



## Landfill!

Here is the history of landfill in ancient Mexico. Chicago people have used landfill to change the city. If you go to the lakefront and stop in Grant Park, you are standing on landfill. After the great fire in Chicago, city leaders decided to solve the problem of too much trash left after the fire. They put it into the front of the city—in the lake. Then they turned that land into a park. As you read this history, think about how the situations were alike and how they were different.

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 farmland. So they developed a new kind of farming.

To add farmland, 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.

Draw pictures to show this situation. (*Good readers visualize what they read.*)

Caption

### Think BIG CCSSR2 Identify main ideas

Which of these concepts does this reading help you understand? There is more than one possible answer—check any concepts that this history shows. 1. \_\_choice 2. \_\_challenge 3. \_\_change Yes, it's all three. Put the number of the concept next to the paragraphs that tell information that support that concept.

Now, think of one BIG idea that this history explains. Write it as the caption to your drawing.