

The Conquest of the Inca Empire

When Spanish treasure hunters led by Francisco Pizarro (below) first came to Peru, they had one thing in mind—finding gold. In 1527, as his men explored the coast of Peru, Pizarro



1 ▲ INCA OFFICIALS received warnings of the coming disaster. Messengers brought to Cuzco word of "bearded beings" with hair growing out of their chins. Others told of men on floating houses

that sailed away. Stranger still were the tales of the creatures the men rode on. The most frightening news was of Incas dying (probably from diseases brought by the Europeans).

2 ► THE YEAR 1532 was a bad one for the Incas. Seven years earlier, the eleventh Inca, Huayna Capac, had died without naming a successor. Two of his sons, Huascar and Atahualpa, fought over which one should be the next Inca. After a long, bloody war, Atahualpa claimed victory in 1532.



3 ▼ BORN IN SPAIN, Francisco Pizarro first came to the Americas in 1502. His early South American travels were with Vasco Núñez de Balboa, the first European to see the Pacific Ocean from the Americas.



The deadly conflict weakened the empire just as Pizarro arrived.



heard tales of a fabulously rich Indian empire in the Andes. Pizarro's search for treasure marked the beginning of the end for the Inca empire. On a second trip to Peru in 1532, Pizarro brought about 180

soldiers with him. This time the Spanish invaders stayed. Just one year later, the Inca ruler Atahualpa was dead, and the Inca empire was history. Here's how it all came about.



4 < PIZARRO'S conquest of the Inca empire was amazingly fast. In 1532, Pizarro asked for a meeting with Atahualpa, the new ruler. Unaware of the dangers he faced, Atahualpa agreed, falling into a trap set by Pizarro. At the outdoor meeting place, Pizarro

hid his soldiers in buildings with doorways wide enough for men mounted on horses. As Atahualpa and his army entered the plaza, Spanish cannons fired, and soldiers charged out of the buildings, slashing the Incas with their swords.



▲ THE INCAS suffered terribly under Spanish rule. They could no longer practice their religion and were forced

to become Catholics. The terraces and irrigation canals so important to farming in the Andes fell apart.



These drawings show some of the ways in which Spanish officials punished the Incas who rebelled.



5 < THE SPEARS and shields of the Incas were no match for Spanish guns. Around seven thousand Inca soldiers died, but not a single Spanish soldier lost his life. The shock of seeing horses and hearing gunfire for the first time stunned the Inca troops.



< DURING THE first century of Spanish rule, the Indian population of Peru fell by 80 percent. Eight out of every 10 died, killed by overwork, lack of food, and disease.

6 < PIZARRO CAPTURED Atahualpa and demanded a ransom of gold or silver for the Inca ruler. For many months, gold poured in from the four corners of the Inca empire as Atahualpa remained a cap-

tive. Finally, one large room was filled with gold objects and another room was filled twice over with silver. Pizarro took the ransom, but killed Atahualpa anyway, leaving the Inca empire without a leader.

7 > AFTER KILLING Atahualpa, Pizarro and his troops moved southward to Cuzco, taking control of the city in 1533. The Incas tried to fight back but lacked the weapons of the Spanish. Weakened by smallpox, measles, and other diseases brought by the Europeans, they were no match for the Spanish. By 1534, the Inca empire belonged to Spain.



> THE SPANISH melted down most of the treasures they took from the Incas. Few pieces like this gold figurine remain.



< WHEN THE SPANISH ARRIVED, they discovered the potato, an ancient Inca food.



Echoes of the Incas

The Inca empire ended with the Spanish conquest in the 1500s. But high in the Andes, reminders of the Inca way of life are everywhere. Many villagers still speak Quechua, the language of the Incas. They prepare and eat foods much as the Incas did and plow their fields with age-old tools. Today, visitors to Peru and other parts of the Inca empire can still walk in the footsteps of the Incas on parts of the royal road built so long ago.



