

Early Civilizations of Latin America

European Impact on the
Aztec & Inca Civilizations

**The Aztec and
Inca, c. 1500**

 Aztec

 Inca



The Inca

Rise of the Inca

- In 1200 AD, Incas settled in Cuzco, a village in the Andes Mountains (now in Peru).
 - Most were farmers.
- In 1438 AD, Pachacuti became ruler of the Incas and conquered more lands/people.
 - The empire stretched 2,500 miles and ruled 12 million people.
 - They used runners to spread news—at a rate of 250 miles a day!



Machu Picchu



Cuzco

- The jaguar was an important symbol to the Incans.
 - Cuzco (capital city) was built in the shape of a jaguar!



Accomplishments

- They were excellent farmers, builders, and managers.
- Roads and aqueducts:
 - Incans built more than 19,000 miles of roads (over mountains)!
 - They also built canals and aqueducts to carry water to dry areas.
 - **aqueduct**—pipe or channel designed to carry water to a distant source; irrigates dry land



Aqueduct





Accomplishments

- Farming:
 - The Inca cut terraces into the Andes to create farmland.
 - They developed a large variety of foods.
 - They also discovered ways to store and preserve food.
 - The potato was a staple food (due to it being able to grow in the high altitudes of the Andes).
 - Other foods: tomatoes, maize, lima beans, peppers, grains

Terrace Farming





Terrace Farming

Architecture

- Incan ruins are some of the most impressive works of architecture in the world.
- They cut stone with such precisions that each block fit exactly with its neighbor.
 - The fit was so tight, even a thin knife wouldn't fit in the cracks.







Bridges & Roads

- The Incas created an elaborate road system for messengers to travel across the empire.
- Due to the terrain of the region, bridges were often needed for the messengers to travel.
- These bridges were elaborate structures for their time.









Record Keeping

- The nobles conducted a census to count people so they could be taxed.
- They did not have a written language.
- They recorded information on knotted strings called quipus.
 - Each color represented a different item and knots of different sizes at different intervals stood for numbers.

