



Machu Picchu

The city of Machu Picchu is the most famous and best-preserved remnant of the Inca civilization located high in the mountains of modern-day Peru. It was built 7,710 feet (2,350 m) above sea level somewhere between 1438 and 1472, during the reign of Pachacuti Inca. In 1983, Machu Picchu was proclaimed a World Heritage site by UNESCO, and in 2007 it became one of the new Seven Wonders of the World.

The city was built during the most prosperous period of the Inca Empire and was made up of temples, baths, palaces, servants' quarters and storage facilities all constructed entirely without using cement. This unique style of building is one of the reasons the site draws so much attention. Large stones were fit together so well that they have remained in place long after the engineers who designed them left. In the 16th century, the Spanish came to South America, destroying and plundering most of the Incan cities. Thanks to its secluded location, Machu Picchu survived the Spanish invasion unknown and untouched. The city was abandoned around this time. However, the reason for this remains a mystery to this day.

After the fall of the Inca Empire, the site lay largely forgotten. Years later, in 1911, Machu Picchu was rediscovered by Hiram Bingham, a man who was searching for the lost city of Vilcabamba, where the last Incan leader was captured by the Spanish. During his search, he stumbled upon Machu Picchu and wrongfully believing it was Vilcabamba, named it the "Lost City of the Incas." An article about Machu Picchu was published in the April 1913 edition of National Geographic magazine.

Ever since it was agreed that Machu Picchu was not the Lost City, there have been many theories about the purpose of the city in the sky. Some believed that it was a religious site, others that it was a prison or a place used for the coronation of new kings. Today most archaeologists believe Machu Picchu was a retreat for Incan emperors and aristocrats.

Today Machu Picchu is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Peru. During the height of tourist season, over 2,500 people visit the ruins every day. Some of the most popular attractions on the site include the Temple of the Sun and Huayna Picchu, a peak high above Machu Picchu which offers incredible views of the city and mountains below.

Travelers to Machu Picchu typically start their journey in the city of Cusco. From here there are many ways to get to Machu Picchu. Private taxis, group minivans, hiking tours, local buses and even a train will take visitors to the Aguas Calientes, or Machu Picchu Pueblo. The city of Aguas Calientes sits beside a rushing river at the base of a mountain. From here Machu Picchu is only a 1-2 hour hike or 15-minute bus ride away. Tourists following this route usually wake up around 4 am to enjoy the morning views on top of the mountain at one of the most mysterious wonders of the world.

