

INCA EMPIRE

The Inca Empire was an important civilization in South America. It was centered in Peru and stretched down the west coast of South America. The empire existed from around 1000 AD to 1500 AD when it was conquered by a conquistador named Francisco Pizarro.

The empire was broken up into quarters. These quarters were broken up into smaller and smaller groups. The capital city, Cusco, sat where the four large quarters met. Over 10 million people lived in the empire.

The Incas had primitive tools. They did not have wheels, steel tools, or a writing system, but their social and society were well-structured. The government of the Incan people was called the Tawantinsuyu. The Tawantinsuyu was ruled by the Sapa Inca. Below the Sapa Inca were the high priest, and the Council of the Realm, as well as other officers and local leaders. Everyone owed to the Sapa Inca. In the Incan Empire everyone had a job, a home, and enough food to eat.

The empire was made up of many small groups called ayllus. An ayllu was a group of families. Each ayllu was responsible for paying taxes. The taxes were not money, but rather food and services they gave to the government and worked for the emperor all the year.

Religion was an important part of Incan culture. The Incas had several gods. The most important god was Inti. The Incas believed the emperor was a descendant of Inti. The Incas built many pyramids for their gods. The pyramids were covered with gold and had gold statues. The Incas believed in an afterlife. Like the Egyptians, they mummified the emperors after they died. They also believed that there were quarters of heaven and the underworld. One was where bad people went, and the other was where good people went.

The most famous ruins of the Incan Empire are at Machu Picchu, which was a city on a mountain. The ruins are 8,000 feet above sea level. The city was not discovered by the Spanish when they conquered the Incan civilization.

WORDS TO KNOW

Conquistador – Spanish explorer
Primitive – very basic
Conquered – took over

SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

Something that surprised you

Your favorite fact

COLOR

YELLOW

What is an ayllu and what do they do?

GREEN

What is the most famous Inca ruin?

BLUE

Who was Inti?

THE GOVERNMENT

CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWER

When was the Inca Empire established?

1448

1458

Who had a role similar to the vice president?

Apunka

High priests

Viceroy

The important council was made up of _____ members.

12

TRUE OR FALSE

The military general was elected by a council of head military generals called the *Apunka*.

TRUE

FALSE

The Sapa Inca was the sole leader and did not have any government officials below him.

TRUE

FALSE

THE BLANK

The Inca government structure had four quarters headed by four _____.

However, the second most powerful person in the government was actually the _____.

WORD SEARCH

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

THE GOVERNMENT

Manco Capac established the Inca Empire in 1438. While the Sapa Inca was the sole ruler, he did have government officials below him. This included the viceroy, the high priest, and the Council of the Realm. It also included inspectors, military generals, and other leaders.

The viceroy was the close advisor of the Sapa Inca. He was usually a family member. His role was similar to the role of a vice president. The Sapa Inca was an absolute ruler. His words were the absolute law. He controlled politics, society and food. He was also the commander-in-chief of the army.

However, the most powerful person in the government was actually the high priest. The high priest was very important because religion was very important in the Incan culture.

The imperial council was made up of 8 members. It was entirely dependent on the advice of the Inca. The Council of the Realm was a group of powerful nobles. Nobles are wealthy people. These people were also close advisors to the Sapa Inca, though not as close as the viceroy.

Inspectors ensured that everyone paid taxes to the Tawantinsuyu.

The military generals were led by a head military general called an Apunka. The Apunka was usually a close family member of the emperor.

The Inca government structure had four quarters headed by four Apos. The Apos were close to the King. Each quarter was made up of several provinces. There was a local government for each of the four quarters of the empire. Each quarter had its own governor, who was called an apu.

There were also other officials such as priests, military officers, judges, and tax collectors.

This system was well-organized and ensured that everyone had a chance in society.

SYMBOLS

Underline the "Words to Know" found in the passage. (see bottom)

? Something you have a question about

Something that surprised you

Your favorite fact

COLOR

YELLOW

What did the inspectors do?

GREEN

What were the governors in the quarters?

BLUE

Who established the Inca Empire?

WORDS TO KNOW

Emperor – ruler with great power

Sole – only

Provinces – district or area

MACHU PICCHU

CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWER

Which district included the Temple of the Intihuatana?

- Popular Nobility

What were the Incas' tools made of?

- Bark Cloth Grass

Which district did the commoners live in?

- Sacred Popular Nobility

TRUE OR FALSE

The Incas believed the Intihuatana kept the sun in place.

TRUE FALSE

Machu Picchu was built sometime between 1450 and 1550 for the Incan emperor, Pachacuti.

TRUE FALSE

THE BLANK

The Sacred District had many important temples, including the Temple of the _____.

Machu Picchu was abandoned but was rediscovered in 1911 when a local boy led an explorer, _____ to the site.

WORD SEARCH

O V N F M P O G N H J M E T C I T A Q TEMPLE
N G J P F X C L S W U S O V Y I H R SACRED
V R O P N R O F B W A R I X U A T L E STAFFS
I R L C U Y F G D C D I S T R I C T X I ABANDONED
M W W G S I E B R H P E X T O O L S N BINGHAM
Z U W R L U N E I E O L O B U B D C DISTRICT
C Y L C S G D D Z H F P B I N G H A M DISTRICT
A B A N D O N E D M F M T Z M T F R U C T DISTRICT
A L M O M Q W U F G Z E C H Y U E W X DISTRICT
T G R A C R H V D G S T B S L A G L J S TOOLS