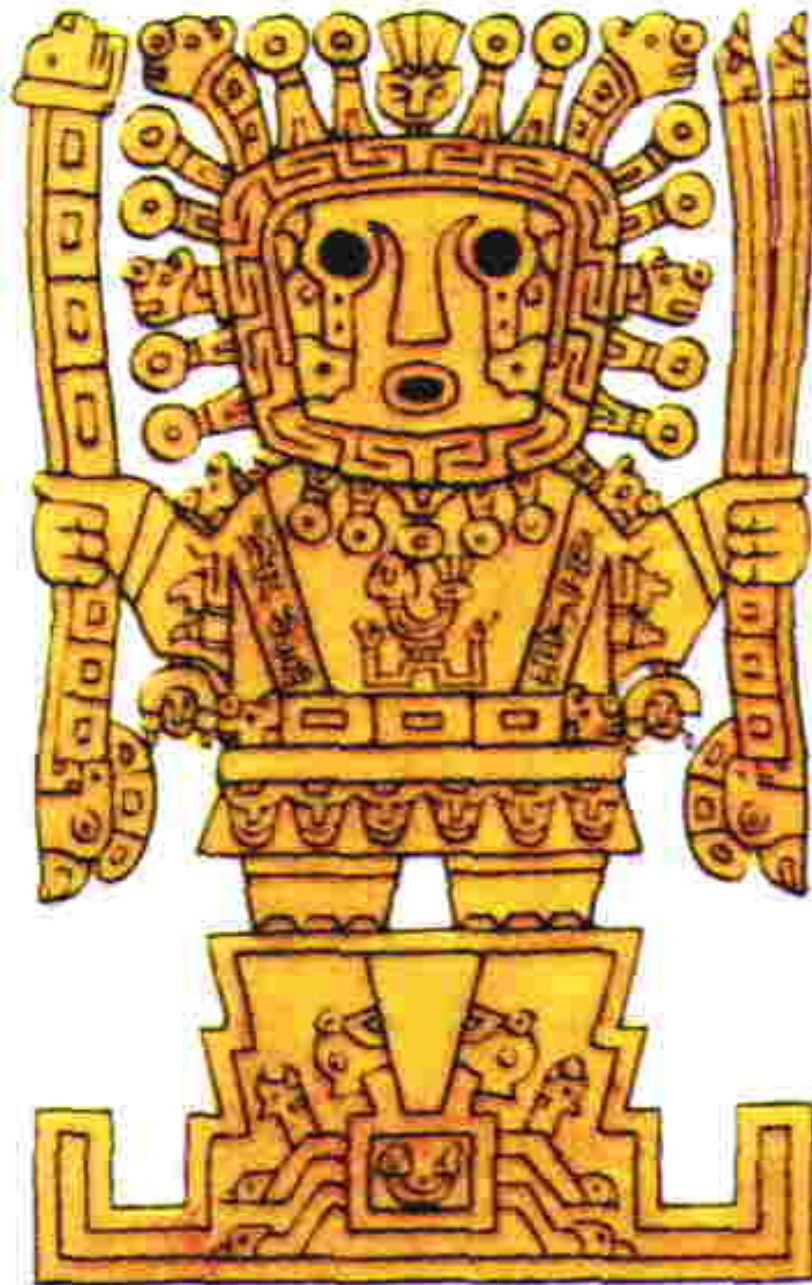
Quipu



Religion

- Like the Aztec, the Inca were also polytheistic.
 - The main god was the sun god.
- Sacrifice was a big part of their religion—usually a white llama was used, but sometimes they sacrificed small children.
- They also believed in reincarnation.

Sun God



Incan Mummy

(Over 500 Years Old!)





Fall of the Inca

The Inca

- In the 1530s, the Incan empire was HUGE!
- Inca thought they ruled most of the world; two threats from the north soon proved they did not...
 - 1.They couldn't stop the spread of smallpox.
 2. They couldn't scare away Pizarro.



Francisco Pizarro

- Pizarro was from the Extremadura.
 - He was not of noble birth; could not even write his name.
 - At age 16, Pizarro fled a job herding pigs in Italy.
- In 1502, he arrived in the Americas and became very wealthy by exploring Panama.
 - He heard a rumor that there was a great empire filled with gold in the mountains of South America...



Pizarro & the Inca

- Pizarro led 160 soldiers to the Incan homeland.
 - They raided Incan storehouses & fired guns at villagers.
- Incan emperor, Atahualpa, thought Pizarro was crazy. How could he stand up to an army of 80,000 Incan warriors?
- In 1532, Pizarro came up with a plan to defeat the Inca...

Atahualpa





Pizzaro Defeats the Inca

- Spanish messengers invited Atahualpa to a meeting.
- He agreed & left most of his army behind--brought only 5,000 bodyguards.
- Pizarro's 160 soldiers attacked the Inca & kidnapped Atahualpa.
- Pizarro offered to free Atahualpa if he filled one room with gold & one with silver.
- Atahualpa kept his end of the bargain, but Pizarro killed him in 1533.



After Conquering the Inca

- The Spanish king made Pizarro the governor of Peru.
- Pizarro's conquest of Peru opened most of South America to Spanish rule.
 - Spain controlled a vast territory covering 375,000 miles with almost seven million inhabitants.

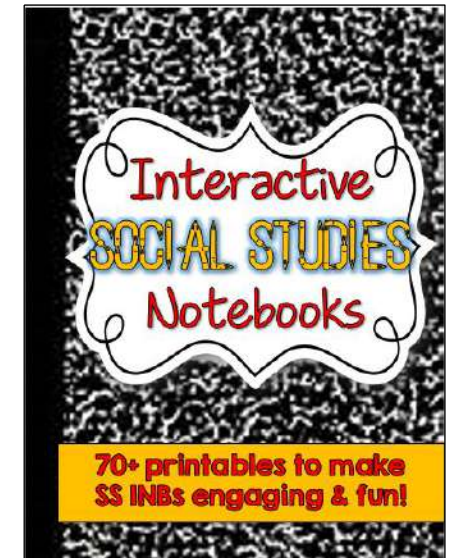


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