

Chapter 20: The Americas and Oceania Reading Questions

Eyewitness – p. 415

1. What aspects of Tenochtitlan impressed Bernal Díaz del Castillo the most?
2. “Although the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Europe interacted regularly before modern times, the indigenous peoples of the Americas had only _____ with their contemporaries across the oceans.”

States and Empires in Mesoamerica and North America – p. 416

3. What empire occupied what is now central Mexico before the Mexica?
4. Why had the Mexica been forced to migrate?
5. What was the name of the Mexica capital?
6. Chinampa was the Mexican system of agriculture. What was the chinampa system of agriculture?
7. Once the Mexica began expanding, their empire was called . . .
8. How did the Mexica rule conquered peoples?

Mexica Society – p. 419

9. Who was at the top of the Mexica social scale? List at least three groups that were honored in Mexican society.

Mexica Religion – p. 421

10. Why did the Mexica have to offer blood to their gods?
11. How did the Mexica view human sacrifice?

Peoples & Societies of the North – p. 422

12. Why did the indigenous peoples of North America build small-scale societies?
13. Some peoples of North America became agriculturalists and built larger societal structures. Name two of these agricultural societies.
14. What evidence do we have that the ancient North Americans traded with each other?

States and Empires in South America – p. 423

15. At first, Incan rulers just lived peacefully around their neighbors.
What Incan king started conquering?
16. How did the Inca retain order among conquered peoples?
17. Describe the way quipu was used.
18. Describe Inca roads and explain how they were used.

Inca Society & Religion – p. 426

19. Why did the Inca state lack a skilled artisan class?
20. Incans interacted with their deceased kings. What did they do?
21. How did the Incans describe sin? What was the punishment for sin?

The Societies of Oceania – p. 427

22. True or false: The native Australians, like the people of New Guinea, became agriculturalists.
23. Describe the indigenous Australian religion.

The Development of Pacific Island Societies – p. 429

24. What was the last large, habitable region of the earth to receive members of the human species?
25. Interisland trade of _____ helped the Maori of New Zealand survive.
26. Describe the Hawaiian fish pond system.
27. Some Polynesian societies developed into chiefdoms – but there was no Polynesian empire. Why not?