THE INCA CIVILIZATION

What do you know about the South American people who ruled one of the largest and richest empires in the Americas? The Inca empire occupied a vast region that extended over 2,500 miles (4,020 kilometers) along the western coast and mountains of South America. The Inca were skilled engineers and craftworkers whose architecture was renowned for its immense scale and skillful construction. Inca also created fine items from gold, silver, and other materials, and wove fine cotton and woolen cloth. Although they were conquered by the Spanish in the 1500’s, the Inca heritage is still evident today among the people of the Andes.

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FIND IT!

Use the World Book search tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about the Inca, it is recommended you start by searching the key word “Inca.” In some questions, fill in the correct term in the blank space to complete the sentence. Other questions can be answered in a few sentences or a short paragraph.

1. The Inca empire covered an area that today makes up much of Peru and parts of five other countries in South America. These countries are: ____________________; ____________________; ____________________; ____________________; and ____________________.

2. Inca society was composed of social classes including commoners; a servant class called ____________________ and local nobles called ____________________.

3. Within Inca social classes, people were organized in groups called ____________________, based on both kinship and common land ownership.
4. Religion was important in the public and private lives of the Inca people. The Inca believed that the world was created by a god they called ____________________. The ruling family claimed descent from the sun, called ________________.

5. What kinds of things did the Inca regard as sacred, calling them either huaca, apu, or ila?

6. What was the most important celebration of the year for the Inca? When was it held?

7. What was the role of sacrifice in the Inca religion? What kinds of sacrifices were made?

8. What methods did Inca priests use to heal the sick?

9. What are the three worlds described in the Inca religion?

10. The Inca did not use money. How did the empire pay the army and other workers? How did common people pay taxes to the empire?

11. How were trade goods transported throughout the Inca empire?

12. The Inca emperor was known by this title (2 words): ____________________ ____________________.

13. How was the government of the Inca empire organized from top to bottom?

14. The two most important languages spoken in the Inca empire were called ____________________ and ____________________.

15. The Inca did not have a written alphabet. How did they record information?

16. Information was passed through the Inca empire by the messengers, called ____________________.

17. This hidden estate served as a royal retreat for the Inca emperor and his family (2 words) ____________________ ____________________.
18. Around 600 A.D., this empire formed in southern Peru before the rise of the Inca civilization.

   This empire, which declined around 1000 A.D. is called the ____________________empire.

19. How does Inca mythology explain the origin of the Inca empire?

20. The capital city of the Inca empire was ____________________in what is now southern Peru.

WHAT'S THE WORD? CROSSWORD

21. Use the clues below to solve the crossword puzzle.

   All of the answers can be found within the World Book article “Inca.” You may use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. You may also double-click on the word to access the online dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Inca ceramics and textiles of the nobles incorporated these designs that had symbolic meaning for the Inca rulers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. According to legend, this early kingdom invaded Inca lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. This Inca celebration was held in June (two words).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Inca women wore these square shawls as clothing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. This person was the brother of Atahualpa, who had him executed.</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. This is the name of the Inca fighting technique taught to royals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pizaro captured the Inca ruler Atahualpa at this city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. This is the name of an Inca beer made with corn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. This Spanish conqueror invaded the Inca empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. The Inca gods supposedly spoke to people through these.</td>
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**Timeline!**

22. **Number the events from Inca history in the correct sequence from earliest (1) to most recent (8):**

   _______ A. Inca emperor Huayna Capac, the son of Topa Inca Yupanqui, unified the conquered regions of highland Ecuador and southern Colombia.

   _______ B. Following the execution of Atahualpa, the Inca empire falls easily to Spanish conquerors.

   _______ C. The Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro arrived in Cajamarca, Peru.

   _______ D. The Wari empire in South America collapsed, providing opportunities for various local rulers to gain power.

   _______ E. Inca ruler Topa Inca Yupanqui expanded the empire into what are now western Bolivia, northwest Argentina, northern Chile, and western Ecuador.

