



Life in the Inca Empire

Life in the Inca Empire

○ Main Idea (Objective):



- In order to unite their huge Empire, Incan rulers set up a highly organized government and society.

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- Lecture Focus (Essential Question):



- Have you ever tried to organize a large number of people? Lets look at how the Inca organized their society and developed ways to hold their Empire together.

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- Remember the Incas were a pre-Columbian tribe that lived on the Andes mountains and spoke Quechua and eventually established a massive empire in South America.

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- Today **Quechuas** is the term for several indigenous ethnic groups in South America who still speak the Quechua language.



- These people are direct decedents of the ancient **Inca** and are found today in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and Argentina.

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- The ancient **Inca** blamed earthquakes on the **Pachacamac**, “**Lord of the Earth.**”



- **Pachacamac** was the highest and most important Inca god.

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- The temples of **Pachacamac** is an archaeological site southeast in **Lima, Peru** in the Valley of the Lurín River and is dedicated to the Incan god.



- Most of the common buildings and temples were built in 800-1450 C.E.,...in total archeologist have found 17 pyramids.

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- It is not surprising that the greatest Incan leader took the name **Pachacuti** which means "**Earthshaker.**"

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- **Pachacuti** lived up to his name.



- Starting around 1438 C.E., **Pachacuti** and his son **Topa Inca**, built the largest ancient empire in the Americas.

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- This ancient empire stretched north to south, about 2,500 miles.



- To hold the **Inca Empire** together, **Pachacuti** set up a strong central government but let local rulers stay in power.

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- In order to ensure these local rulers loyalty, **Pachacuti**, took their sons to Cuzco as **wards**.

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- **Ward** - A member of a noble house who has been taken in by another noble family to be raised for a time.

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- **Pachacuti**, united his empire in many other ways as well.



- He required people to learn **Quechua**, the language spoken by the Inca.

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- **Pachacuti**, also designed a system of roads for travel and trade throughout the Inca empire.



- This elaborate road systems covered about 25,000 miles when it was completed.

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- The Inca also used irrigation and fertilization to improve their farmland.



- Inca engineers developed **Terraced Farming**, or a stair step series of ridges built into a mountainside, to create level farmland.

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- In addition to their excellent farming techniques, the Inca also herded **Llama** as cattle for food and also for their wool to make clothes and Incan textiles.



- Llama's were also used as a beast of burden...due to the high altitudes of the Andes Mountains life was difficult and the llamas could survive in that cold, high, and rocky climate...plus they had good balance.

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○ Questions:

- **1)** What was the name of the greatest Incan leader and what did his name mean?
- **2)** What did Pachacuti do to ensure local rulers loyalty?
- **3)** What type of special farming did the Incan's create?
- **4)** What were the many different uses the Incan had for Llamas?

Life in the Inca Empire

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What was the name of the greatest Incan leader and what did his name mean?
 - **Pachacuti, which meant "Earth Shaker"**
- **2)** What did Pachacuti do to ensure local rulers loyalty?
 - **Took their sons as wards to Cuzco**
- **3)** What type of special farming did the Incan's create?
 - **Terraced Farming**
- **4)** What were the many different uses the Incan had for Llamas?
 - **Food, clothing and beast of burden**

