

How did people solve a problem?

Common Core Anchor Reading Standard 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

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 more and more people lived in the community, which became more settled. All the people required a steady food supply. The Aztecs who lived in Tenochtitlan began to farm. Soon, though, they needed more farmland. So they developed a new kind of agricultural technique.

To add farmland, the Aztecs built floating gardens in the water of the lake they lived near. These gardens were created inside huge baskets. Women helped to make them. Men used boats to take them on the lake. 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 climate was warm. The Aztecs grew crops all year in the floating gardens. Children helped to gather the food. Today, you can see the location of these floating gardens in a place within Mexico City.

