs also lost many lives and would eventually be brutally conquered by the returning Spaniards.*

**Incas**

7. Where did the Inca people live?  
*The Incas initially lived in a mountainous area around the city of Cuzco, in South America. After conquering the Chimu tribes, their civilization stretched further south along most of the Pacific coast of South America.*
8. Who was Pachacuti?  
*Pachacuti was a powerful ruler of the Incas in the early 1400's.*
9. How did the different parts of the Inca Empire stay connected to each other, since the empire was so large?  
*The Incas built a network of roads and bridges that connected the different regions of the Empire together, enabling farmers, traders, messengers and soldiers to travel.*
10. How did the Inca Empire end?  
*In 1532, Francisco Pizarro from Spain led a band of soldiers called conquistadores who captured and killed the Inca emperor. The Incas were devastated by this, and within a few years the entire civilization collapsed.*

1. DESCRIBE THE AZTEC PEOPLE BEFORE THEY SETTLED DOWN.

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT TENOCHTITLAN, AND WHERE WAS IT LOCATED?

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. DID THE AZTECS BELIEVE IN ONE GOD OR MANY?

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

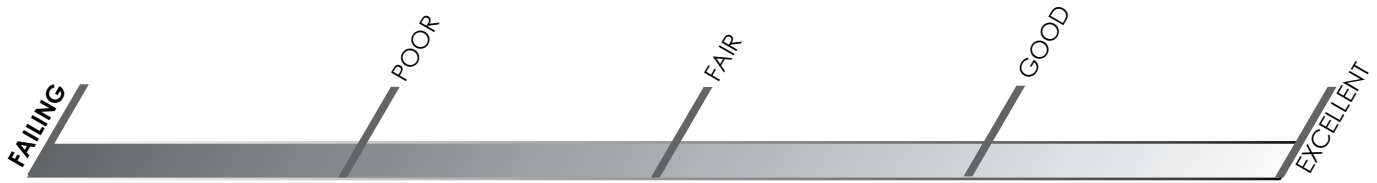
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

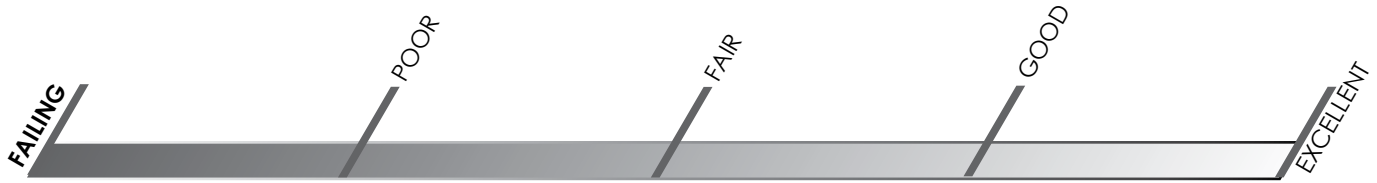
\_\_\_\_\_

4. DID THE AZTECS LIVE PEACEFUL LIVES?



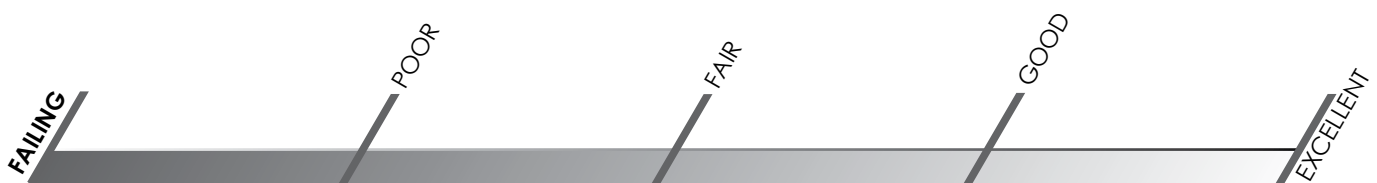
COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. WHO LED THE SPANISH? WHO LED THE AZTECS, AND HOW DID THEY RESPOND TO THE SPANISH?