◀ **LOOK AGAIN AT** the picture of the Inca weaver on page 6. Today, Peruvian Indians in the Andes still weave wool just as that woman did, using a back-strap loom. One end of the cloth is tied around a tree while the other end attaches to the weaver's back.

► **TODAY, QUECHUA** is spoken by people in Peru and Ecuador. Many of these people live in rural villages high in the Andes.

They survive by farming and raising sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. Some hold jobs in mining.



▲ **LLAMAS ARE STILL** the pack animals of the Andes.

► **THESE MEN CROSS** the water in a reed boat much like the ones used by Andean peoples. Boats like this are still used on Lake Titicaca and along Peru's Pacific coast.





► **A STAPLE OF THE** Andean diet, potatoes are one of the few crops that can withstand frequent frosts. This person is making *chuño*, or dried potatoes, a food eaten by Inca armies as they marched off to war. The potato is frozen and



thawed several times. Each time it thaws, the water is squeezed out until none is left. Chuño can last for more than a year.



▲ **COMPARE THE** tool this farmer uses for weeding his fields with the one in this drawing from the 1600s of an Inca couple tending their fields.



◀ **TODAY, ANYONE** can travel what remains of the Inca road. At left is a section of the old stone road in the Andes mountains.



▲ **REMINISCENT OF** Inca religion is the Intirami, or Sun Festival, which takes place at springtime in Cuzco.



▲ **NO CALCULATOR** for this Peruvian Indian, who counts sheep and crops with a quipu.

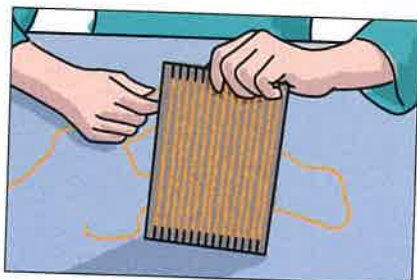




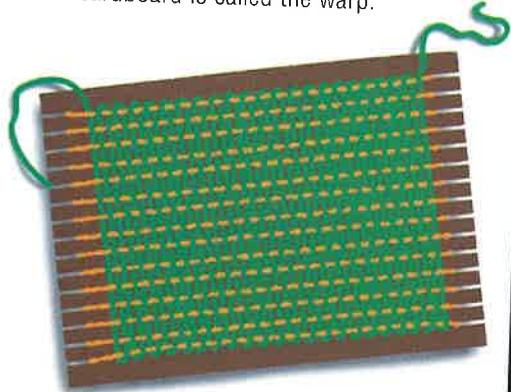
1. On the cardboard, with the short sides as the top and bottom, draw a line 1/2 inch from the top and another 1/2 inch from the bottom.



2. Cut slits to the lines. Make the slits 1/4 inch apart. Have the same number of slits on the top and bottom.



5. Keep winding the yarn from top to bottom to top until you come to the last slit. Knot the yarn. The yarn on the cardboard is called the warp.



8. When you have filled the warp completely with the weft, tie a knot and slip the yarn off the cardboard. You can sew rectangles together to make a place mat or even a patchwork comforter.

Weaving Fun

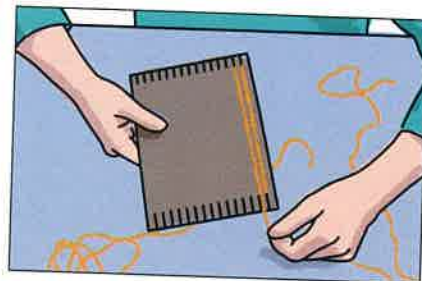
The Incas made their own backstrap looms for weaving. You too can make a simple loom and weave a rectangular patch on it.

