

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Comparing and
Contrasting Cultures

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Foreword

Ancient Civilizations is a book of reproducible worksheets for upper elementary and middle school students. The activities are designed to provide information and opportunities for the students to gain a comprehensive overview of ten of the world's ancient civilizations.

Each of the ten civilizations in the book comprises a set of activity pages in which the students focus on the customs, culture, lifestyles, inventions and historical data relating to each civilization.

Student activities include:

- *Researching, collating and categorizing information*
- *Comparing and contrasting lifestyles and cultures*
- *Constructing time lines*
- *Organizing, recording and interpreting data*
- *Mapping activities*
- *Collaborative and decision-making activities*
- *Appreciating cultural differences*
- *Creating and designing arts and crafts models*



The focus of this book is to create an awareness of the importance of the contributions made by each civilization, and to promote an appreciation of the influences each of these civilizations has had on the world as it is today.

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Student Information

The City of Cuzco

The city of Cuzco is located in the Andes mountains in southern Peru. It was the capital city of the Incan Empire and lies about 3,400 meters above sea level. Cuzco means “navel of the earth” (center of the earth).

Incan people built Cuzco from about A.D. 1200. The Incan Empire began in 1438, and the ruler Pachacuti rebuilt Cuzco as the empire’s capital. Cuzco was built in the shape of a puma. Only the Incan nobles were allowed to live in the central part of Cuzco, but about 100,000 people lived in other parts of the city. The city was protected by zigzag walls, making the entire city a fort.

In 1533, Pizarro conquered Cuzco and took over the Incan Empire, but fire swept through the city in 1536 when the Inca rebelled against the Spanish. Today, Cuzco is the trading center for local farmers. Only a fraction of the original Incan city remains — just stone foundations and ruins.

Alpacas

The alpaca is the grazing animal of South America. It is related to the camel and is usually raised for its fine wool. The alpaca can carry loads in high altitudes. Sometimes the young are killed for their meat. The Alpaca resembles the llama, and both animals are believed to have descended from the guanaco, which was a wild animal of the Andes Mountains.

Alpacas are also close relatives to the wild wool-bearing vicunas that live in the Andes.



Who were the Incas?

About 8,000 years ago, high in the Andes mountains of South America, a group of people settled in the Cuzco Valley. These people became known as the Incas. Great cities were built in the mountains and the fertile valleys were used for farming.

During the next 200 – 300 years the Incas conquered neighboring tribes in fierce battles and established their strong and powerful empire.

Up to 12 million people are thought to have lived along 4,000 km of coastline, stretching along the west coast of South America.



Complete the following activities to find out more about the powerful civilization of the Incas!

Mapping Activity

Use an atlas and the map on page 98 to complete the following activities.

1. Name the river, the mountain range and the ocean which border the Inca Empire.

_____ River
 _____ Mountains
 _____ Ocean

2. Name six cities/towns which were part of the Incan Empire.

3. Which large lake is situated close to Tiahuanaco?

4. The Inca Empire once stretched along the Pacific Coast. Name the three countries which border this area today.

_____, _____, _____

The Great City of Cuzco

1. Write a report on this Incan city. Find the answers to the following questions to complete your report: Where was the city built? When was it built and by whom? What does the word "Cuzco" mean? Describe the layout, or plan, of this city. How was the city guarded? Who destroyed the city? What remains of the city today?

Animals of the Andes

1. Write three reasons why you think alpacas, llamas, vicunas and guanacos were such important animals to the Incan people living in the Andes Mountains.



(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____
