

## Chapter 7 Summary

**Big Question:**  
How do a group's  
collective beliefs  
and experiences  
contribute to the  
shaping of a  
unique identity?

### Aztec Traditions

- The Aztecs wandered for many years looking for a new home.
- They stopped when they saw an omen (eagle/cactus).
- They built a great city in that place.
- They believed Tenochtitlan was the centre of the world.
- They believed that a person's most important duties were to the society as a whole.

### Aztec Religion

- The gods controlled all aspects of life.
- There were two landscapes; physical and sacred.
- Mountains were sacred and powerful.
- Human sacrifices had to be made to the gods or they would die.
- Cities were designed to reflect religious beliefs.

### Technology

- The Aztecs made aqueducts to ensure a supply of fresh water.
- They built chinampas to increase the amount of food they grew.
- They created codices to keep records of their society.
- They had a vast knowledge of math and science.

### Aztec Trade

- The Aztecs traded for goods they could not produce themselves.
- They formed alliances with some cultures.
- They formed defensive alliances with other cultures.
- Merchants drew maps for use by the Aztec army.

### Aztec Warfare

- The Aztecs expanded their territory through war.
- They believed they had the right to rule everyone.
- People they conquered had to pay tribute.
- Tribute was paid in gifts and taxes.
- Being a warrior was an important and respected job.