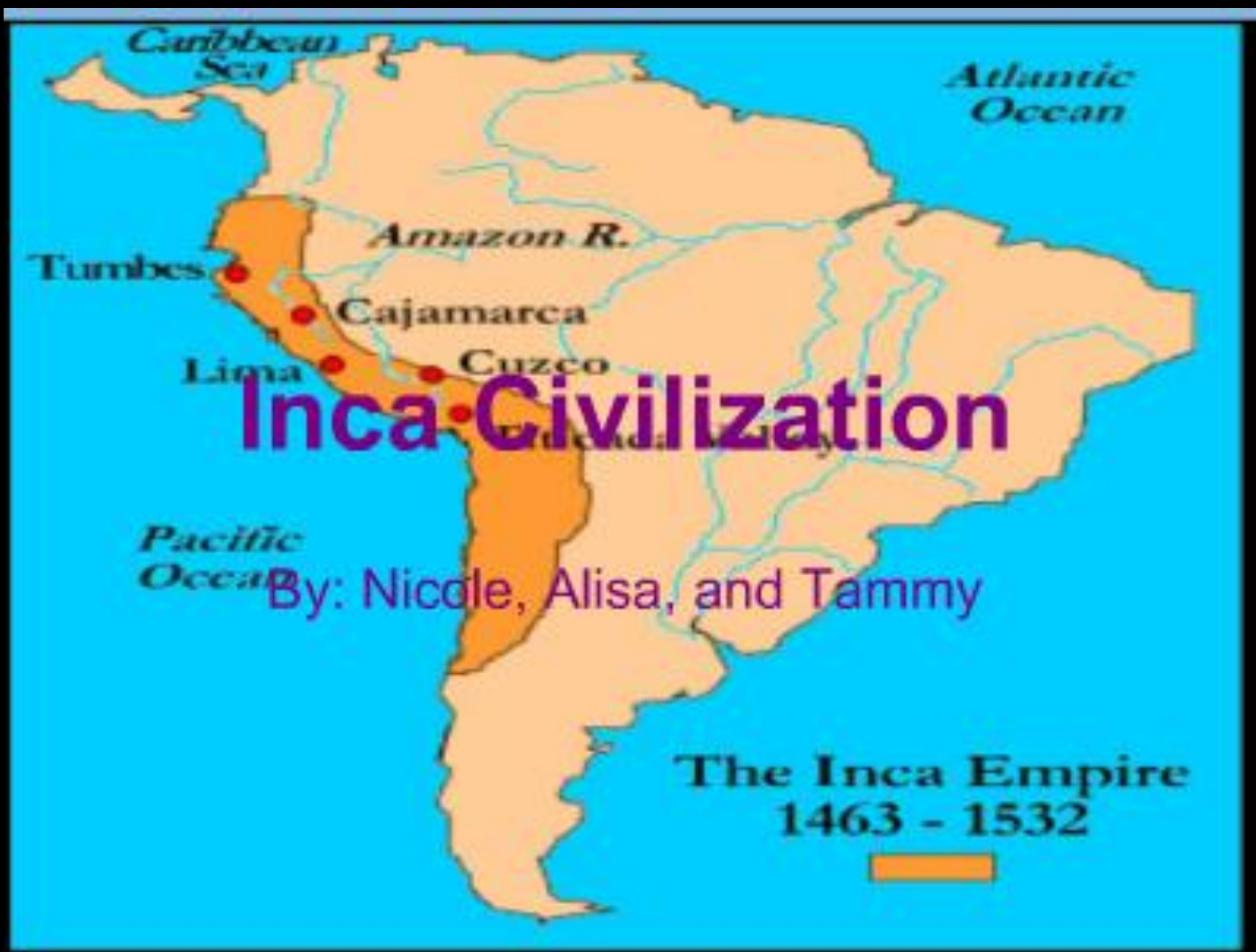


# The Inca Civilization



*Caribbean Sea*

*Atlantic Ocean*

*Amazon R.*

Tumbes

Cajamarca

Lima

Cuzco

# Inca Civilization

*Pacific Ocean*

By: Nicole, Alisa, and Tammy

**The Inca Empire**  
1463 - 1532



# Historical Background



- Rise of the Inca Civilization:
- **A.D. 1200 - 1532**

Early Inca: 1200-1438

Late Inca: 1438 – 1532

- Manco Capac founded the capital of Cuzco ( as he was instructed by deity Viracocha)
- 8 emperors succeeded him

# The Early Inca

1200-1438

- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> emperors not credited with any state building
- The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> emperors began a series of conquest but didn't get too far.
- **The 8<sup>th</sup> emperor Viracocha** was highly successful.
- He formed alliances with neighboring kingdoms
- Conquered a large territory surrounding Cuzco.
- First ruler to title himself **Sapa Inca** or "**Supreme Inca**"