MATERIALS:

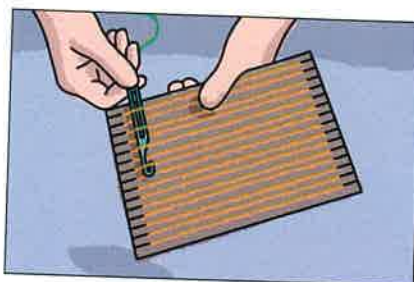
LOOM: piece of heavy cardboard (4" by 6" is a good size); ruler; pencil; scissors
WEAVING: at least two different colors of yarn; yarn needle (blunt, with large eye)



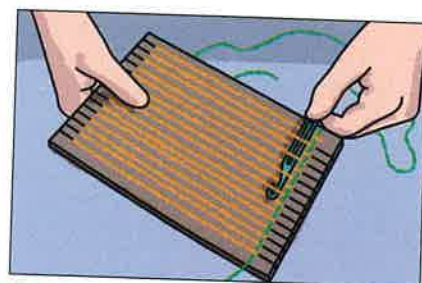
3. Put a knot at the end of a long piece of yarn. Place the knot behind the first slit on the top left side of the cardboard, and pull the yarn to the front of the cardboard. Bring the yarn down to the first slit on the bottom left side of the cardboard.



4. Pass the yarn under the cardboard tab to the right, and then bring it through the second slit to the front and up to the top again.



6. Take about 5 yards of a different color yarn and thread the needle with it. Start either at the top or bottom, at the left or right, whichever feels most comfortable for you. Weave across the loom, going over and then under each thread of the warp. The yarn going across is called the weft.



7. When you finish the first row of the weft, start back. On the second row, go under the warp threads that you went over on the first row and over the warp threads that you went under. Keep the rows of the weft as close together as you can.

MORE READINGS ON THE INCAS

BOOKS FOR ADULTS

- * Nigel Davies, *The Ancient Kingdom of Peru*, Penguin, 1998.
- * John Hemmings, *Conquest of the Incas*, Harcourt Brace, 1973.
- * Michael Moseley, *The Incas and Their Ancestors*, Thames & Hudson, 1993.
- * Adriana Von Hagen and Craig Morris, *The Cities of the Ancient Andes*, Thames & Hudson, 1998.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

- * Peter Chrisp, *The Incas*, Thomson Learning, 1994.
- * Sarita Kendall, *The Incas*, New Discovery Books, 1992.
- * Chloe Sayer, *The Incas*, Steck-Vaughn Company, 1999.
- * Tim Wood, *The Incas*, Viking, 1996.

INCA ACROSTIC

Fill in the blanks with the answers to each clue. The letters in the circles will spell the name of the best-preserved Inca site and a destination for many present-day tourists.

1. Incas' only work animal

2. Inca tax, paid in labor

3. Capital of Inca empire

4. Last ruler of the Inca empire

5. Knotted-string communication

6. South American country that was the center of the Inca empire

7. Important weapon of the Incas

8. Spanish weapon that helped overcome the Incas

9. Type of loom used by the Incas

10. Official language of the Incas

11. Kind of wool worn by nobility

Answer:

INCA LAND

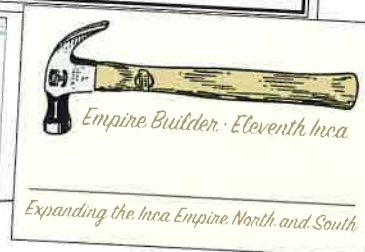
The Inca empire covered many present-day South American countries. Write the name of each country next to the letter that identifies it on the map. Use an atlas if you need to.



Who Were They?

Write the names where they belong on the cards:

Guamán Poma
Francisco Pizarro
Pachacuti
Huayna Capac
Hiram Bingham



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ANSWERS:

PAGE 19:

INCA ACROSTIC: 1. llama; 2. mita; 3. Cuzco; 4. Atahualpa; 5. quipu; 6. Peru; 7. sling; 8. cannon; 9. backstrap; 10. Quechua; 11. vicuña. **MACHU PICCHU INCA LAND:** A. Ecuador; B. Peru; C. Bolivia; D. Chile; E. Argentina.

