

Lesson Plan

Inca Investigation

Book: *Inca Civilization*

Series: Civilizations of the World

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice using titles, headings, indexes, and tables of contents to locate specific details in a text.

Supplies

- several copies of the *Inca Civilization* book
- “Incas” web page on the DK Find Out! website: <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/incas/>
- Inca Investigation worksheet (attached)
- Computer access for students

Before the Activity

Print a copy of the Inca Investigation worksheet for each student. Read through the *Inca Civilization* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Hand out the Inca Investigation worksheet. Then bring the class to the library or another area where they can access computers and several copies of the *Inca Civilization* book. Help students navigate to the “Incas” web page on the DK Find Out! website. Ask students to use both the book and the website to search for the answers to the questions on the worksheet. The answers to some questions can be found only in the book. Others can be found only on the website. But most answers can be found both places.

Students can use the book’s table of contents and index to look for answers. They can also click through the titles and headings on the website. In some cases, students might need to click twice to open a new page. For example, to find details about Machu Picchu, students need to click the “Machu Picchu” box. This will open a small window. Clicking the red text in this window will bring students to a web page with details about Machu Picchu.

Evaluation

Collect the worksheets and use the attached answer key to give students 1 point for each correct answer, for a total of 12 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.1, 3.5).

Inca Investigation

1. When and where did the Inca civilization begin?
2. What was the name of the Inca Empire's capital city?
3. What were the walls of most Inca homes made from?
4. What main foods did the Incas grow and eat?
5. What did government officials do with the food they collected in storehouses?
6. How did the Incas make *chuño*?
7. How did the Incas use a *quipu*?
8. Who was the main god the Incas worshipped?
9. What kinds of objects did the Incas make from gold?
10. In addition to working with gold, what other objects did Inca artists create?
11. What tools did the Incas use for fishing?
12. In what mountain range is the city of Machu Picchu located?

Inca Investigation **ANSWER KEY**

NOTE: In some cases, the book and website differ slightly. Either answer counts as correct.

1. When and where did the Inca civilization begin?

book: along the western edge of South America around the year 1200 (p. 6)

website: in South America around 1200 CE

2. What was the name of the Inca Empire's capital city?

book: Cusco (p. 11)

website: Cuzco

3. What were the walls of most Inca homes made from?

book: mud bricks and stone (p. 17)

website: stone blocks or a claylike material called adobe

4. What main foods did the Incas grow and eat?

book: potatoes, corn, squash, beans, and peppers (p. 18)

website: mainly corn, but also beans, squash, potatoes, and quinoa

5. What did government officials do with the food they collected in storehouses?

book: They gave it out to people throughout the empire who needed it (p. 20).

website: They kept detailed records and gave it out to people who had faced danger, attacks, or illness.

6. How did the Incas make *chuño*?

book: They froze potatoes in mountain snow, placed them in the sun to thaw, and stomped the water out (p. 28).

7. How did the Incas use a *quipu*?

website: They tied knots in colored strings to help count and track goods, animals, and people.

8. Who was the main god the Incas worshipped?

book: the sun god, Inti (p. 11, p. 14)

website: the sun god, Inti

9. What kinds of objects did the Incas make from gold?

books: cups, plates, jewelry, and statues for temples (p. 20)

website: jewelry, vessels, figures, trinkets, and ritual objects

10. In addition to working with gold, what other objects did Inca artists create?

book: They wove fabric with beautiful designs and made clay bowls and cups with elaborate patterns (p. 18).

website: They did weaving and embroidering, they decorated tunics and headdresses with feathers, they made mosaics, they made colorful pottery, and they made jewelry.

11. What tools did the Incas use for fishing?

website: nets, harpoons (a kind of spear), fishhooks, bows and arrows, and boats called *balsas*

12. In what mountain range is the city of Machu Picchu located?

book: The Incas built this city in the Andes Mountains (p. 9).

website: the Andes Mountains in Peru