The Incas of Peru

Student Information

The City of Cuzco

The city of Cuzco is located in the Andes mountains in southern Peru. It was the capital city of the Incan Empire and lies about 3,400 meters above sea level. Cuzco means "navel of the earth" (center of the earth).

Incan people built Cuzco from about A.D. 1200. The Incan Empire began in 1438, and the ruler Pachacuti rebuilt Cuzco as the empire's capital. Cuzco was built in the shape of a puma. Only the Incan nobles were allowed to live in the central part of Cuzco, but about 100,000 people lived in other parts of the city. The city was protected by zigzag walls, making the entire city a fort.

In 1533, Pizarro conquered Cuzco and took over the Incan Empire, but fire swept through the city in 1536 when the Inca rebelled against the Spanish. Today, Cuzco is the trading center for local farmers. Only a fraction of the original Incan city remains — just stone foundations and ruins.

Alpacas

The alpaca is the grazing animal of South America. It is related to the camel and is usually raised for its fine wool. The alpaca can carry loads in high altitudes. Sometimes the young are killed for their meat. The Alpaca resembles the llama, and both animals are believed to have descended from the guanaco, which was a wild animal of the Andes Mountains.

Alpacas are also close relatives to the wild wool-bearing vicunas that live in the Andes.

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Who were the Incas?

About 8,000 years ago, high in the Andes mountains of South America, a group of people settled in the Cuzco Valley. These people became known as the Incas. Great cities were built in the mountains and the fertile valleys were used for farming.

During the next 200 – 300 years the Incas conquered neighboring tribes in fierce battles and established their strong and powerful empire.

Up to 12 million people are thought to have lived along 4,000 km of coastline, stretching along the west coast of South America.

Complete the following activities to find out more about the powerful civilization of the Incas!

Mapping Activity

Use an atlas and the map on page 98 to complete the following activities.

1. Name the river, the mountain range and the ocean which border the Inca Empire.

   _____ River

   _____ Mountains

   _____ Ocean

2. Name six cities/towns which were part of the Incan Empire.

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

3. Which large lake is situated close to Tiahuanaco?

   _____

4. The Inca Empire once stretched along the Pacific Coast. Name the three countries which border this area today.

   _____, _____, _____

The Great City of Cuzco

1. [redacted] Where was the city built? When was it built and by whom? What does the word "Cuzco" mean? Describe the layout, or plan, of this city. How was the city guarded? Who destroyed the city? What remains of the city today? Write Answers Below

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Animals of the Andes

1. Write three reasons why you think alpacas, llamas, vicunas and guanacos were such important animals to the Incan people living in the Andes Mountains.

(a) _____

_____

(b) _____

_____

(c) _____

_____

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Incan Society

1. The leader of the civilization of the Incas was the S___ ___ ___ I___ ___ ___. The leader of the government of our country is called the P___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
2. Order the Incan society from the most important person to the least important.

_____

_____

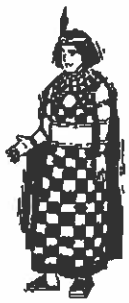
_____

_____

_____

_____

Local Ruler


Sapa Inca

Governors of 4 quarters

Commoners

Provincial Governor

Household Leaders

Language of the Incas

1. Find out what the following words mean and how they relate to the Incas. (You may need to use the Internet.) Use illustrations where appropriate to support you definitions.

adobe _____

_____

Quechua _____

_____

curare _____

_____

quinoa _____

bola _____

_____

huaca _____

_____

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THE INCAS OF PERU

What foods were eaten?

All foods were prepared and cooked by the women. They would grind maize into flour to make breads and cakes which were cooked on hot stones.

The royal family ate more exotic and elaborate foods than the commoners.

1. Can you find all the foods eaten by the Incas in the word search?

fish	*deer*	*honey*	*salt*
chilli	*maize*	*stews*	*herbs*
llama	*soups*	*peanuts*	*corn*
tomato	*potato*	*cake*	*avocados*
beans	*breads*	*guinea pigs*	
guavas	*hares*		

p	s	c	h	e	r	b	s	n	r	o	c	o
e	o	i	i	e	s	d	a	e	r	b	h	t
a	d	t	h	a	r	e	s	t	h	s	i	f
n	a	m	a	i	z	e	a	o	v	a	l	s
u	c	n	b	t	s	r	a	m	a	l	l	a
t	o	y	e	n	o	h	i	a	b	t	i	v
s	v	c	a	k	e	m	s	t	e	w	s	a
y	a	n	n	c	w	v	s	o	u	p	s	u
d	f	h	s	g	i	p	a	e	n	i	u	g

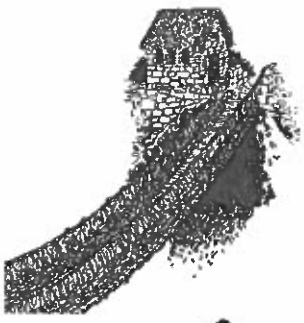
2. Underline the foods which you think were eaten by the royal family. Use these to create a meal fit for a royal Inca.