An Organized Society

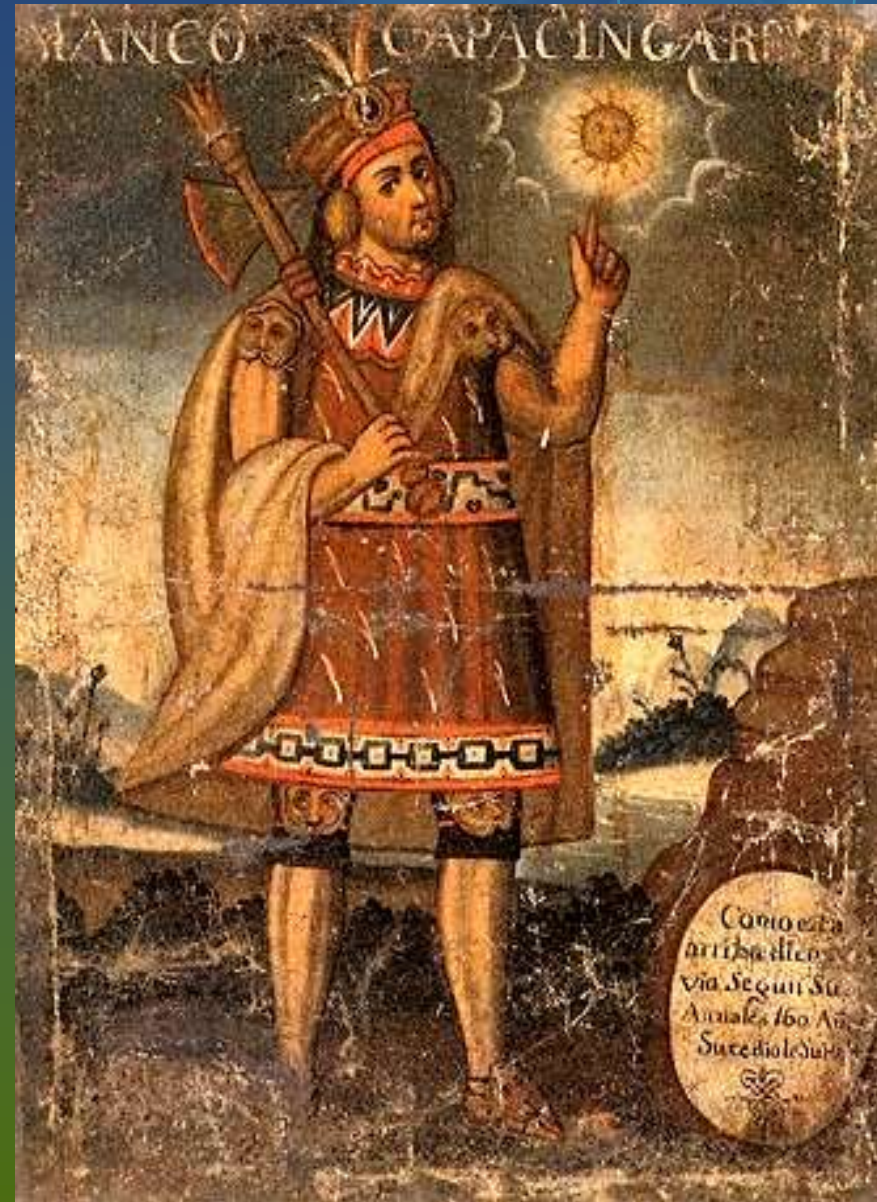
- The sun was perhaps the most important aspect of life in the Inca Empire because it provided warmth and light.