   _______ F. Atahualpa captured Huascar, ending the Inca civil war.

   _______ G. The kingdom founded at Cusco by Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo was one of several powerful kingdoms in the region.

   _______ H. The Inca emperor Huayna Capac died and two of his sons, Huascar and Atahualpa, fought to become emperor.

**See It!**

23. Within the World Book article Inca, you will find the pictures titled “Machu Picchu” and “Inca Fortress.” Inca builders were known for their sturdy temples and palaces made of stone. Study the pictures and write a description of Inca building methods and style.

24. Within the World Book article Inca, you will find the picture titled “Quipu.” Study the picture and write a description of what it shows. Search World Book for further information on the Quipu. What kind of information did the Inca record using these devices?
**Word Search!**

*In the Word Search Puzzle below, find and circle the Inca vocabulary words hidden within the puzzle by reading the definitions below. You may use context clues to determine the meaning of each word.*

*You may also double-click on the word to access the online dictionary:*

N H C L O P I A B E
M P A C A C H U T I
A I O N K L M W C H
L S T C A X O I H P
T M A A L L A M A O
H C A O L M N E R S
U C O Y A W V P Q I
A H D B N L S O U J
L U H W K D Z Q I F
P N O T A L L C A H
A O N I U Q R N K J

1. This word is used for the Inca emperor’s chief wife, who may have also been his sister.
2. This is the word for freeze-dried potatoes that were made in the Inca highlands.
3. This word is for the large rectangular rooms found in Inca palaces and temples.
4. This is the Inca word for durable dried meat from a llama or alpaca.
5. This word describes the labor tax all Inca subject performed to make needed food and supplies.
6. Along with the alpaca, this large animal supplied the Inca with wool and meat.
7. This word describes Inca “chosen women” who worked at Inca temples.
8. This word describes a popular grain crop for the Inca.
9. This Inca emperor’s name means “earth shaker.”
10. This Inca emperor was captured in a trap by the Spanish conqueror Pizaro.

**Read more about the Inca Civilization in World Book’s eBook collection:**


Answers:

1. Bolivia; Columbia; Ecuador; Chile; and Argentina.

2. Inca society was composed of social classes including commoners; a servant class called Yanacona and local nobles called Kuraka.

3. Within Inca social classes, people were organized in groups called Ayllu, based on both kinship and common land ownership.

4. The Inca believed that the world was created by a god they called Viracocha. The ruling family claimed descent from the sun, called Inti.

5. The Inca regarded many places and objects as huaca (sacred). Mummies of important ancestors, temples, and historical places were all worshiped as huaca. Natural features on the landscape, such as springs, boulders, caves, and mountain peaks, were also sacred and called apu. Each household also had one or more small statues, or illa, that were sacred to the family.

6. Capac Raymi, held during the December solstice, when the sun is at its most southerly point, was perhaps the most important annual celebration.

7. Sacrifices and offerings were important in all Inca religious ceremonies, especially at the death of the emperor. The Inca sacrificed crops and animals, mainly llamas, to ensure adequate rain fall and keep the earth fertile. Human sacrifices were made under special circumstances. For example, young children would travel from various parts of the empire to take part in the capac ucha (royal obligation). These children were blessed by the emperor and then returned to their home province to be sacrificed. Most people considered it a great honor to be chosen for sacrifice.

8. Priests treated the sick in curing ceremonies and used herbs and other plants as medicine. Surgeons operated on the skull to release evil spirits or relieve pressure on the brain caused by injury. This operation, called trephining, was often successful in treating wounds that would otherwise have caused death.

9. The Inca believed in three worlds: an underworld of the ancestors, a celestial world of the gods, and an earthly world where people live. The Inca believed that beings in the other worlds could affect their lives in the living world.