Inventions of the Incas

The Incas developed many skills, crafts and inventions.

1. Match the words on either side of the bridge to name some inventions.

irrigation		*building*
terraced		*weaving*
bridge		*farming*
textile		*jewelry*
stone		*systems*
gold		*architecture*
road		*building*
tool		*making*



The Incan Calendar

The calendar used by the Incas divided their year into 12 months of 30 days each. Each month was made up of three 10-day weeks. This left five extra days in the year which were used to celebrate Incan ceremonies. This calendar was used to decide when to plant and harvest their crops.

1. Name a similarity and a difference between the calendar we use today and the calendar of the Incas.

   Similarity: _____

   Difference: _____

2. Name three ceremonies and festivals that you celebrate in one calendar year.

   _____

   _____

   _____

Answer on paper

Group Discussion

1. How and why did the Incas build bridges in the Andes?
2. What were the benefits of terraced farming?
3. How were the buildings built with stone? Was this successful?
4. Describe how the roads would have been constructed.
5. Why was a successful irrigation system important?
6. What necessary tools did the Incas manufacture?
7. The leader of the Incan society was often born into this position. How is the leader of our government chosen? Which system is fairer? Which is more successful to the people?

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Sapa Inca

The emperor of the Inca Empire was called the Sapa Inca. The emperor was helped by a council of noblemen who served as governors of the provinces of his empire. The Sapa Inca was responsible for looking after his people. It was his duty to expand his empire and to make sure that everyone followed the proper religious rules. All commoners paid taxes to the government by working for the government, and giving the government some of their crops. Women were required to weave a certain amount of cloth to pay their taxes. The Sapa Inca was a king and was treated well, ate good food and wore elaborate clothing.

Religion and the Incan Gods

Religion was the focus for the whole Incan Empire. Priests lived in temples and helped members of the local communities by using magic and talking to the spirits.

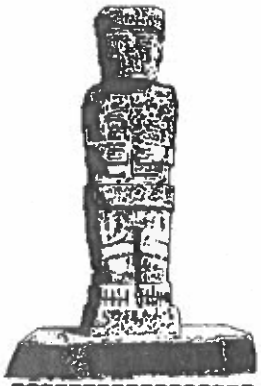
Gods and goddesses were said to have magical powers and each was responsible for looking after a different part of Incan life.

1. Write and illustrate a story using these Incan gods and goddesses as your main characters.
2. Design a mask to represent one of these gods.

Mamacocha
mother of the sea, lakes and fish

Inti
the sun god, kind but powerful

The Stars
children of sun and moon



Viracocha
god of creation

Pachamama
the earth goddess

Quilla
the moon god

Illapa
god of thunder and lightning

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(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

2. Which of these Incas do you think is the most important in their society? Why do you think this?

_____

_____

_____

3. How does this style of dress differ from the styles we wear today?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Color the clothing worn by these Incas.

What did the Incas wear?

1. Read the passage below which gives you information about the clothing worn by the Incas. Choose the correct words from the box to complete the passage.

high	sash	jewelry	cloth	leather
style	cloak	colors	sandals	dresses
status	Men	decorated	worn	women

Although the basic _____ of dress did not vary, the quality of the _____, the designs of the _____, and the colors of the clothing _____ by the Incas, indicated their position, or _____ in society. The brighter _____, more intricate designs and highly _____ borders on their clothing showed _____ status. Women wore straight , sleeveless, full-length _____ which were belted with a _____ around the waist. _____ wore short tunics with a _____ which was knotted at the shoulders. Both men and _____ wore _____ made from _____ and fibers.

Who was the "Sapa Inca"?

All the wealth and land of the Incas was owned by the "Sapa Inca," and his every wish and command had to be obeyed.

1. [redacted]" Include an explanation why you would/would not have liked to have had the position of the "Sapa Inca."