WHO WERE THEY?: Guamán Poma: artist; Francisco Pizarro: conqueror of the Incas; Pachacuti: first great ruler of the Inca empire; Huayna Capac: empire builder and eleventh Inca; Hiram Bingham: archaeologist.

ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS:

Acme Design Company: All illustrations, pp.18-19.

Michael Kline Illustration: Colorized Guamán Poma drawings, pp.2-4-6-8-9-12-15,17; cartoons, pp.6-7,13; Messenger Service "Inca Style," pp.8-9; Indian population chart, p.14.

Wood Ronsaville Harlin, Inc.: Map, pp.4-5, Matthew Frey; Atahualpa's capture, pp.14-15, Rob Wood.

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ON THE COVER: Inca girl in costume, Tony Stone, photograph by Michael Scott.

PICTURE CREDITS:

AKG, London: Veintimilla, p.6 center (golden baby rattle). **American Museum of Natural History:** R.P. Sheridan, p.13 lower middle (silver llama). **Art Resource:** Provenza, p.4 middle (Tupa Inca); Werner Forman, p.13 top left (statuette), p.13 bottom right (clothing of nobles); Jorge Ianiszewski, p.13 lower left (Inca goddess doll). **Nick Saunders/Barbara Heller Photo Library, London,** p.5 bottom (Inca storehouse); SEF, p.15 lower right (gold figurine). **Bruce Coleman:** Michael Black, cover inset right (potato), p.15 bottom left (potato). **Granger Collection:** p.13 middle left (earrings), p.14 middle right (Pizarro), p.15 middle right (Atahualpa at the stake). **Kevin Schafer:** pp.4-5 middle (Cuzco). **National Geographic Image Collection:** Stephen Alvarez, p.13 bottom upper left (examining Juanita), p.13 bottom lower left (Juanita's hand); H.M. Herget, p.6 upper left (Inca farmers), p.7 lower left (nobles), p.7 lower right (farmers), p.7 upper right (royal couple), p.13 middle right (chosen women); Christopher Klein, p.12 left (Inca girl in costume), p.12 lower right (Juanita buried); Loren McIntyre, p.17 upper right (farmers), p.17 middle right (counting with quipu). **Photo Researchers:** Peter B. Kaplan, p.3 upper right (llama); Tom McHugh, pp.10-11 (Inca gold figure); Richard Bergmann, p.17 center middle (Inca road). **South American Pictures:** p.2 top left (horse), p.4 upper left (Pachacuti), p.4 lower middle (Tupa Inca's son), p.5 middle right (Inca army), p.5 lower middle (Huayna Capac), p.6 upper right (woman with loom), p.6 lower right (woman with quipu), p.8 lower middle (bridge inspector), p.9 middle right (Inca farmer), p.9 lower right (man blowing horn), p.12 upper left (baby in swaddling), p.12 middle right (Inca child), p.13 upper right (elderly Inca), p.13 right lower middle (dead ruler), p.14 upper right (battle), p.15 upper left (Pizarro meets Atahualpa), p.15 upper right (2), p.15 center left (spears), p.17 middle right (farmers plowing); Kathy Jarvis, p.9 lower left (Andean farmer); Bill Leimbach, p.17 middle left (Sun Festival); Tony Morrison, p.9 upper left (the Andes), cover inset left (golden sun icon), p.16 upper right (llama). **Tony Stone:** Glen Allison, p.9 center left (stone wall); Jeremy Horner, pp.16-17 (contemporary Inca family), p.9 upper right (stone highways); Martin Rogers, p.17 upper middle (foot); Olaf Soot, pp.2-3; David Tejada, p.16 left (weaver); Travelers' Resource, cover inset bottom. **Woodfin Camp:** Loren McIntyre, pp.8-9 (suspension bridge), p.17 upper left (reed boat), p.6 lower right (quipu); Mireille Vautier, p.3 upper left (man holding sun icon), p.5 middle left (female Inca ruler); Mireille Vautier/Chavez Ballon Collection, p.14 upper left (carriage painting).

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