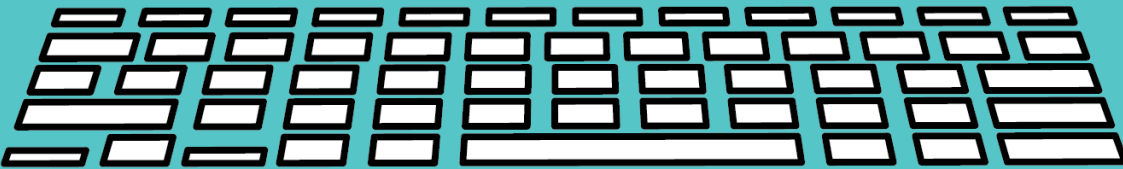
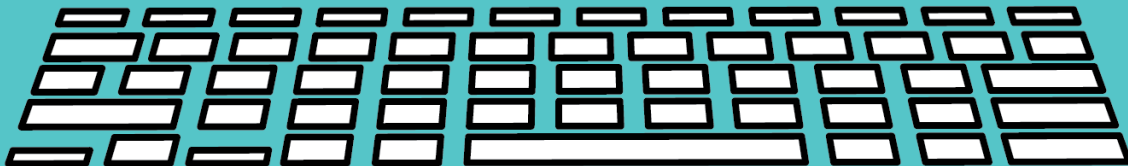


TOP FACT
PICCHU IS
ONE OF THE
SEVEN
WONDERS OF
THE WORLD

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What year was the Inca Empire first established?	
2. How many times did the Sapa Inca wear an outfit?	
3. What was the Inca language called?	
4. how many provinces was the empire divided into?	
5. How old were noblemen when their ears were pierced?	
6. What year did Bingham discover Machu Picchu?	
7. What were the road runners called?	
8. Who established the Inca Empire?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What year was the Inca Empire first established?		9. They would often use a ___ to help carry their supplies.	
2. How many times did the Sapa Inca wear an outfit?		10. Viracocha was the god of ___.	
3. What was the Inca language called?		11. They held religious ceremonies celebrating ___.	
4. How many provinces was the empire divided into?		12. The Incas believed that ___ was the sweat of Inti.	
5. How old were noblemen when their ears were pierced?		13. They lived in regions of the ___ Mountains.	
6. What year did Bingham discover Machu Picchu?		14. Their recording device was called a ___.	
7. What were the road runners called?		15. The capital of the empire was located in ___ in Peru.	
8. Who established the Inca Empire?		16. The mighty empire stretched from Colombia to ___.	



INCA EMPIRE

Before the first European explorers, the Inca Empire was the largest empire in pre-Columbian America. The mighty empire stretched from Colombia to the coast of Peru, covering over 10 million people. The Inca Empire began in early 13th century AD. The capital of the empire was located in Cusco in Peru.

Most of the empire was in the western coast of South America. They lived in regions of the Andes mountains. The Amazon basin was on the eastern side of the Andes Mountains. The western side was a desert, the jungle and deserts served as barriers to the empire.

The Inca Empire was founded by Manco Capac in 1200 AD. He declared himself as the first Inca, the son of the Sun. The powerful Sapa Inca owned everything and made all the laws. The Sapa Inca wore an outfit of gold and silver. He was buried in a golden casket. Weavers made new robes from the finest cloths and jewels.

The Inca had well developed roads that connected different parts of the empire. Only warriors, road-runners, and government officials could travel on the well built roads. They made over 15,000 miles of roads so messages could be sent quickly to the Sapa Inca.

The Inca Empire was divided into four provinces. Each province had its own government.

The Inca language was called Quechua and is still spoken today. Unlike the Maya, the Inca did not have a writing system. They created a record-keeping system using colored strings and knots. Everything was communicated by voice through road runners. Their recording device was called a quipu. They would hang ropes with different knots to indicate the time and the amount of supplies.

The Inca built an amazing road system but they did not have horses or wheels. They had to walk everywhere. They would often use a llama to help carry their supplies. The llama could only walk up to twelve miles a day before exhaustion set in.

The expert builders constructed roads, bridges, stairways and stations where travelers could spend the night. The Inca were not afraid to cross new, rugged, unpopulated terrain across rivers, ravines, deserts, and mountains. The road runners were called chaski. They operated in relays and passed information to a new runner stationed every two miles.

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Inca rulers believed they were the only representation of the sun. They held religious ceremonies celebrating the sun. The largest ceremony was held at the end of the maize harvest and lasted eight or nine days.

The rulers dressed in colorful, fancy robes decorated with gold, silver and bird feathers. Noblemen had their ears pierced when they were twelve years old. The noblemen wore heavy earrings to change the shape of their earlobes. Eventually, their earlobes dangled down and rested on their shoulders.

Religion played an important role in Inca life. They believed the gods would be satisfied through worship. Inca believed in omens and dreams. The Inca worshiped gods and goddesses. Viracocha, was the god of nature. The Inca believed that gold was the sweat of Inti, the sun god. They also worshipped his wife and moon goddess, Mama-Quilla. Pariacaca was the god of rain and water. They believed he was born as a falcon and changed into a human.

Inca believed in human sacrifices and life after death. They mummified their people and buried them with gold, jewels to be used in the afterlife. The Inca believed the person sacrificed would accompany the dead into the next life.

One of the most magnificent Inca sites is in the ancient town of Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu is a jungle, hidden high on a mountaintop. Somehow the Inca cut huge slabs of stone and fit them together to make massive buildings. Machu Picchu means "Mountain."

The great Inca ruler Pachacuti died around 1525 and his death triggered a civil war among the Inca. Pachacuti's two sons, Huascar and Atahualpa, battled to become the next ruler. Atahualpa quickly became the new ruler of the empire.

In 1531, a Spanish conquistador named Francisco Pizarro and 180 men sailed from Panama to Peru to look for the Inca Empire. They wanted to convert the Inca to Christianity. Inca emperor, Atahualpa, was tricked into meeting the conquistadors and was kidnapped and eventually killed. The Inca Empire was eventually overthrown by the Spanish. With the arrival of Europeans, a majority of the native population died of diseases such as smallpox, influenza, measles, and typhus often brought by the Spaniards.

In 1911, Hiram Bingham discovered the Inca city of Machu Picchu. Bingham was an American explorer that was sent on a Peruvian Expedition by Yale University. Machu Picchu was the only city of the Inca Empire that was never discovered and destroyed by the Spaniards.

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