

Student Materials

Who Were the Inka?

Source Investigation Questions

Theme 1: Geography of the Inka Empire

1. Locator Map:
 - a. Investigate the location and size of the Inka Empire. What countries were part of this empire?
 - b. Use Google Maps™ to find the length of one of the Great Inka Road's main arteries: Quito, Ecuador to Santiago, Chile. Find the distance between Miami, Florida and Seattle, Washington. What does this comparison tell you about the size of the Great Inka Road?
2. The Great Inka Road:
 - a. View the "fly-out" video from Cusco to the four suyus of the Inka Empire. What do you notice about the landscape?
3. The Four Suyus:
 - a. Locate the photo galleries (select a suyu or region to explore).
 - b. Identify the geographical features that characterize the selected suyu.

Theme 2: Inka Ways of Living

1. Origin Story of the Inka:
 - a. Watch the Inka Origin Story (narrated slide show). What community values are highlighted?
2. Astronomy Interactive "Milky Way—The Road in the Sky:"
 - a. Locate and examine the constellation, "Llamacñawin with Unallamacha," meaning "Eye of the llama with baby llama." This was the most important constellation to the Inka.
 - b. Explore more constellations. Select one and explain how it connects to ways of living in the Andes.
3. Lithographs:
 - a. What do the Guaman Poma de Ayala lithographs and text say about the Inka way of life and organization during the empire?
 - b. How do the Guaman Poma de Ayala images compare to contemporary jobs?

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Theme 3: Inka History

Explore the timeline and examine information. Record your observations on:

1. Four Ancestor Cultures: Chavin, Tiwanaku, Wari, Chimu
2. Spanish Invasion: The Road, Impact, Resistance, and Adaptation
3. Current-day Cultures: How do the descendants of the Inka carry on the legacy of their ancestors?

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Part A: Write your answers to the source investigation questions in the space provided below. Craft a summary statement about the theme you explored.

Geography of the Inka Empire	Source Investigation Answers
Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locator Map • Video “fly-out” from Cusco featuring The Great Inka Road • The Four Suyus Photo Gallery 	
Summary statement: What do these sources say about the geography of the Inka Empire ?	
Inka Ways of Living	Source Investigation Answers
Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origin Story of the Inka • Milky Way—The Road in the Sky • Lithographs 	
Summary statement: What do these sources say about Inka ways of living ?	
Inka History	Source Investigation Answers
Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline 	
Summary statement: What does the timeline say about Inka history ?	



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Part B: Based on the evidence you collected from your sources, write a one-paragraph summary that answers the question, “Who were the Inka?” In your summary, include information from each theme: geography, ways of living, history.