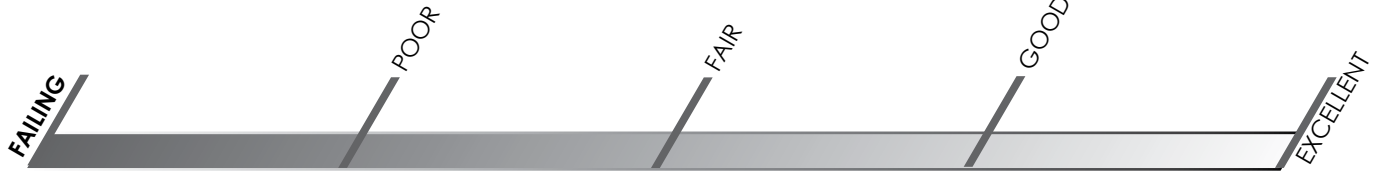
COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

6. WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE AZTECS AND SPANISH? WHY IS IT CALLED "THE SAD NIGHT"?



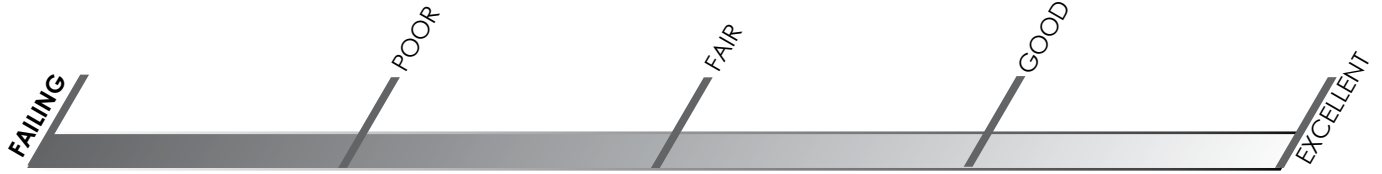
COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. WHERE DID THE INCA PEOPLE LIVE? \_\_\_\_\_



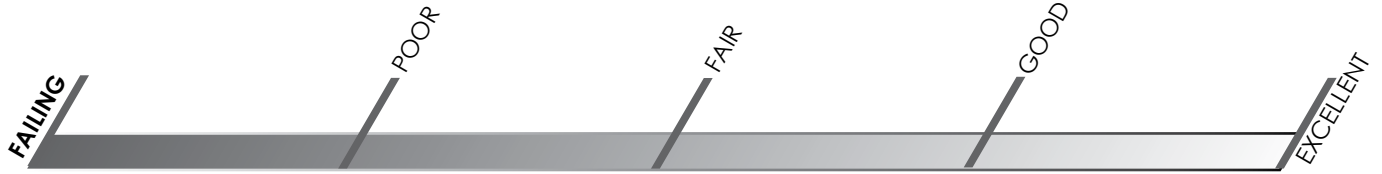
COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. WHO WAS PACHACUTI? \_\_\_\_\_



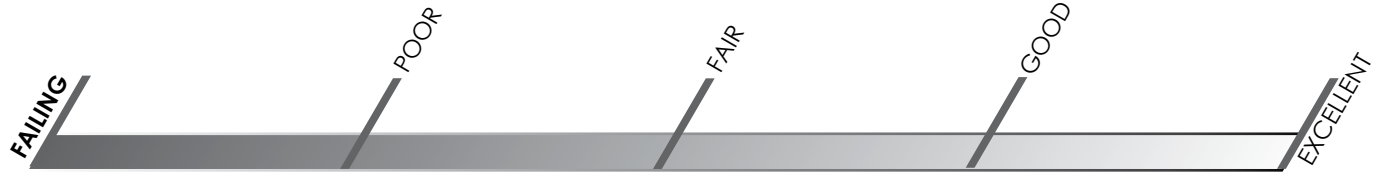
COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. HOW DID THE LARGE INCA EMPIRE STAY CONNECTED? \_\_\_\_\_



COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. HOW DID THE INCA EMPIRE END?



COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_