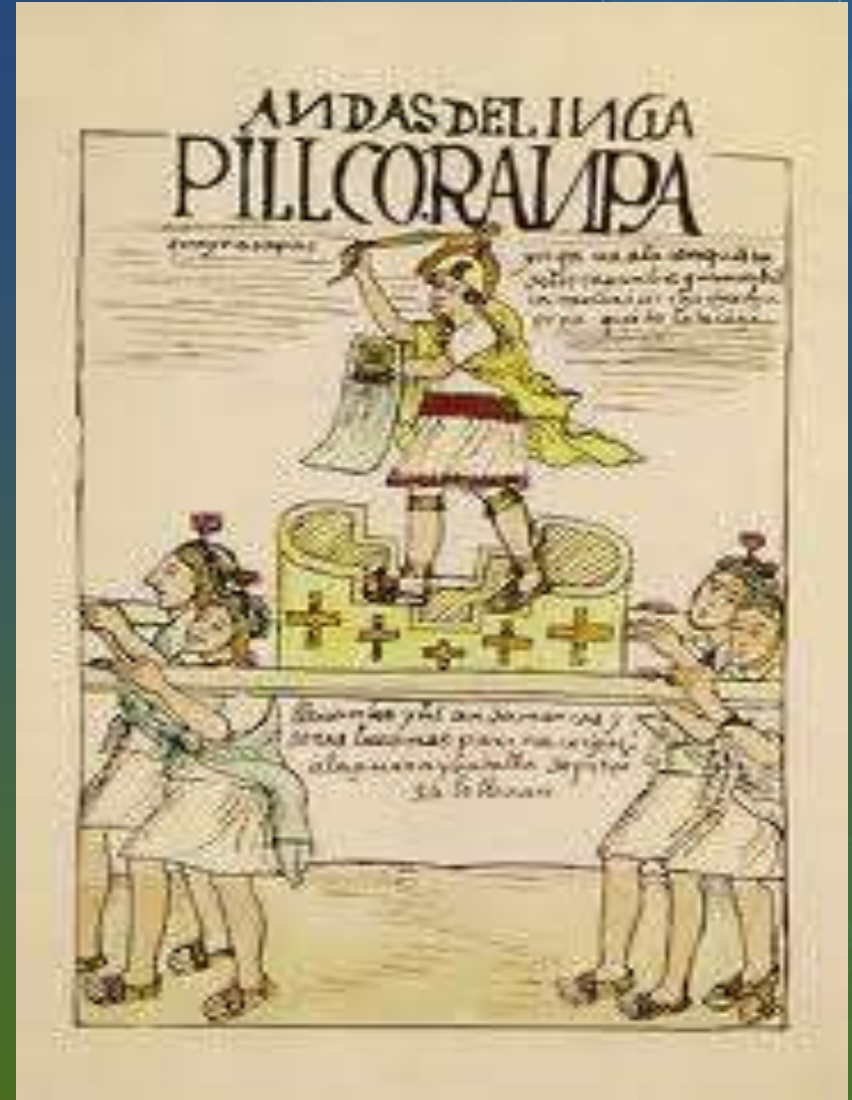
- **Inti**, the Sun God, was also known as the Giver of Life and was worshiped mostly by farmers who relied on the sun to receive good harvests.

An Organized Society

- The **Sapa Inca**, as ruler of the people, claimed divine heritage and direct descent from the Sun; they were literally the living son of **Inti**.



An Organized Society



- **Sapa Inca** was the ruler of the Kingdom of Cusco and later, the Emperor of the Inca Empire.

An Organized Society

- The Inca believed the sun god, **Inti** protected their capital city of Cuzco.



- The **Sapa Inca** rulers called themselves “**sons of the sun**” and along with their children and wives, who were known as **Coyas** and were at the top of society.

