The Incan Empire
The Incas

- The Incas began as a small tribe in the Andes Mountains
- During the early 1400s – began to conquer those around them
- Manco Capac = founder of the Inca Dynasty
- The Incas began in the Cuzco valley in Eastern South America
The Andes
The Incas Create an Empire

- Inca Empire arises about the same time as the Aztec Empire
  - Capital city = Cuzco
- Pachacuti = Inca ruler who led large expansion of the Empire
- By early 1500s, Empire stretched from modern-day Ecuador to Chile
- Included deserts, snowy mountains, fertile valleys, and forests
- 12 million people in Inca Empire at its height
  - Incas formed a strong central government
The Inca Empire
Central Rule of the Incas

- People conquered by the Incas were integrated into the Incan culture
- Conquered leaders were replaced by Incan leaders
- Conquered children learned Incan culture
- Incas used an official language, called Quechua
  - Still spoken widely in Peru today
Well Organized Economy

- The government was in charge of all the money
  - They told every household what work they should do
- Incas worked for themselves AND the government
- Taxes were paid with work, not money
  - Labor tax system = mita
Food and Supplies

- No markets or merchants in the Inca Empire
- Government distributed food through mita
- Extra food and supplies were stored in the capital for emergency situations
  - Natural disasters, disease, famine, etc.
Social Class System

- Emperor, priests, government officials = upper class
  - No labor tax, lived in stone houses, wore the best clothes

- Farmers, artisans, servants = lower class
  - Little freedom, couldn’t own more than what they needed to survive
  - Government took many of the goods they produced
Inca Religion

- Incas thought their rulers were related to the Sun God, Inti
  - Believed they never really died

- Inca rulers were mummified when they died
  - Brought to ceremonies where they were given food and gifts for the afterlife

- Incas rarely practiced human sacrifice
  - Sacrificed clothing, food, or llamas

- Religion was practiced in nature as well
  - Huaca – Sacred place outside the temple (forest, mountain, lake, etc)
Inca Achievements

- **Master Builders** – known for expert masonry (stonework)
- **Blocks were cut so well, they didn’t need cement**
  - Even today, you can’t fit a knife blade between the cracks
- **Incas also built a huge road system**
  - Two major highways were built that stretched along the Empire
  - Over 14,000 miles of total roads
Inca Achievements

- Incas had no writing system
- Kept records with Quipus
  - **Quipus - Knotted cords of different colors**
    - Knots would represent different numbers
    - Different colors stood for different items
- Oral history/stories/songs passed down as well
  - Incas had official “memorizers”
- We know a lot about the Incas from Spanish writings
Llamas
Inca Civil War

- **Late 1520s – Civil War begins in Inca Empire**
  - Ruler Huayna Capac dies
  - Two sons fought over who should succeed him
  - Huascar vs. Atahualpa

- **Atahualpa emerges victorious, but Incan army is greatly weakened (1532)**
Pizarro Conquers the Incas

- Atahualpa goes to be officially crowned Incan ruler in 1533
- Atahualpa receives a message that there are strange white men called Spanish around
- Atahualpa agrees to meet Spanish
- Spanish attack – kill 2,000 Incan soldiers and take Atahualpa hostage
- Francisco Pizarro demands huge ransom for freedom of Atahualpa
Pizarro Conquers the Incas

- 24 tons of gold, silver, and other valuables are delivered to Spanish
- Pizarro then kills Atahualpa
  - Feared he would come back and defeat the Spanish
- Spanish rule the Incan Empire for the next 300 years
Machu Picchu

http://sadestinations.blogspot.com/
Machu Picchu