



Glossary

A

Antisuyu: Inka name for the northeastern quarter of the Inka Empire, including the jungle lowlands.

Apu: Mountain deity or powerful mountain spirit. Also given as an honorific title to the governors of the four **suyus** or to military officers of various ranks.

Apurímac River: **Quechua** name for one of the major tributary rivers of the Amazon that ran through the Inka Empire. The name translates as “great speaker.”

a’qa: **Quechua** word for fermented maize beer, called **chicha** by the Spanish. Important for **ayni** rituals.

arybalo: (aríballo in Spanish) Name given by early scholars to the Inka pointed-bottom bottle, a unique Inka ceramic shape.

Atahualpa: Name of the last independent Inka ruler, who was captured and executed by **Francisco Pizarro**. He overthrew his brother in 1532 after a civil war that destabilized the Inka Empire.

Aymara: One of the two principal surviving native languages in the Andes, it is spoken in southern highland Peru and in Bolivia. The term is also used to refer to the modern ethnic group defined by the use of this language.

ayni: **Quechua** word meaning “reciprocity” and referring to the obligation for reciprocal labor exchange.

C

camayuc: **Quechua** word for specialists in management or a particular trade, such as metalsmithing, weaving, or reading **kipu**.

chakacamayuc: Name for the state official in charge of maintaining and monitoring bridges throughout the road network.

chaquitaqlla: **Quechua** word for the Andean foot plow.

charki: **Quechua** word for freeze-dried meat. The English term for jerky or jerked meat derives from this term.

chaski: A runner who carried messages, **kipu**, or goods along the **Qhapaq Ñan** in a relay system.

chaskiwasi: The posts where **chaski** waited to receive messages in the relay system.

Chavín: Archaeological culture named for the site of Chavín de Huantar in the north-central highlands of Peru. They were one of the Inka ancestor cultures.

chicha: See **a'qa**.

Chimú: The name of the ethnic group controlling the Kingdom of Chimor and one of the Inka ancestor cultures.

Chinchaysuyu: Inka name for one of the four quarters of their empire; located to the north of Cusco.

chuñu: Freeze-dried potatoes.

coca: The plant whose leaves are chewed by Andean peoples and used in fighting fatigue, in healing, and in most rituals and sacrifices.

Collasuyu: Inka name for one of the four quarters of their empire; located to the southeast of Cusco.

colca: **Quechua** word for granary or storage structure; an important infrastructural component of the Inka redistribution system.

Colca Constellation: **Quechua** name for the Pleiades constellation.

Contisuyu: Inka name for one of the four quarters of their empire; located to the southwest of Cusco.

coya: **Quechua** word for queen or daughter of the Inka king and queen.

Cusco: Capital of the Inka Empire.

cuy: **Quechua** term for guinea pig.

F

freeze-drying: A dehydration process typically used to preserve a perishable food or make it more convenient for transport. Freeze-drying works by freezing the material and then allowing

the frozen water in the material to go directly from the solid phase to the gas phase, a process that can take place at high altitudes where the atmospheric pressure is low.

G

Guaman Poma de Ayala, Felipe: Native Peruvian author who wrote an illustrated letter to the King of Spain complaining of maltreatment of the Indians in the early colonial periods. His illustrations include images of the Inka dynasty and various activities that occurred under Inka rule.

H

Hiram Bingham: An American academic and explorer. He made public the existence of **Machu Picchu** in 1911 with the guidance of local indigenous farmers.

I

ichu: A type of grass used to build roofs and cables for bridges, such as the famous Inka suspension bridges.

Inti: The sun, who was the special patron deity of the Inka.

Intihuatana: Carved stone located at **Machu Picchu** that was used for solar observations. It is sometimes called “the hitching post of the sun.” Intihuatana are typically found at ritual areas of Inka ancestral sites.

Inti Raymi: Inka festival of the winter solstice that continues to be celebrated today.