Write Below

Sapa Inca – _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Time Line of Important Incan Events

1. Rearrange the information below into chronological order. Use the information to construct a time line to show important events in the history of the Incan civilization.

1532	A Spaniard called Pizarro invades the Andes Mountains and captures the last Incan Emperor, Atahuallpa
1911	Hiram Bingham finds the lost city of Machu Picchu.
1522	The Spaniards began to explore the Pacific coast of South America.
1000	The Great Incan city Machu Picchu is built in the Andes Mountains.
1536	Manco Inca's army almost recaptures Cuzco but fails.
1200	Incan civilization establishes in the Cuzco Valley.
1533	Pizarro takes a vast amount of gold from Atahuallpa, then executes him.
1438 – 1471	The 9th Incan ruler, Pachacuti, expands the Incan civilization by attacking and defeating many neighboring tribes.
1535	Collapse of the Incan Empire.

1000 _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

1911 _____

_____

The Home of an Inca

Use the picture to help you answer the questions.

1. What is the house roof made of?

   _____

2. What are the house walls made of? _____

3. Why do you think there are no windows in the house?

   _____

4. What do you think provides the light and heat inside the house?

   _____

5. The woman is making something—what do you think it might be?

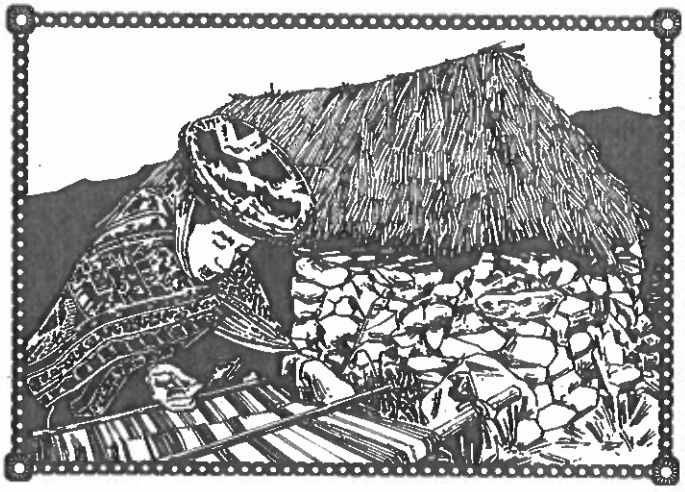
   _____

6. What does the woman have on her head?

   _____

7. How is a pattern made in the cloth?

   _____



8. What does the woman's clothing tell you about the weather?

   _____

9. Compare this home with your own.

   _____

   _____

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Craft of the Incas

Skilled craft workers made their luxury-only items for the Incan rulers and noblemen. Gold and silver were made into delicate pieces of jewelry. Pottery, decorative textiles, jeweled ornaments and wooden carvings were crafted by these skilled workers.

1. Choose two types of craft work below and create your own Incan designs.

Ary Ballus (large pot)
Jeweled dagger handle
Kero (wooden beaker)
Decorated cloth
Earplugs (earrings)
Textile tunic

Inca City of Machu Picchu

The city of Machu Picchu remained a mystery until 1911, when Hiram Bingham, an American archaeologist, discovered this fabulous "lost city of the Incas." The city is built high in the mountains and is surrounded by jungle. It is about 100 km north of the Inca capital, Cuzco. About 1,000 people lived in the city.

1. Write six key facts about this "lost city." Share with a partner.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

The End of the Incan Civilization

1. Read the following passage and find the dictionary meanings of the highlighted words.

*In 1532, the Spanish **conquest** led by Francisco Pizarro came to South America in search of gold. They conquered the Incan Empire with only 643 horsemen and 200 foot soldiers **armed** with firearms and steel **weapons**.*

***Contagious** diseases and **infections** brought by the Spaniards also killed many of the Incan **population**.*

*The Spanish **plundered** their gold, treated the Incas poorly and forced them to work hard and change their religious ideas, which almost destroyed the **civilization** and **culture** of the Incas.*

conquest _____

armed _____

weapons _____

contagious _____

infections _____

population _____

plundered _____

civilization _____

culture _____

Harsh Punishments for Crime

Did you know? Incas who committed crimes were often given the death penalty. Usually offenders were pushed over a cliff!

1. Discuss how you think each of these people would have felt about this punishment.
   (a) The prisoner
   (b) The executioner
   (c) The Sapa Inca
   (d) The wife/husband of the prisoner
2. Do you think this was a fair punishment?
3. Discuss an alternative punishment.