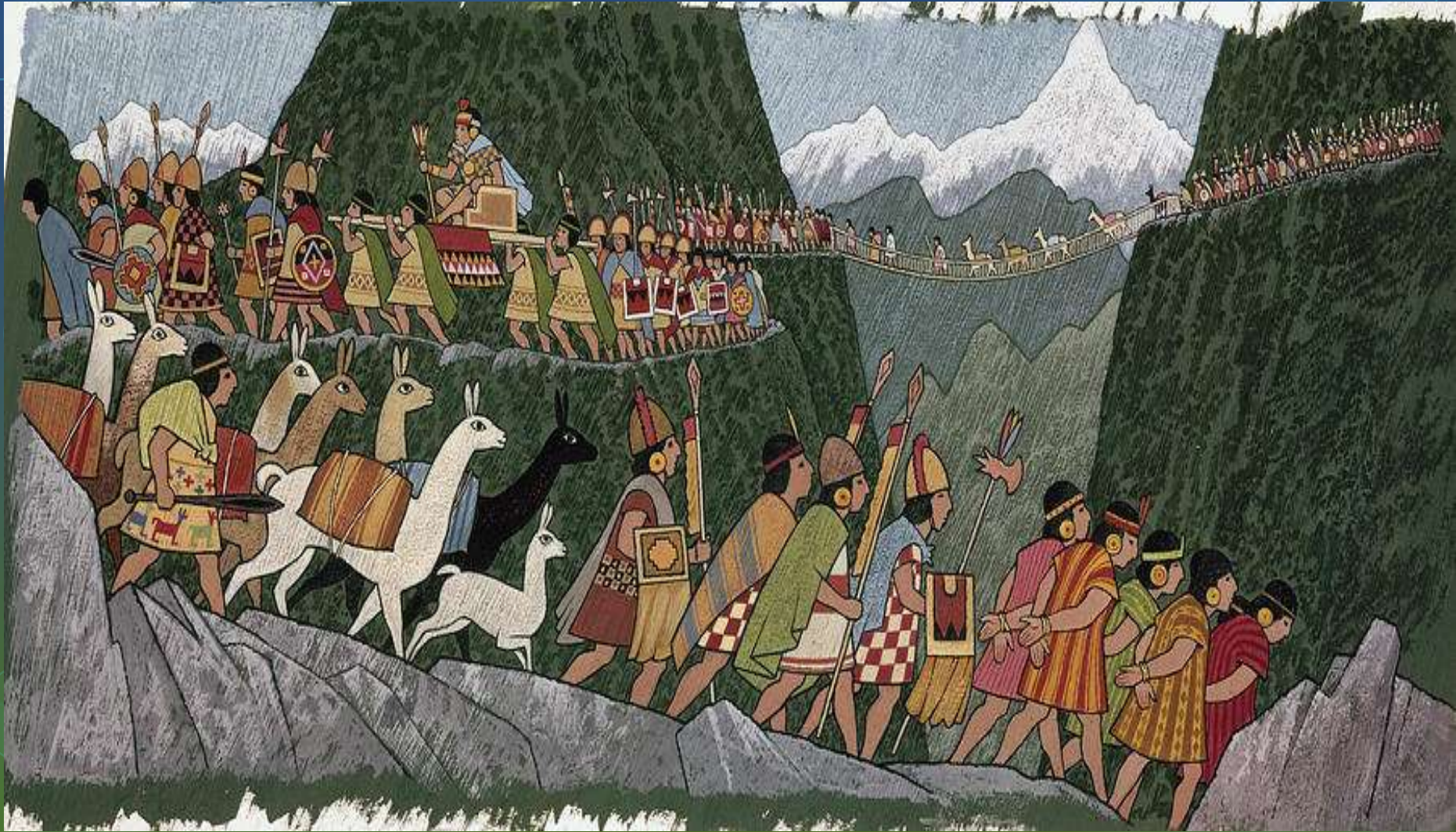
An Organized Society

○ The head priest and commander of the armies were just below the royal family.



○ Next on the Incan hierarchy came regional army leaders.

An Organized Society



- Below them were temple priests, army commanders and skilled workers such as musicians, artisans and accountants.

An Organized Society



- The bottom level of the Incan hierarchy consisted of farmers, herders and ordinary soldiers.

An Organized Society

- The Inca further divided the society into **12 different job categories** that every man, woman and child over the age of five joined.
- Young girls for example, were baby sitters, while young boys chased birds from gardens and farmlands.
- Herders, Craftsman, Weavers, Sorcerers, Warriors and Chosen Woman were all part of these different jobs.



An Organized Society

- **Jobs for the common people:** Some people did escape life on the farm, some boys were trained as artisans.



- Others were trained to be the servants and temple assistants of the royals, nobles and priests, while some actually rose to rather high positions in governmental service.

An Organized Society

- **Chosen Women:** The most beautiful 10 year old girls were selected to become "chosen women", who lived in temples.