K

kallanka: **Quechua** term for the large, enclosed halls built by the Inka.

kipu: Recording device and writing system that used knots on colored strings.

kipucamayuc: **Quechua** name for a **kipu** specialist and state official who makes and reads **kipu**.

L

Lake Titicaca: Name of the large high-altitude lake on the modern border between Peru and Bolivia. Site of the origin of the Inka creator god, **Wiracocha**, and the emergence of the first Inka couple, **Manco Capac** and **Mama Ocllo**, according to one of the Inka origin stories.

llama: A domesticated South American camelid widely used as a source of meat and a pack animal by Andean people.

M

Machu Picchu: One of the royal estates of Inka **Pachacutic** made famous by the explorations of **Hiram Bingham**.

Mama Ocllo: One of the founders of the Inka dynasty who emerged from **Lake Titicaca** with her brother and husband, **Manco Capac**, according to one version of the Inka origin story.

Mamasara: **Quechua** word for ceremonial or ritualized maize.

Manco Capac: One of the founders of the Inka dynasty. He emerged from **Lake Titicaca** with his wife and sister, **Mama Ocllo**, according to one version of the Inka origin story.

Mayu: Inka name for the Milky Way, meaning “river.”

mullu: Mullu is the **Quechua** name for *Spondylus princeps*, a large seashell found in the warm coastal waters off Ecuador. It is characterized by long, sharp spines and a bright red, pink, or purple and white color, and is highly valued by Andean peoples for offerings to their gods asking for rain.

O

Ollantaytambo: Royal estate of Inka **Pachacutic** located in the Urubamba River Valley.

P

Pachacutic: The ninth Inka (ruler) of the Inka Dynasty. He is credited as being the reformer of the Inka Empire and solidifying the Inka territory in the **Cusco** Valley and down to **Lake Titicaca**. The name is also a word meaning “cataclysm” or “overturning of earth, time, and space.”

Pachamama: The earth-mother deity of the Andean people.

paqcha: **Quechua** for waterfall or running liquid as well as a special container for liquid offerings.

Pisac: Royal estate of Inka **Pachacutic** located in the Urubamba River Valley near **Cusco**.

Pizarro, Francisco: Leader of the Spanish expedition to conquer the Inka Empire.

Q

Q'eswachaka: Suspension bridge over the **Apurímac River** in Peru that has been maintained and renewed since the Inka period using traditional Inka methods.

Qhapaq Ñan: **Quechua** name for the road network built by the Inka. The words translate as “Road of the Lord.”

Qorikancha: **Quechua** for “golden enclosure,” the temple of the sun located in the center of **Cusco**.

Quechua: Post-conquest name for the Inka language *Runasimi* and the name of an ethnic group living northwest of **Cusco** at the beginning of the Inka expansion.

quinoa: Flowering plant grown as a grain crop by Andean people primarily for its edible seeds. Quinoa is closely related to the edible plants beetroot, spinach, and amaranth.

R

Raqchi: Location of Inka temple of **Wiracocha** in the district of San Pedro de Cacha about 110 kilometers southeast of **Cusco**.

S

suyu: **Quechua** name for geographic quarter or region. The whole of the Inka Empire was made up of four **suyus**. Literally translates as line, row, or road.

T

tampu: **Quechua** word for a resting place or accommodation space along the Inka Road and at other locations. The Spanish translated it as “inn.”

Tawantinsuyu: **Quechua** word that roughly translates as “the four parts together,” the Inka name for their empire.

Tiqzi Wiracocha. See **Wiracocha**.

Tiwanaku: Archaeological site at the southern end of **Lake Titicaca** in Bolivia. It was the capital of the **Tiwanaku** state, one of the Inka ancestor cultures.

V

Vilcanota: Name of the river that becomes the Urubamba after it passes **Cusco**.

W

Wari: One of the Inka ancestor cultures. The **Wari** built road networks that were eventually incorporated into the **Qhapaq Ñan** under Inka rule.

Wiracocha: Inka creator god who emerged from **Lake Titicaca**.