# The Late Inca

1438-1532

- The Late Period marks the beginning of the Empire.
- Viracocha's son **Pachacuti developed policies** to incorporate/integrate the people of conquered areas.
- Pachacuti's son **Topa Inca** that led to the expansion of the Inca empire.
- He began conquering the north toward **Ecuador and expanded as far south as Chile.**

# Decline by 1532

- Topa Inca's son **Huayna Capac** continued expansion but he contracted a **disease that led to his death.**
- He was unable to name his successor so his two sons fought for imperial supremacy.
- The empire was eventually torn by **civil war.**
- The Spaniards led by Pizarro found the Incan state in this political chaos and so they were at an advantage.
- The civil war along with the Spanish conquest led to the decline of the Incan Empire.

# Architecture

## Great Masonry Skill



- The Incas are famous for their stonework.
- Huge beautiful walls of stones – each stone was perfectly and precisely cut that mortar was not needed.







# Machu Picchu



# Architecture

## The Temple of the Sun



- The Incas also built elaborate temples for their deities.
- The most important structure in Cuzco was **The Temple of the Sun** – dedicated to Inti, the Sun God.
- The exterior walls were covered with heavy **gold** plates. The inside was also coated with gold (thought to symbolize the sun).
- Inside the temple, you could find idols of gold and silver as well as the mummified bodies of past rulers and their wives.





# The Inca Road System



- Very important to transport goods and information along the empire.
- Without good communication, the empire could collapse at any time.
- Stretched from Ecuador to Chile.
- Covers about 22,500 km (14,000 miles!)
- Included woven suspension bridges
- Could not be traveled without an imperial directive
- Mostly for political/administrative purposes
  - Government Messengers
  - Incan Armies and government officials
- Many *Tampus* scattered along the roads

# Language

- The Incas adopted Quechua as their official language.
- Quechua is still spoken by many indigenous populations all over South America.
- There are many dialects.
- Quechua is an **oral language** and there is a lack of written material.



# The Quipu



- **The Quipu** - an elaborate recording system using **knots**.
- Sometimes the knots were **color coded** to mean different things.
- Though simple at first glance, the quipu could transmit **intricate messages**.
- The quipu could record:
  - Population including Birth/death rates
  - Food supply: harvest/livestock
  - Military strength/casualties/deaths
  - Dates / Important Events



# Pottery and Weaving



- Symmetrical pottery
- Jars with faces
- Textiles



# Entertainment and Dress

- Instruments
- Dances
- Simple attire
  - Men
  - Women

# Precious Cloth

- The most important craft for the Incas was cloth
- Nobles wore elaborate tunics
- There was a specialized house Aqllahuasi 'House of Chosen Women' for the purposes of spinning and weaving cloth
- Inca rulers, govt. officials, and nobles wore stylized tunics that symbolized their status



# Family

- Children given names during a haircutting ceremony
- Young children are incorporated into society – taught daily routines by parents
- The sons of the elite would have the privilege of going to *Yachahuasi*, or 'teaching house'
- There, wise men would teach them matters related to:  
agriculture, warfare, arts and crafts, and how to read and record on the quipu strings.

# Rites of Passage

- Boys and girls were formally initiated into adulthood by ceremonial rites
- Girls – private ceremony called a Quicochico :
  - Girls' first menses
  - 3 day fast
  - Gift from mother (woven garment)
  - New expectations of women
- Boys received a collective public ceremony called a Huarochico
- Marriage – certain expectations of newlyweds