- They were taught domestic arts, studied religion and after a few years, they were assigned jobs in the homes of the wealthy, perhaps even the home of the emperor himself.

An Organized Society

- **Herders:** The Incas did not have sheep, oxen, horses, chickens, goats or pigs... they had llamas, greatly prized for their meat and their wool.



- Young boys had the job of driving off foxes or any animals that might harm the herd...in the mountains, herders slept in small tents and wore thick clothing to protect themselves from the cold.

An Organized Society

- **Weavers:** Weaving was probably the most important of all the arts...weavers made blankets, ropes, clothing, baskets, and thick twisted rope cable for the suspension bridges.



- Weavers in Peru today use the same methods as the ancient Incas. Some of the designs have remained unchanged for thousands of years.

An Organized Society

- **Sorcerers:** The sorcerers were local people who had special abilities.



- There were not priests, but they were locally powerful because they could cast spells, read omens, and help or hinder you in your goals through the use of magic.

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○ Questions:

- **1)** What was the name of the Incan Sun God who protected Cuzco?
- **2)** The Rulers of the Inca who lived in Cuzco were known as what?
- **3)** What two types of people were right below the rulers in Incan society?
- **4)** How many different Incan job categories did the Incan divide their society into?

An Organized Society

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What was the name of the Incan Sun God who protected Cuzco?
 - **Inti**
- **2)** The Rulers of the Inca who lived in Cuzco where know as what?
 - **"Sons of the Suns"**
- **3)** What two types of people were right below the rulers in Incan society?
 - **The head priest and the commander of the armies**
- **4)** How many different Incan job categories did the Incan divide their society into?
 - **12 different job categories**

What was Incan Culture Like?

- The Inca rarely honored their gods with human sacrifice.



- They turned to sacrifice only in times of trouble, such as during earthquakes or on special occasions.

What was Incan Culture Like?



- To please their gods, the Inca built large works of stone.
- The Inca had no system of writing yet, no wheels and no iron tools.



What was Incan Culture Like?



- Despite not having these tools and new technologies the Inca created places such as **Machu Picchu**, a retreat for Incan Kings.

