

**Challenge, Choice, Changes: Tenochtitlan**

CCSSR3—analyze relationships, then infer (CCSSR1).

People in every community need food. When Tenochtitlan was a small village, each family got its own food, and everyone in the family worked to hunt or gather food to work. Then, as has happened throughout history, more and more people lived in the community, which became more settled and required a steady food supply. As in other communities, the Aztecs who lived in Tenochtitlan began to farm. Soon, though, they even ran out of farm land. So they developed a new kind of agricultural technique.

To add farm land, the Aztecs built floating gardens in the water of the lake they lived near. These gardens were created inside huge baskets. The Aztecs floated the baskets on the water and then filled them with soil from the bottom of the lake. They planted their crops in the soil in the baskets. At first the baskets were tied to each other and the land and were not anchored. Then the roots of the plants grew down to the lake bottom. The roots held the baskets firmly in place, and eventually created a kind of landfill. The Aztecs grew crops all year in the floating gardens. Today, you can see the location of these floating gardens in a place within Mexico City.

Underline the words that state the challenge.

Put a checkmark next to the sentence that tells the choice.

Draw a picture that shows the change.

<i>Before</i>	<i>After</i>

*What value does the choice show was important to the people who made that choice?*

---

*Write about this history as if you were there.*

✓ *Who are you?*

✓ *What's important to you?*

✓ *What do you think about this choice and the changes it led to? ✓ Why?*