**Primary Document: Bernal Diaz del Castillo on Aztec Markets/Trading** (excerpted)

*Background: This is an eyewitness account of the market of Tlatelolco, as recorded by Bernal Díaz del Castillo, in The Conquest of New Spain (circa 1568). Diaz was a Spanish conquistador.*

On reaching the market-place... we were astounded at the great number of people and the quantities of merchandise, and at the orderliness and good arrangements that prevailed, for we had never seen such a thing before. The chieftains who accompanied us pointed everything out. Every kind of merchandise was kept separate and had a fixed place marked for it.

Let us begin with the dealers in gold, silver, and precious stones, feathers, cloaks, and embroidered goods, and male and female slaves who are also sold there.

Next there were those who sold coarser cloth, and cotton goods and fabrics made of twisted thread, and there were chocolate merchants with their chocolate. In this way you could see every kind of merchandise to be found anywhere in New Spain (Latin America), laid out in the same way as goods are laid out in my own district of Medina del Campo, a centre for fairs, where each line of stalls has its own particular sort. So it was in this great market. There were those who would sisal cloth and ropes and the sandals they wear on their feet, which are made from the same plant. All these were kept in one part of the market, in the place assigned to them, and in another part were skins of jaguars and lions, otters, jackals, and deer, badgers, mountain cats, and other wild animals, some untanned, and other classes of merchandise.

There were sellers of kidney-beans and sage and other vegetables and herbs in another place, and in yet another they were selling fowls, and birds with great dewlaps (turkeys), also rabbits, hares, deer, young ducks, little dogs, and other such creatures. Then there were the fruiterers; and the women who sold cooked food, flour and honey cake, and tripe, had their part of the market. Then came pottery of all kinds, from big water-jars to little jugs, displayed in its own place, also honey, honey-paste, and other sweets like nougat. Elsewhere they sold timber too, boards, cradles, beams, blocks, and benches, all in a quarter of their own.

They have a building there also in which three judges sit, and there are officials like constables who examine the merchandise.

They sell axes too, made of bronze and copper and tin, and gourds and brightly painted wooden jars.

**Source:** <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKEwi51cH1pPrKAhUMk4MKHSi_ALwQFggbMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww2.palomar.edu%2Fusers%2Fmestes%2FHistory-106%2F04%2520Bernal%2520D%25C3%25ADaz%2520del%2520Castillo%2C%2520The%2520True%2520History%2520of%2520the%2520Conquest%2520of%2520New%2520Spain.doc&usg=AFQjCNHTuv7ho9gidTBPNVWBxTEWfRQT9Q&bvm=bv.114195076,d.amc>

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**Primary Document Analysis: Bernal Diaz del Castillo**

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| **1.1 - Circle the statement which best describes Castillo’s observations about the Aztec market. (2 points)**1. Many goods were available at the Aztec market (2)
2. Few people attended the Aztec markets (0)
3. Slavery was an important part of Aztec labor (1)
 | **1.2 - Circle the *best* piece of text evidence that supports your answer to 1.1. (2 points)**1. “male and female slaves who are also sold there”
2. “They have a building there also in which three judges sit”
3. “we were astounded at the great number of people and the quantities of merchandise”
4. “you could see every kind of merchandise to be found anywhere in New Spain”
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2.) **Aztec markets were well organized.** Underline two pieces of evidence in the document that support this statement. Explain how your reasoning for both (a) and (b) support the statement “Aztec markets were well organized” in the corresponding space below.

a)

 b)