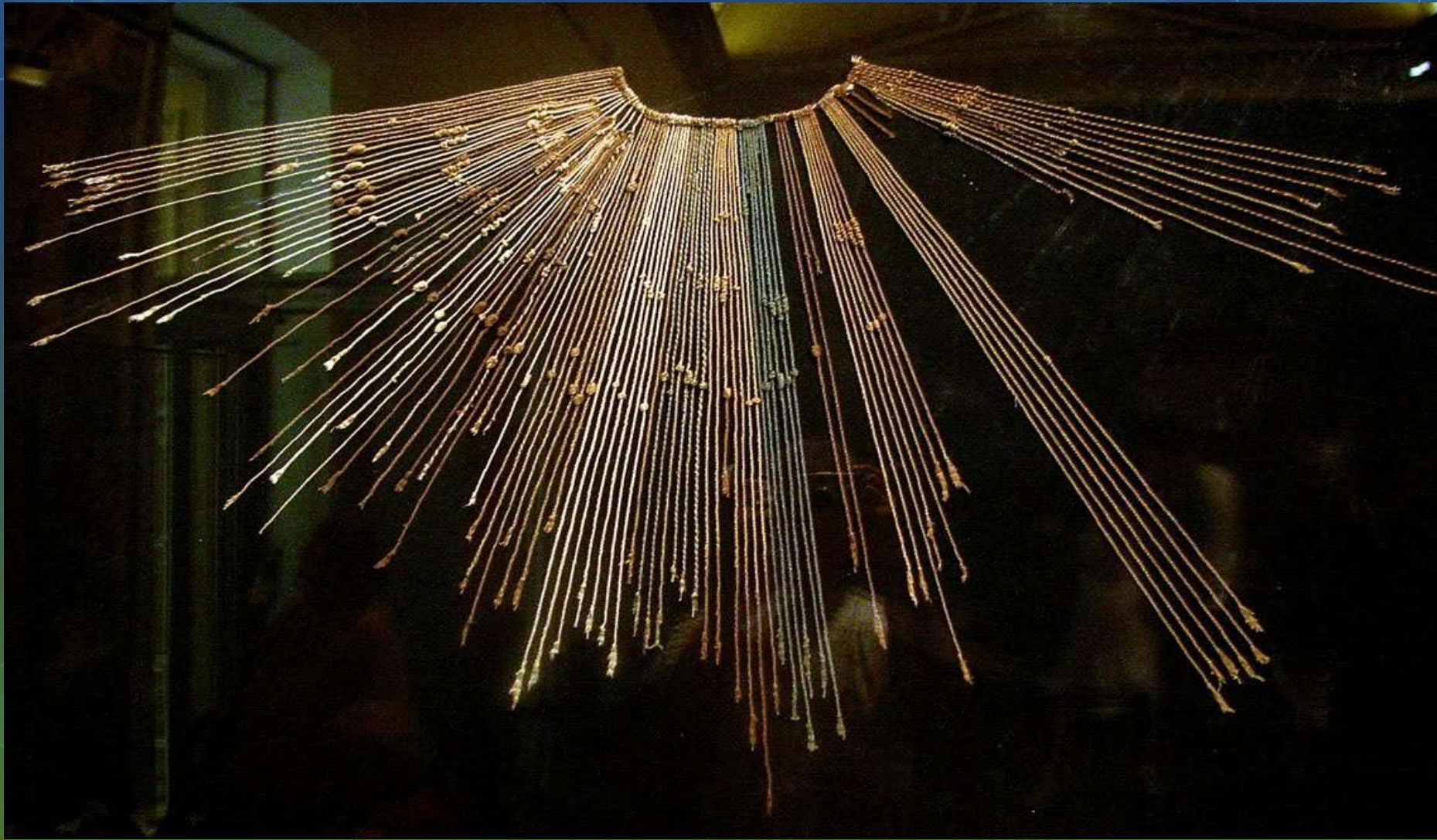
What was Incan Culture Like?

- Building large structures required the Inca to develop a way to do mathematical calculations.



- The Inca used a **Quipu**, which is a rope with knotted cords of different lengths and colors weaved into them.

What was Incan Culture Like?



- Each **Quipu** knot represented a number when used for mathematics and other times the knots would represent items when keeping records.

What was Incan Culture Like?



What was Incan Culture Like?

- The Inca were also skilled engineers.



- Workers fit stones so tightly together that even the thinnest blade could not fit between them.

What was Incan Culture Like?

- The way in which the stone craftsmanship worked was ingenious.



- The Incan engineers used no **mortar**, the stone blocks could slide up and down without collapsing whenever an earthquake swayed the empire.

What was Incan Culture Like?



What was Incan Culture Like?

○ Questions:

- 1) Did the Incans sacrifice humans to their gods? If not how did they honor their gods?
- 2) What was the mathematical tool the Incans developed for calculations?
- 3) What was so unique about the Incan engineers stones?

What was Incan Culture Like?

- **Questions:**

- 1) Did the Incans sacrifice humans to their gods? If not how did they honor their gods?

- **Not normally, only in times of trouble, like with an earthquake...they built large works of stones, like temples**

- 2) What was the mathematical tool the Incans developed for calculations?

- **A knotted rope known as a Quipu**

- 3) What was so unique about the Incan engineers stones?

- **They did not use mortar when laying bricks for roads or buildings**

History Mystery?



○ HISTORY MYSTERY TIME!!!

History Mystery?

- Machu Picchu is known as one of South America's most beautiful and sacred places...seated high atop the Andes Mountains, it was home to the Inca people.



- The Inca ruler Pachacuti built Machu Picchu in the mid-15th century and appears to have been a sacred, ceremonial city and astronomical observatory.

