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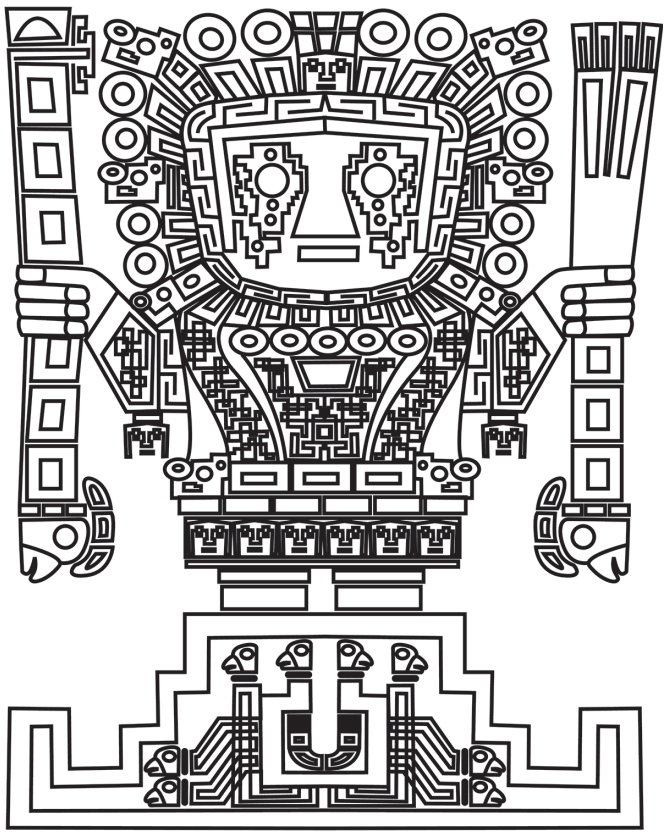
The Inca Civilization



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.

***Users of the *Advanced* database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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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)_____ _____.

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18. Around 600 A.D., this empire formed in southern Peru before the rise of the Inca civilization.

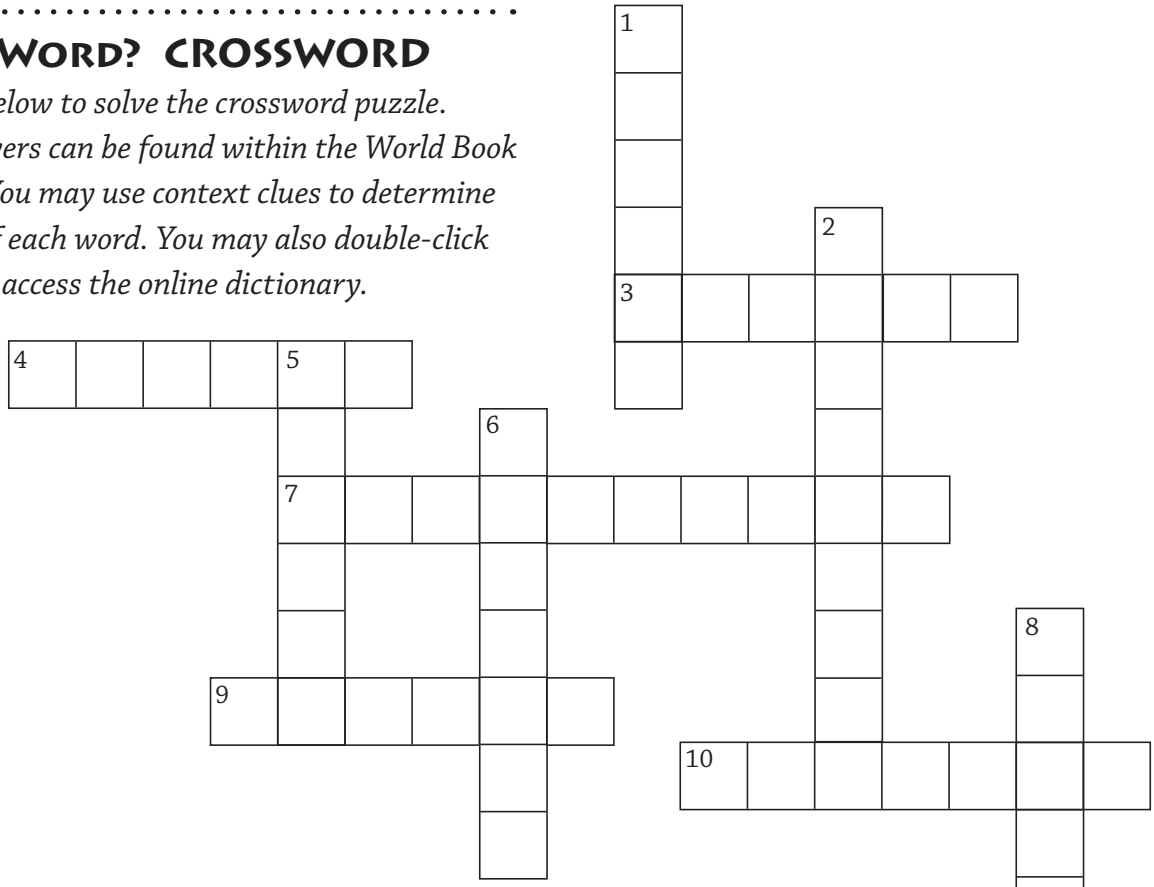
    This empire, which declined around 1000 A.D. is called the _____empire.

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.*



Across:

3. Inca ceramics and textiles of the nobles incorporated these designs that had symbolic meaning for the Inca rulers.
4. According to legend, this early kingdom invaded Inca lands.
7. This Inca celebration was held in June (two words).
9. Inca women wore these square shawls as clothing.
10. This person was the brother of Atahualpa, who had him executed.

Down:

1. This is the name of the Inca fighting technique taught to royals.
2. Pizaro captured the Inca ruler Atahualpa at this city.
5. This is the name of an Inca beer made with corn.
6. This Spanish conqueror invaded the Inca empire.
8. The Inca gods supposedly spoke to people through these.

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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?

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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.

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Extension Activities:

1. The Spanish conquered the Inca Civilization in 1532. How could a small Spanish force have conquered the Inca civilization so easily? What factors made the Spanish conquest of the powerful Inca empire much easier?

2. The Spanish conquered the Inca Civilization in 1532, but did the Inca culture really disappear? What parts of Inca culture exist today?

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

The Inca. Chicago: World Book, 2013. Early Peoples. *World eBook*. Web. 12 Nov. 2015. < http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-2337-3/detail.do>.

Voyages of Exploration. Chicago: World Book, 2014. A Look At. *World eBook*. Web. 12 Nov. 2015. < http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-3327-3/detail.do>.