- AIM: Who were the Aztecs?

1. Explain what is happening in this picture. Be specific.
2. What occupation does the figure on the right have? Give proof for answer.
3. What skills did the Aztecs have? Be specific.
4. What does the picture tell you about the Aztec society? Be specific.

"Measuring a Civilization"

System found in a civilized society	Proof that the Aztecs had it
a FARMING	a
b GOVERNMENT	b
c CITIES	c
d TRADE	d
e ART FORMS/ARCHITECTURE	e
f RELIGION	f

Date: _____

"Measuring a Civilization" (1200's-1500's A.D.)

System found in a civilized society		Proof that the Aztecs had it
a	FARMING	a - grew corn, beans, squash - Floating gardens (Chinampas) - large population needed a food supply to support itself
b	GOVERNMENT	b - run by a king - Empire; people conquered through war + battles - militaristic society - governors/local officials appointed
c	CITIES . Social classes	c - Tenochtitlan - beautiful city ↳ pyramids, temples ↳ 600,000 people ↳ 200's, parks ↳ island that connected to the mainland by canals + roads (causeways)
d	TRADE	d - crops - obsidian - volcanic rock used to make weapons and jewelry - used roads + canals to trade - exchanged ideas + religious beliefs
e	ART FORMS/ARCHITECTURE	e - built pyramids + temples - religious ceremony + rituals - statues - detailed clothing
f	RELIGION	f - human sacrifices for sun-god - polytheistic - Quetzalcoatl - Aztec believed they were waiting for a light skinned god (Cortes - led to Aztec collapse)

The Aztecs:

- Where: Central Mexico Tenochtitlan/Mexico City
- Peak Period: 1200-1519

Major Achievements:

- Cities and pyramids (Largest city was Tenochtitlan)
- Accurate calendar
- Herbs and medicine for illness
- Set broken bones and treated cavities
- Educated children

Aztec Government

- One powerful ruler
- Conquered surrounding groups to expand their territory
- Kept many captives as slaves and sacrificed many to their Gods
- Engaged in cannibalism
- Many enemies—later enemies would join with the Spanish to defeat the Aztecs

Religion

- Polytheistic
- Major God: Quetzocoatl—Light skinned and bearded (human form)
- Sun God: Huitzilopochtli (wit-zee-li-poch-li)