Around the 1520s, the Aztecs society began ruling Central Mexico after the Spanish conquest. Agriculture was an important practice in the Aztec society as they were involved in trading.
Aztec farming was utilized to maximize the small lands that were safe for crop production. They had extensive farming systems such as irrigation and terraces but by far their popular technique of farming were the chinampas – floating gardens.
Due to swampy natures of their land in Lake Texcoco, Chinampa was the most suitable as they were made from shallow lakes filled with mud like man-made islands building up the soil and water for crops. Aztecs did not have advanced tools, but a wooden digging stick called the Uictli.
Terracing is growing crops and plants on the slopes of mountains. They sort of look like steps carved on the side of hills or mountains. Walls of stone were made to hold us the ends of the hillsides. They are used to maximize land usage, reduce soil erosion, and reduce water loss.
The most common crop for the Aztecs was maize also known as corn. It can be made into various meals, mixed with other ingredients, and added to their rich diets. Another crop in Aztec agriculture is squash. They did grow a large variety of crops such as avocados, tomatoes, guavas, and trees – mostly foods that would provide them great amounts of protein.
This topic interested me because part of my family ancestral lineage are from the Aztec society. My grandfather once told me about his grandmother being an Aztec; however, she really didn’t talk about it. When she met my grandfather’s grandfather, she had run away from the Aztec society since the relationship was not arranged nor accepted from her family. I just think it must have been tough for her to talk about. I do have a beautiful picture of her, her husband, and their grandchildren. I adore the photograph every time I pass by it.