

classes, as well as its religious beliefs and customs.

- The Inca empire was highly totalitarian, yet no one suffered for basic necessities. Describe how resources were divided in the Inca empire and how work was accomplished.
- Research the Inca system of agriculture, including the construction of reservoirs and canals for irrigation and the building of giant stone terraces on which to grow food.
- Machu Picchu has been called “the lost city in the clouds,” and it is thought that the Incas deliberately “forgot” it. Why would they have done so? To what end?
- What were some of the possible functions and purposes of Machu Picchu?
- What role did gold play in Peru’s history?
- How does the architecture of Peru reflect its mixed heritage?

Internet Resources

http://members.aol.com/_ht_a/donmandee/History.html --

Mr. Donn's History Pages. Created by a teacher, this site includes teaching units, games, activities, and links to sites on Peru and the Incas and other ancient civilizations.

www.allperu.com/PERU2.htm -- Peruvian history, statistics, economy, news, and more.

www.sscf.ucsb.edu/~ogburn/inca/inca.htm -- The Inca Empire page, written by a university anthropologist, looks at the empire’s geography, history, and achievements, with suggested further resources.

Other Resources

FOR STUDENTS:

Lyle, Garry. Peru. Chelsea House, 1999.

Steffoff, Rebecca. Finding the Lost Cities. Oxford University Press, 1997.

Wood, Tim. The Incas. Viking, 1996.

FOR ADULTS:

Davies, Nigel. The Incas. University Press of Colorado, 1995.

Holligan De Diaz-Liamaco, Jane. Peru in Focus: A Guide to the People, Politics, and Culture. Interlink Publishing Group, 1998.

Insight Guides Peru. APA Productions, 1998.

Moseley, Michael E. The Incas and Their Ancestors: The Archaeology of Peru. Thames & Hudson, 1993.

GEOGRAPHICAL ODYSSEYS PERU: LAND OF THE INCAS

To order this and other
programs call:
(888) 570-5400



Choices, Inc.
369 S. Doheny Drive, PMB 1105
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

©1999 Choices, Inc.
All rights reserved.

WORLD ALMANAC® =VIDEO=

GEOGRAPHICAL ODYSSEYS

PERU

LAND OF THE INCAS

Come explore Peru, where two cultures--that of the great Inca civilization and its Spanish conquerors--have combined in a thriving land of contrasts, of imposing urban structures and ruined ancient cities, modern industry and traditional ways.

Here, high up in the Andes Mountains, lie sacred valleys, mysterious abandoned seats of the Inca empire, and museums of gold--all under the eternal presence of the sun.





After studying the map and reading about Peru and its place in the world, read the sections on vocabulary and important people, places, and dates to provide a focus while viewing the program. After viewing the program, review the sections listed above and consider the Things to Think About. Research topics further using the Internet and other resources provided.

Context in the World

Peru lies along the western coast of South America. Much of it is a harsh, mountainous land--the land of the Andes--but there are also deserts, river valleys, and tropical forests. The center of the great Inca empire was located here, in Peru, and at its height was vast, containing more than 10 million people. But the Incas were no match for the Spanish, who arrived in 1532 seeking gold and quickly conquered the empire. Peru achieved independence from Spain in 1824. In 1911 the American historian and explorer Hiram Bingham--who has been compared to Indiana Jones--discovered the lost Inca city of Machu Picchu, which is today a major tourist attraction. Peru was under the control of the military following a 1968 coup, but democracy was restored in 1980, and the country is now a republic.

The population of Peru today is about 45 percent Indian, some descended from the Incas. Some 35 percent of Peruvians are mestizos, of mixed Indian and white--mostly Spanish--ancestry. In recent years, Peru has faced serious problems of a troubled economy and high inflation, drug trafficking, and violent attacks mounted by leftist guerrillas.

Vocabulary

- apu** -- The spirits of the great mountains.
balsas -- Traditional engineless boats made of giant reeds that sail on Lake Titicaca.
Chimú -- A rival kingdom that the Incas conquered.
chullpa -- A tower used as a burial place for Inca nobility.
Conquistadors -- The Spanish conquerors of South America.
El Dorado -- A mythical man covered in gold, or a city of gold, believed by the Spanish to be located in South America.
huaca -- A holy spirit, as of the rocks, springs, caverns, caves, and waterfalls.
huayno -- A type of music played by the Quechua.
the Inca (or Sapa Inca) -- The king of the Inca empire, believed to be the direct descendant of the Sun.
Incas -- A powerful civilization that flourished in Peru until the 16th century.
Inquisition -- A religious tribunal to find and punish heresy, undertaken by the Spanish.
Kuyichi -- The Inca rainbow god.
mit'a -- A tax levied in the Inca empire, under which subjects contributed labor in an egalitarian way to the kingdom.
Quechua -- An ethnic Indian group; also the Inca language, which is still one of Peru's official languages.
sierra -- The highland region of Peru.
sirvinakuy marriage -- A marital agreement of reciprocal help.
Sun God (or Inti) -- The most important Inca god, from whom the Incas believed they had descended.
Urus -- An Indian tribe that lives on Lake Titicaca.

Important People

- Francisco Pizarro** -- Spanish Conquistador who led a band of adventurers to Peru.
Hiram Bingham -- American historian and explorer who discovered Machu Picchu.
Huascar -- An Inca ruler shortly before the arrival of the Conquistadors.
Mama Ocllo -- Sister and consort of Manco Capac, with

whom she is said to have founded the Inca empire.
Manco Capac -- One of the earliest Inca leaders, said to be the most ancient descendant of the Sun God and to have founded the Inca empire.

Simón Bolívar -- Liberator of South America from Spain.

Important Places

- Andes Mountains** -- The highest mountain chain in South America, which covers the length of Peru.
Cuzco -- A Peruvian city that was the capital of the Inca empire.
Lake Titicaca -- The world's highest navigable lake.
Lima -- The capital of Peru.
Machu Picchu -- Both a mountain peak and the Inca city located there, which the Spanish never found.
 -- An Andean village that was once an Inca city.
Sacsahuamán -- An Inca fortress that guarded the city of Cuzco.
Sillustani -- A site near Lake Titicaca where chullpa burial towers are located.
Tambomachay -- The site of sacred baths of the Inca, located outside Cuzco.
Taquile -- A Peruvian island.
Urubamba River -- A river that cuts through the sacred valley of the Incas, near which Machu Picchu is located.

Important Dates

- c. 1200** -- Incas arise as a distinct culture and civilization
mid-1400s -- Period of intense Inca empire building begins
1532 -- Spanish under Francisco Pizarro arrive in Peru in search of treasure
1535 -- Lima is founded by the Spanish
16th century -- Inca empire is conquered by the Spanish
1824 -- Peru gains independence from Spain
1911 -- Machu Picchu is discovered by Hiram Bingham

Things to Think About

- Why is the rainbow the symbol of the ancient Inca empire?
- The Incas did not have the wheel, the wagon, or a system of writing, yet they had a remarkable civilization. Describe some of its achievements.
- The Inca society was highly organized and structured. Research and describe its strictly defined social