

States of Power

Compare Maya city-states with the Aztec Empire.

5.2c "Political states can take different forms, such as city-states and empires. A city-state is comprised of a city with a government that controls the surrounding territory, while an empire is a political organization developed when a single..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details showing what land Maya rulers controlled, and circle details showing how Aztec rule reached beyond its first settlement.

Two Ways to Rule

- ① Imagine traveling through the Maya world around 800 C.E. Instead of one ruler governing all Maya people, many Maya city-states stood in forests and lowlands. Each city-state had its own king, government, and nearby farmland and villages. Cities such as Tikal and Palenque were powerful at different times. Maya rulers often competed, traded, or fought with neighboring city-states.
- ② Farther north, the Mexica, often called Aztecs, built their capital, Tenochtitlan, on an island in Lake Texcoco. During the 1400s, their rulers helped create an empire. An empire grows when one supreme authority conquers lands and peoples beyond its first settlement. The Aztecs demanded tribute, or payments of goods, from many conquered communities. Those communities included different cultures and places.
- ③ Both forms of government controlled land, but they worked differently. A Maya king ruled one city and its surrounding territory, while Aztec rulers directed a larger empire of conquered regions. To hold their people together, Maya rulers built temples and led religious ceremonies in their cities. Aztec rulers used military power, tribute demands, and religious ceremonies to support their rule across many communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What evidence from the passage shows that Maya political states were city-states?

2 How did the Aztec political state meet the definition of an empire?

3 Compare the territory controlled by a Maya king with the territory controlled by Aztec rulers.

4 Describe one way Maya rulers and Aztec rulers each tried to hold people together.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent two political states. In exactly two sentences, describe one city-state and one empire, including how each government controls land and how the empire tries to unite its people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details showing what land Maya rulers controlled, and circle details showing how Aztec rule reached beyond its first settlement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What evidence from the passage shows that Maya political states were city-states?	Each Maya city-state had its own king and government and controlled a city, nearby farmland, and villages.
2	How did the Aztec political state meet the definition of an empire?	Aztec rulers conquered lands and peoples beyond their first settlement and ruled many conquered communities.
3	Compare the territory controlled by a Maya king with the territory controlled by Aztec rulers.	A Maya king ruled one city and its surrounding territory. Aztec rulers directed a larger area made up of conquered regions and communities.
4	Describe one way Maya rulers and Aztec rulers each tried to hold people together.	Maya rulers built temples and led religious ceremonies in their cities. Aztec rulers used military power, tribute demands, and religious ceremonies to support rule across many communities.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rivergate is a city-state because its council governs the city, nearby farms, and two villages. Hilloran is an empire because one emperor conquered three distant regions and uses shared laws to unite the people.

Accept original examples if the city-state includes a city government controlling nearby territory and the empire includes one authority conquering beyond its first settlement. The empire description should include a reasonable method of unifying or controlling people.