# Origin Myths

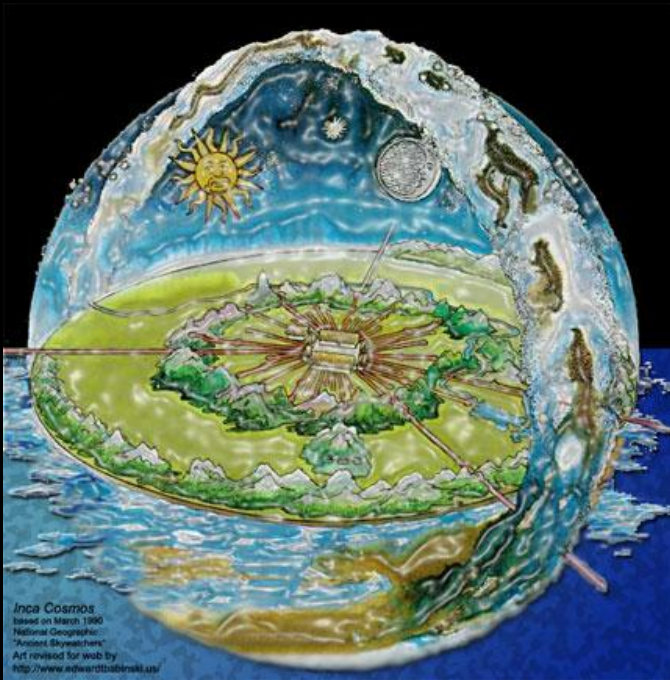


- Four Origin Myths
- Manco Capac was ordered by his father Inti and Mama Ocllo to look for a place to build an empire.
- He was given a special rod
- He was told he would find the right place if the rod sank into the soil – Cuzco
- Important Deities:
  - **Viracocha** – Creator of all things
  - **Inti** – Sun God, father of first emperor
  - **Chiqui Illapa** – thunder God, worshipped for rain
  - **Mama Quilla, Mother Moon**
  - **Pachamama, Mother Earth** - worshipped by farmers

# Ideology

## Inca Understanding of the Universe

- View of the cosmos:
- World divided between earth and sky
  - Things of space
  - Things of the earth
- Humans as the mediating element btwn earth and the sky
- Also, world divided between all things male and all things female.
  
- Feminine aspects – moon, earth, sea, women
- Male aspects – sun, lightning, thunder, men
  
- Relations between men and women
  - cooperative roles



# Leadership & Divination

- Imperial Hierarchy
- The Sapa Inca
  - the 'supreme' head of civil, religious & military branches of the state
- His Council
- Cuzco's Highest Priest – Uillac Uma
- Governors of the provinces (over 100!)
- Curacas — local community leaders
- Note: Sapa Inca's main wife "Coya" had a respectful and powerful role as well.
- Complementary role as the head of the Moon religion.
- Ruled over the empire if ever her husband left Cuzco on a military campaign.

# Social Stratification

- The Inca royalty in Cuzco “direct descendants of Int” thus ruled the empire by **divine right**
- All of society was divided into **three basic groups**:
  - **Collama** – royalty & loyal kin
  - **Payan** – servants with Incan roots
  - **Cayao** – commoners of the state not related to royalty

# Ritual Sacrifices

- Capac Hucha – integrative ritual
- Each province would send young boys and girls ages 6-10, to Cuzco – traveled by the road system
- Symbolical child marriages
- Children sent back home – not allowed to travel the roads
- Sacrificed to the local deities on the Mt. tops
- For the local people, this promoted health and well-being and ensured fertility of the land
- For the state, this strengthened the ties btwn Cuzco and the provinces.





# Agriculture



- Most farms were in the highlands
- Incas practiced terrace agriculture
- Three main staples:  
corn, dehydrated potato, pigweed (seeds)
- They domesticated llamas & guinea pigs
- Coastal Incan populations relied on seafood – lots of fishing!
- Sacred chicha beer derived from corn – used by priests for ceremonial purposes



# Terraces in Machu Picchu





# Coca Leaves

## Medicinal Plant

- Coca – became a cash crop
- Mostly used by the Royalty, nobles to dull pain and hunger
- Heavily used by government messengers who suffered from altitude sickness.
- -Also gave them the energy to travel the road systems by foot.



# Social Control

- Several methods were needed to control the vast and diverse populations:
- They forced people to:
  - accept Incan Rule and Authority
  - accept Inti (Sun God) as their main deity
- Also, every adult male citizen was required to pay taxes in the form labor – **mit'a**
- Practiced Mitmaq – relocation of whole communities as a form of social control
  - (to break up rebellious groups & to assimilate)
- [ Note: The State allowed some level of religious and individual freedoms]

# The Mit'a System

- **Tax payment** was in the form of a labor tribute called **mit'a**.
- Required of adult male citizens
- Heavily organized and structured.
- Projects varied:
  - » fields/mines
  - » Construction of ceremonial/administrative buildings
  - » Road system
- Inevitably, this system allowed for the rapid expansion of the empire.



# Trade

- Unlike the market in Mesoamerican Civilizations, **the market in Cuzco was relatively small and outside** the city.
- **The state** had a central role in the collection and redistribution of goods.
- As a result, private trade and marketing occurred at very low levels of the empire.

# Decline

- Civil War between two brothers
- Pizarro arrives during this chaos with 200 Spaniards  
\*Inca population at that time:  
more than 6 million!
- His men are driven by greed and lust for gold
- Pizarro kidnaps Atahualpa, holds him for ransom, and eventually executes him.
- 1532-1560 – Struggle for the Inca
- By 1560, Spaniards have dominant control of what is left of the great Incan Empire.

