

**Early Peoples Activity Sheet:  
The Inca**

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**Pre-Columbian life in the Americas: Social organisation, city life and beliefs**

**Inca Empire:**

1. Who were the Inca?
2. What region was the heart of the Inca empire?
3. When was the Inca empire founded?
4. What modern day countries formed part of the Inca empire?
5. Describe the landscape and terrain of the land?
6. Look at the gold plate on page 5. What does it tell us about the Inca’s?
7. Why do historians know very little about how commoners lived, or about life in areas far from Cusco?
8. How many people are believed to have lived under Inca rule?
9. How did the Inca become the most powerful group in South America?
10. How did the Inca manage their vast empire?
11. How did the Inca keep records?
12. What was one of the factors that led the Inca to expand their reach beyond the Cusco valley?
13. Looking at the map on page 13. Which Inca rulers added the most territory to the Inca empire?

**Roles of key groups in society:**

1. Who was the Sapa?
2. Which god was the Sapa believed to be the physical representation of?
3. Who was Manco Capac?
4. Who was the coya?
5. How many wives did some Inca rulers have in addition to the coya?
6. Who was eligible to succeed to the position of Sapa Inca?
7. Name and describe the people groups that made up the social structure of the nobility at the time of the Spanish arrival?
8. What was the role of panaca?
9. Explain the ranking of priests?
10. How did priests care for royal mummies?
11. What non-religious roles did priests play?
12. Which groups made up the commoner class?
13. How were people taxed?
14. What was mita and how did commoners perform their mita?
15. Who were the most highly ranked craft workers?
16. What activity did all levels of Inca society learn to do?

**Women:**

1. What role did women play in Inca society?
2. Explain the differing marriage proposal customs in Inca society.
3. Describe marriage ceremonies in Inca society.
4. What duties were expected to be carried out by a married woman?
5. Who were the aclla?

**Everyday life:**

1. What does Tawantinsuyu mean?
2. Where was considered the centre of the Inca universe?
3. In what ways did the Inca impose order on their subjects?
4. Who lived in Cusco?

**Religious beliefs and customs:**

1. Why are there a large number of origin myths in Inca religion?
2. In one of the myths, who was the leader of the group of ancestors who emerged from the central cave in the mountain in Pacaritambo?
3. According to this creation myth, how did the group of ancestors know that the valley was the place to live?
4. What lake plays a prominent role in Incan mythology, particularly in another creation myth?
5. Who were the major gods of the state religion?
6. Which god was considered the most important god and why?
7. Why were offerings made to Inti-Illapa?
8. Which god do some experts believe to have been more important that the sun god in regions outside of Cusco?
9. What drink was prepared for important religious ceremonies?
10. Why are there no royal remains in existence today?
11. What funerary practices were implemented on royals?
12. What did the Inca do with the remains of common people?
13. What kind of objects were placed along with the dead?
14. What was the largest festival celebrated by the Inca?
15. What was the Inti Raymi?
16. Who was theIce Maiden?
17. How did the Ice Maiden die?
18. Why were children sacrificed during the Capac Hucha?
19. What was the Coricancha?

**Everyday life:**

1. What made the Temple of the Sun so spectacular?
2. Why were there so many royal palaces in Cusco?
3. Why did the royals not have tombs?
4. Which two buildings acted as “fortresses” during the Inca resistance to Spanish invasion and what were they built for?
5. What type of calendar did the Inca have?
6. Name the two kinds of stonework used by the Inca.
7. How did the Inca build the huge walls found in their cities?
8. What was quipu?
9. How do scholars interpret quipu?
10. How were quipus used?
11. Who transported quipus?
12. At what age were Inca children named?
13. What other activity took place during a child’s naming ceremony?
14. What type of education did Inca children receive?
15. What was given to Inca boys and girls during their adult ceremony?
16. What did marriage between a man and woman mean for the families?
17. What were the differences between the homes of the nobles and common people?
18. What was unique about the types of windows used in noble houses?
19. Describe the type of clothing worn by men?
20. Describe the type of clothing worn by women?
21. Clothing styles worn by Inca were similar across all classes. What feature distinguished the clothing of a noble and royalty to that of a commoner?
22. What types of food were eaten by Inca commoners?
23. Why was the Sapa Inca’s leftover food kept?
24. How did Inca preserve food?
25. How many kilometres did the Inca’s extensive network of roads cover?
26. Look at the account written by Spanish soldier, Pedro de Cieza de Leon. What type of terrain did the road network cover and what featured along the route?
27. Who was the Civil War between and why did it start?

**Spanish conquest:**

1. What was the name of the Spanish soldier who led a group of conquistadors in the Inca area?
2. Why were the Spanish interested in the Inca empire?
3. What happened in Cajamarca in 1532 when the Inca met with the Spaniards?
4. What does this event tell you about the Spanish treatment of Inca?
5. After being captured by the Spanish, Atahualpa offered to pay a huge ransom for his freedom. How much did he offer?
6. What happened to Atahualpa and what does this tell us about the nature of interaction between the Spanish and the Inca?
7. What is considered the “deadliest weapon” the Spanish brought with them?
8. The Inca continued to resist Spanish rule for more than 30 years. What does this say about the Inca?