

Account of Bernal Diaz

*The Bernal Diaz Chronicles, trans. and ed. Albert Idell (New Jersey, Doubleday and Company, 1957).*

When we saw so all those cities and villages built in the water, and other great towns on dry land, and that straight and level causeway leading toward [Tenochtitlan], we were astounded... It was all so wonderful that I do not know how to describe this first glimpse of things never heard of, seen or dreamed of before.

We turned back to the great market and the swarm of people buying and selling. The mere murmur of their voices was loud enough to be heard more than three miles away. Some of our soldiers who had been in many parts of the world, in Constantinople, in Rome, and all over Italy, said that they had never seen a market so well laid out, so large, so orderly, and so filled with people...

Guiding Question

1. Summarize Diaz's account of Tenochtitlan.