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Farming

- Mostly farmed
- Corn was the most important crop
- Used chinampas (floating gardens) to farm 
- Extra corn was used as a tribute (tax) to the emperor
- Farmers also worked on construction projects
- Required to fight in wars



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Trade

- Used a bartered system
- Traded crops for building materials
- Without trade the empire would not have flourished
- Markets were held every 5 days
- Sold food, weapons, clothing
- Some merchants traveled to trade textiles, clothing, knives
- Merchants were very wealthy but trade was dangerous



Delivery

- Did not have carts, wheels, or animals for carrying things
- Used a backpack (trumpline)
- Placed on the back and secured to the forehead 



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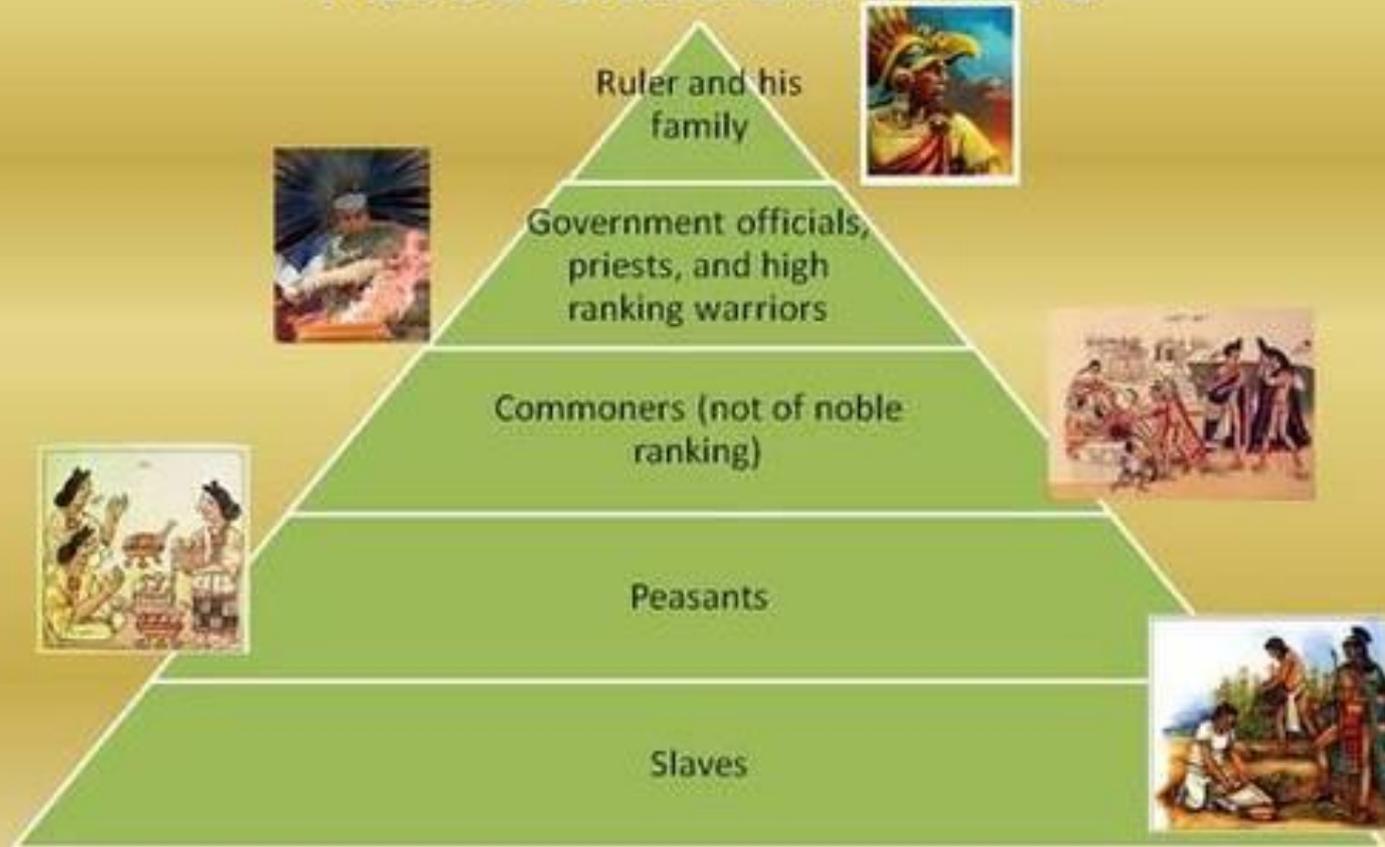
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Money

- Did not use regular money like we do today
- Instead used cocoa beans as a means of currency
- They were very valuable & difficult to grow
- Easy to carry & exchange



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Ruler

- Highest authority
- Called tlatoani, or “he who speaks
- Ruled the state
- Decided when and with whom to go to war
- Considered semi-divine
- Dynasty – passed down to family



Officials, Military, Priests

- 2nd in command
- Officials - oversaw the gov't, gathered taxes, supplies, and labor for construction projects, appointed for life
- Priests - maintain favor with the gods, led rituals, offered sacrifices, and foretold the future, ran schools, girls were able to join 
- Military - Commoners could become military leaders, all men were trained to be soldiers, military leaders commanded groups of soldiers and took part in war councils.



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Commoners

- 3rd in command
- Traders - traveled by sea, river, and well-constructed roads to trade with other city-states: looked for exotic goods, some served as spies for the emperor
- Artisans- potters, jewelers, and painters; worked in their homes and traded their goods at the market; others worked in the palace and made items especially for the emperor 
- Farmers, fishers, laborers, and servants; paid tribute to the nobility in the form of crops, labor, or manufactured goods.



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Peasants

- 4th in command
- 30% of society
- People in this class were free
- Considered inferior to commoners
- They hired out their services to nobles



Slaves

- Bottom
- Included prisoners of war, lawbreakers, or debtors
- Had a number of rights. They could own property, goods, and even other slaves
- Did not pass their status on to their children 
- Many slaves could be emancipated (become free) after working off a debt, upon completing their term of punishment for a crime, or when their masters died.



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