History Mystery?

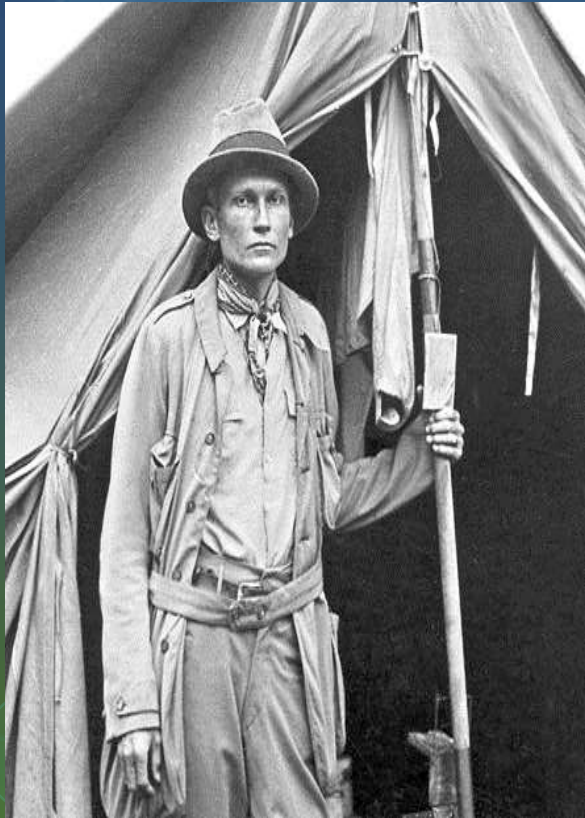
- Construction at Machu Picchu first began around 1400 C.E., during the rise of the Inca empire, however, it was abandoned less than a century later



- When the Spanish arrived in Cusco in 1572, just sixty miles away, Machu Picchu had been overgrown by the heavy jungle life of the mountains...the Spanish explorers never found Machu Picchu, and the locals never bothered to clue them in to its existence.

History Mystery?

- Machu Picchu sat empty for hundreds of years, until Yale scholar Hiram Bingham stumbled upon it in 1911.



- Bingham had been searching for the legendary lost city of Vilcabamba, and had been in the Andes Mountains for years...eventually, Bingham began to pick up stories from the natives, hinting that there was a great enclave hidden high up in the jungle...a local boy showed Hiram the way to the ruins.

History Mystery?



History Mystery?



History Mystery?



History Mystery?



History Mystery?



History Mystery?



History Mystery?



History Mystery?



History Mystery?

- Many experts believe that Machu Picchu was constructed as more than just a mountaintop estate for a ruler.
- It is most likely a sacred religious site as well.
 - Using the theory of “sacred geometry,” it has been determined that the temples of Machu Picchu are geometrically lined up with mountains and other landmarks which were revered by the Inca people.
- A number of ritual offerings have been discovered at the site, as well as some major archaeological finds.



History Mystery?



- Perhaps the best known of these is the **Intihuatana Stone**, which points directly at the sun, casting no shadow, on the day of the winter solstice.

History Mystery?