Vocab Match

Name: _____

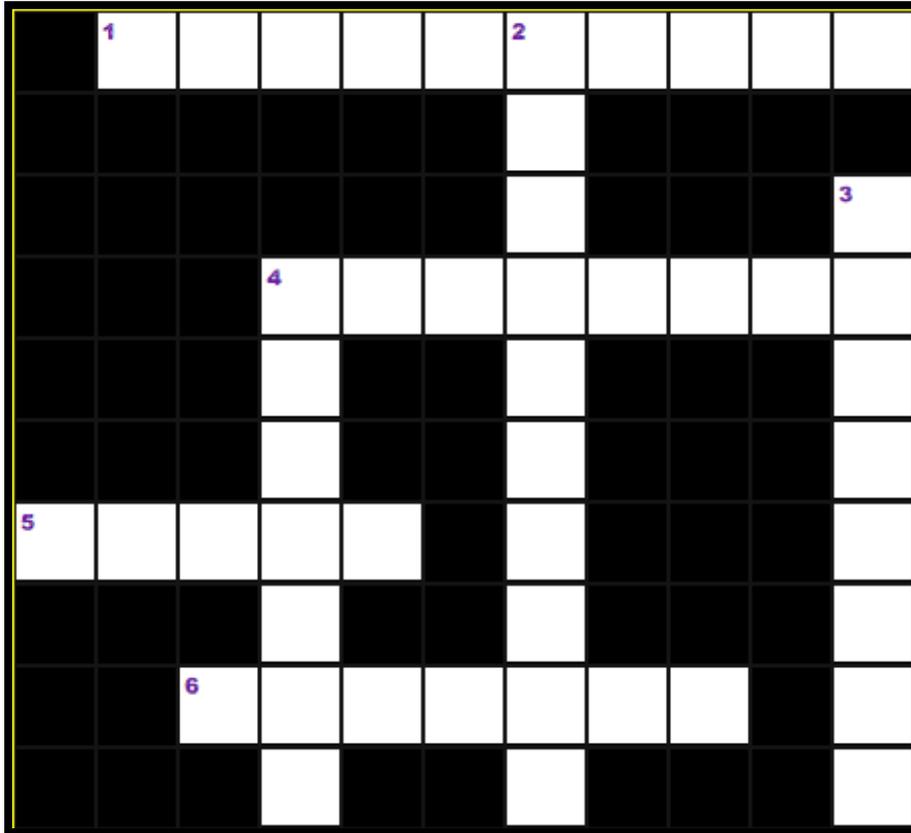
Word	Answer	Definition
1. preserve	1. ____	a. noun- a small piece or part of something
2. remnant	2. ____	b. noun- process of making someone a king or queen
3. prosperous	3. ____	c. verb- keep something from being damaged
4. plunder	4. ____	d. noun- broken parts left from an old building
5. secluded	5. ____	e. phrasal verb- find or discover by chance
6. stumble upon	6. ____	f. noun- person of high social rank
7. coronation	7. ____	g. verb- to steal during war
8. aristocrat	8. ____	h. adjective- successful
9. ruins	9. ____	i. adjective- quiet, distant
10. route	10. ____	j. noun- road, path or direction to a place

Discussion Topics

1. What UNESCO World Heritage site would you like to visit?
2. Do you know any of the 7 Wonders of the World?
3. Have you ever stumbled upon something really interesting?
4. Do you like to study in secluded places or places with a lot of people? Where is a good place to study in your town?
5. Do you like visiting historical places?

Name: _____

Machu Picchu



Hint!

ACROSS

- 1 noun- ceremony to make a person king or queen
- 4 verb- keep something from being damaged
- 5 noun- broken parts left from an old building
- 6 noun- a small piece or part of something

DOWN

- 2 noun- person of high social rank
- 3 adjective- quiet, distant
- 4 verb- to steal during war

Quiz

1) Which civilization was Machu Picchu a part of?

- a. Olmec b. Maya c. Aztec d. Inca

2) Where is Machu Picchu located?

- a. in the sea b. mountains of Peru c. in the Amazon d. mountains of Colombia

3) According to the article, what was not used during the construction of Machu Picchu?

- a. cement b. sand c. stone d. wood

4) Why didn't the Spanish destroy Machu Picchu?

- a. they made it into a library b. it was already destroyed c. they thought it was beautiful d. they couldn't find it

5) Why did people leave Machu Picchu long ago?

- a. no one knows b. no fun c. no food d. no water

6) What magazine first wrote about Machu Picchu?

- a. National Geographic b. Time c. People d. Newsweek

7) What do most people believe was the purpose of Machu Picchu?

- a. a vacation spot b. a prison c. a camp d. a religious site

8) How many people visit Machu Picchu every day?

- a. 250 b. 2,500 c. 250,000 d. 25,000

9) According to the article, where do tourists usually start their journey to Machu Picchu?

- a. Nazca b. Iquitos c. Lima d. Cusco

10) How long does it take to get to Machu Picchu from Aquas Calientes?

- a. 1-2 hour hike b. 1-2 hour drive c. 15 hour drive d. 15 minute hike

Key

Matching	Quiz
1. c	1. d
2. a	2. b
3. h	3. a
4. g	4. d
5. i	5. a
6. e	6. a
7. b	7. a
8. f	8. b
9. d	9. d
10. j	10. a

PROJECT: Students present about a wonder of the world. Include images, history, facts, culture, geography, and importance.

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Source: <http://www.peru-machu-picchu.com/history.php>,

<https://www.history.com/topics/machu-picchu>