10. The Inca economy did not operate with money. Instead, the Inca state produced fine pottery, cloth, items of precious stones, and metalwork in silver, gold, and bronze that were used as gifts to keep the loyalty of local lords. The state also stockpiled food, weapons, and other goods to support the army and other workers. Inca subjects performed a labor tax, called mita, to make the food and supplies the Inca needed. The Inca’s subjects also exchanged crafts, food, and other goods among themselves.

11. A well-constructed network of roads connected all parts of the Inca empire. Suspension bridges maintained by the local communities spanned rivers and canyons. People traveled by foot, and they and llamas carried all loads. The Inca did not use any wheeled carts or vehicles, which were useless on the mountainous roads.
12. Sapa Inca.

13. Members of a ruling family governed the Inca empire. The emperor, called the Sapa Inca. The coya was the emperor’s main wife. A council of nobles who ruled the provinces of the empire aided the empire. The empire was organized into four parts, each of which had several provinces and was led by a principal governor. Within the provinces, the Inca designated lesser lords.

14. Quechua and Aymara.

15. The Inca did not have an alphabet. They did have quipu, a cord with knotted strings of various lengths, colors, weaves, and designs that served as a system of recordkeeping. Special officials throughout the empire could read the quipu and maintained the knotted strings. Most people in the Inca empire could not read them.


17. Machu Picchu.

18. This empire, which declined around 1000 A.D. is called the Wari empire.

19. Inca myths tell of the emergence of four brothers and their sisters from a cave south of Cusco. For many years, they wandered the land, with some of the brothers and sisters dying or turning to stone. The last remaining pair, Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo, founded the city of Cusco and displaced the people living there. Their descendants, the Inca, began to expand their rule over neighboring groups through alliance and warfare. By about 1400, they were one of several powerful kingdoms in the region.

20. The capital city of the Inca empire was Cusco in what is now southern Peru.

Timeline!

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5 H. The Inca emperor Huayna Capac died and two of his sons, Huascar and Atahualpa, fought to become emperor.
Word Search!

1. Coya
2. Chuno
3. Kallanka
4. Charqui
5. Mita
6. Llama
7. Aclla
8. Quinoa
9. Pachacuti
10. Althualpa

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**See It!**

23. The architecture of Cusco, its fortress at Sacsayhuaman, and Machu Picchu, a royal retreat north of Cusco, are good examples of the Inca building style. Sacsayhuaman was built of huge rocks, many as tall as 16 feet (5 meters). Large blocks of rock were cut so finely that they fit together without cement. At Machu Picchu buildings were made of granite and had steep thatch roofs to protect residents from the frequent rains.

24. A quipu is a cord with knotted strings of various lengths, colors, weaves, and designs that served as a system of recordkeeping. Quipus use three types of knots: (1) figure eight knots, (2) long knots, and (3) simple overhand knots. The position of the knots on the cords shows whether they stand for ones, tens, hundreds, or even higher powers of ten.

**Extension Activities:**

1. In 1527, Inca brothers Huascar and Atahualpa fought to become emperor. Huascar lived in Cusco and was favored by many Cusco nobles. Atahualpa controlled a large army in Ecuador. Civil war broke out. The civil war ended when Atahualpa captured Huascar in 1532 as the Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro arrived in Cajamarca, Peru. Pizarro was accompanied by about 180 men, who lured Atahualpa into a trap, captured him, and held him prisoner and later had him killed. While captive, Atahualpa had ordered Huascar to be executed. Therefore, the Inca had no recognized ruler following the execution of Atahualpa. The population was also weakened by diseases, such as smallpox, introduced by the invading Spanish. Thus, the Inca capital fell easily to the Spanish.

2. The Inca heritage is still evident in the Andes today. Spanish conquerors tried to destroy the Inca religion and customs, but did not succeed. Many people still speak Quechua, the language of the Inca. Farmers still work on terraces the Inca built, and clothing styles of the Inca have been passed down through the generations. Inca foods such as potatoes and quinoa are popular today. Inca pan pipes (musical instruments) and clothing, especially wool, are popular today and Inca designs adorn many of these items.