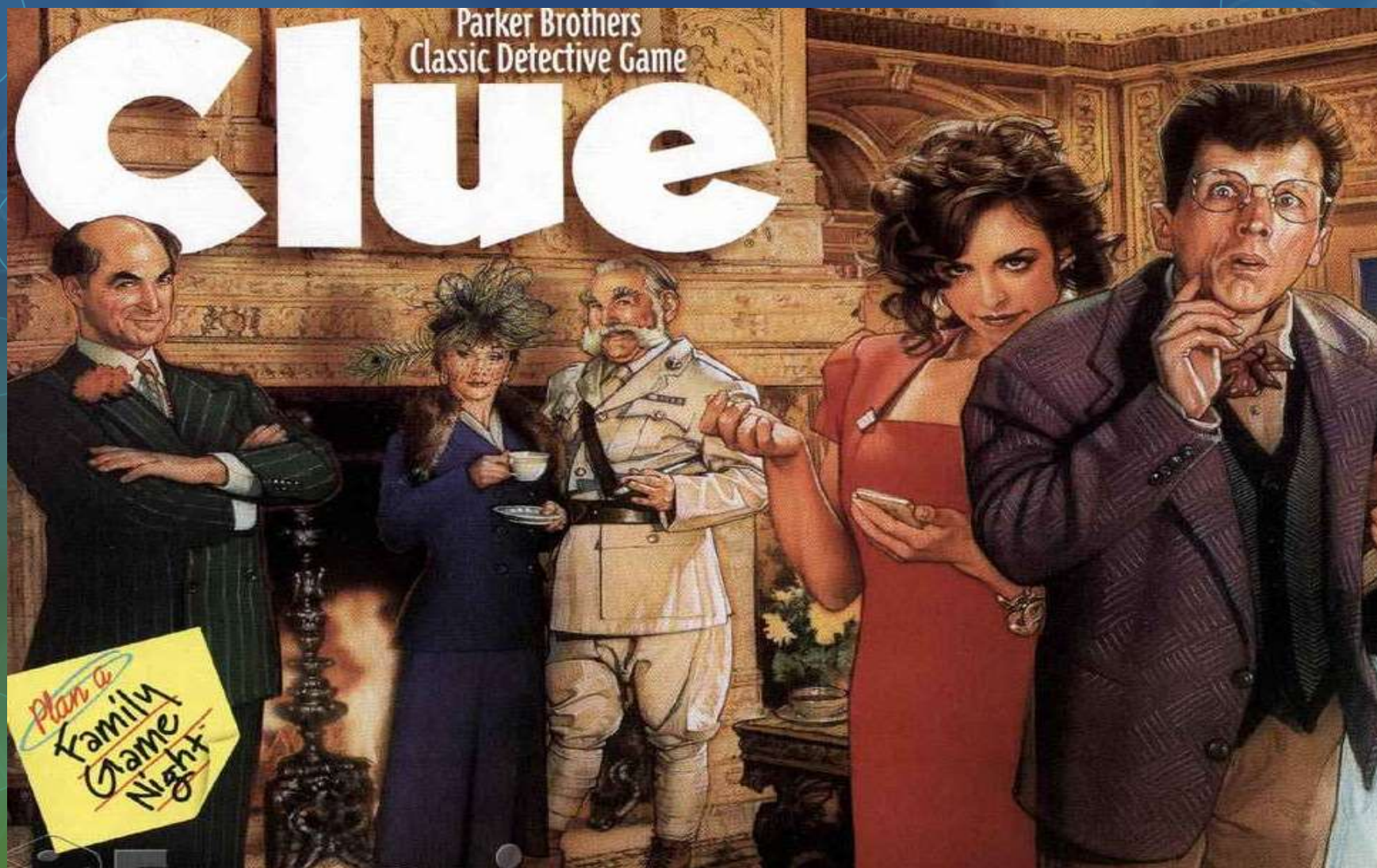


History Mystery?

- **Lecture Response:**

- Answer the following questions in a well organized two paragraph response.
- How did Pachacuti make sure local leaders would stay loyal to him? Do you agree with his ideas or do you believe another way to control your local leaders is possible?

History Mystery...Part 2?



○ History Mystery Time...Part 2!!!!

History Mystery?

- The mummy of an ancient Inca girl sits literally frozen in sleep at a museum in Argentina.



- The mummy, called **La Doncella** or **The Maiden**, is that of a teenage girl who died more than 500 years ago in a ritual sacrifice to the Incan Gods in the Andes Mountains.

History Mystery?



- The girl and two other children were left on a mountaintop to succumb to the cold as offerings to the gods, according to the archaeologists who found the mummified remains in Argentina in 1999.

History Mystery?



History Mystery?

