



**CHINAMPAS**

## OBJECTIVES:

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- **Describe** what chinampas are and how they work.
- **Identify** the advantages of chinampas-based agriculture.

## ASSESSMENTS:

During this lesson, students will:

- Learn about the history of chinampas.
- Apply what they have learned to build their own chinampa.

# Warm-up (5 min)

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  - What are some benefits of a chinampa?

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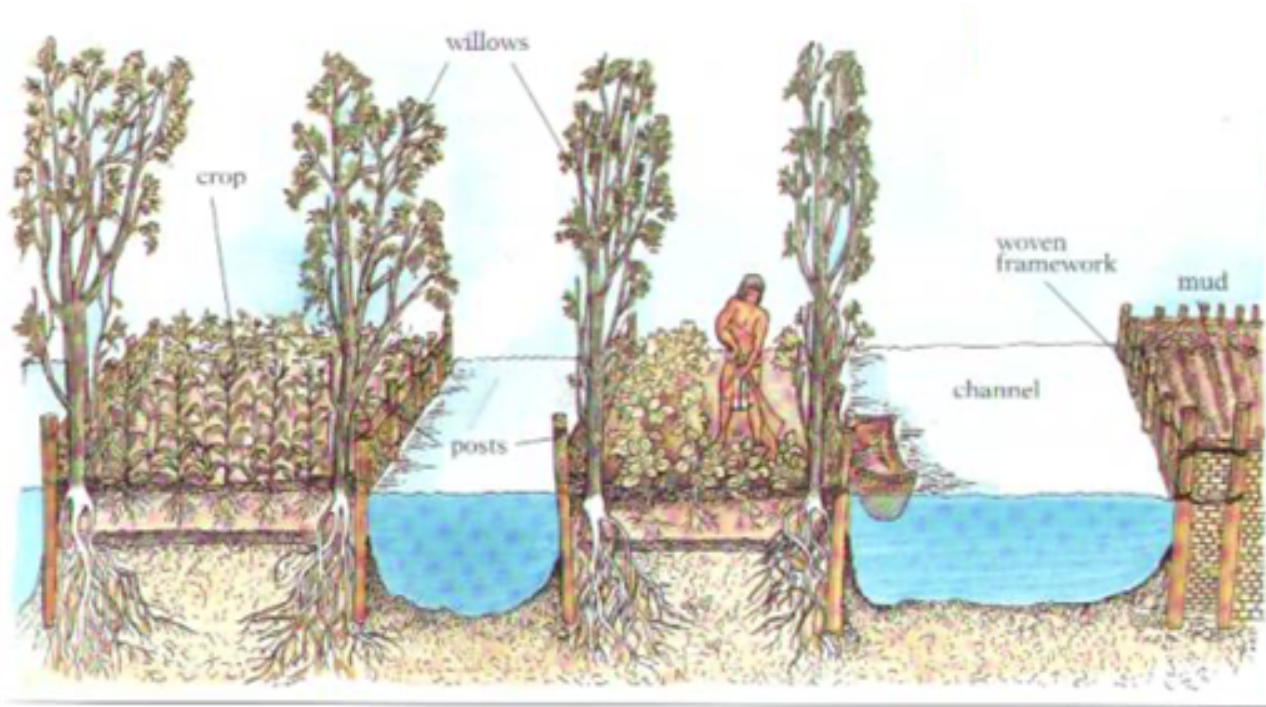
# Warm-up

- Let's review what we've learned about chinampas so far:
  - What is a chinampa?
    - A man-made raised bed in a body of water used to grow crops and flowers.
  - What are some benefits of a chinampa?
    - They support biodiversity, self-water, and are extremely productive.

# Warm-up

- In your groups, sketch what you think a chinampa looks like based on what you remember from the previous lesson!

# Warm-up





# Garden Activities (15 min)

- Now build your own chinampa!
- Materials:
  - Clay
  - Straw/hay
  - Bamboo

# Garden Activities

- Test your chinampa to see if it works!
- Discuss in groups:
  - What was the most effective strategy to build the chinampa?
  - What were some obstacles you faced?
  - What other supplies or materials would have helped you?

# Benefits of Chinampas

- They capture and store *greenhouse gases* that can contribute to global warming.
- The soil is productive and mostly self-sustaining.
- Unusable low-ground is converted into a productive food system.
- Today, they have recreational benefits and attract tourists that support the local economy.



# Modern Chinampas

- Today, chinampas are used to grow vegetables and flowers.



# Modern Chinampas

- Chinampas can solve several problems:
  - They would reduce the amount of land used for agriculture.
  - The incidence of pests and crop disease would be reduced, so pesticides wouldn't be necessary.
  - Agricultural water use would be reduced.
  - Less susceptibility to weather conditions, such as frost and drought.

# Fighting to Keep Mexico's Floating Farms Alive



# Video Questions

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- What is a difficulty of managing chinampas?
- What is a way that chinampas can be preserved?

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- What is a way that chinampas can be preserved?
  - If restaurants purchase the produce from the chinampas, then the farmers will have money to pay workers and they won't have to leave their chinampas.

# Sources

- [FAO Report](#)
- [Aztec History](#)
- [History.com](#)
- [History on the Net](#)
- [Sustainability Times](#)
- [Ez Gro Garden](#) (Aztec Chinampas of Central America)
- [Ez Gro Garden](#) (Modern Day Chinampas)
- [Midwest Permaculture](#)
- [USGS](#)