Know the News: Invasion of Tenochtitlan

Read the article on pages 22-26, then answer the questions.

1. Which is a central idea of the article?
   A. The Aztec people built a great civilization before the Spanish invader Hernando Cortés conquered its capital.
   B. Mesoamerica is a historical region that included Mexico and much of Central America.
   C. Historians aren’t sure how the Aztec emperor Montezuma died.
   D. About 200,000 people lived in Tenochtitlan.

2. Why did the governor of Cuba order Cortés to stop gathering men and supplies?
   A. The governor did not want Cortés to explore the land to the west.
   B. The governor worried that Cortés wanted to set up his own colony.
   C. The governor wanted Cortés to return to Spain.
   D. The governor disagreed with enslaving indigenous people.

3. When did Montezuma become emperor?
   A. 1325
   B. 1492
   C. 1502
   D. 1810

4. According to the article, the people of which city helped Cortés conquer Tenochtitlan?
   A. Dolores
   B. Mexico City
   C. Tlaxcala
   D. Veracruz

5. What does resentment mean in this sentence?
   “Yet resentment toward the empire was building.”
   A. anger
   B. exploration
   C. kindness
   D. support

6. According to the article, why did some other indigenous peoples dislike the Aztec Empire?
   A. Montezuma welcomed Spanish men as guests.
   B. The Aztecs had advanced farming methods.
   C. Montezuma made conquered territories give him enslaved workers.
   D. Spain had claimed the island Hispaniola.

7. Which best describes how many historians believe Montezuma probably died?
   A. He died trying to escape from Tenochtitlan.
   B. When Cortés returned to Tenochtitlan, he killed Montezuma.
   C. He was sacrificed at a religious festival.
   D. A Spanish captain killed him.

8. Which was not a reason Cortés was able to conquer Tenochtitlan?
   A. Smallpox had killed up to half the city’s people.
   B. Montezuma wanted the Aztec Empire to be part of New Spain.
   C. Cortés rebuilt his army with tens of thousands of indigenous warriors.
   D. Swords and guns gave him an advantage.

9. Which statement does the map on page 26 support?
   A. Cortés sailed through the Pacific Ocean.
   B. Tlaxcala was part of the Aztec Empire.
   C. The Aztec capital was in South America.
   D. Lake Texcoco surrounded Tenochtitlan.

10. How does the modern-day discovery of the gold bar at the end of the article add to the story?
    A. It draws the reader back to the beginning of the story when the invaders tried to escape.
    B. It shows how mighty the Aztec Empire was.
    C. It proves that Cortés really existed.
    D. It illustrates how gold objects like rings were melted down into bars.