

Notes to supplement Inca Presentation

The Rise and Fall of the Inca Empire was spectacularly quick. It lasted barely a century 1438 - 1535.

The Incas explained their origin through legends that were passed down through oral tradition as the Incas did not have writing. The best known are the legend of the Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo who emerged from Lake Titicaca and the Legend of the Ayar Brothers

According to one version of the myth, in the beginning, the creator god Viracocha came out of the Pacific Ocean, and when he arrived at Lake Titicaca, he created the sun and all ethnic groups. These first people were buried by the god as they disappointed him and only later emerged from springs and rocks back into the world. Inti, the Sun God, raised his son and daughter, Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo, who were also husband and wife, out of Lake Titicaca and sent them to establish a new civilization. Inti gave Manco Cápac a golden staff with the instruction that where this staff sank into the ground with a single blow, that would be the place to build a new civilisation. Arriving in Cusco, the rod sank into the ground.

In another version of the creation myth, the first Inca came from the centre cave of three sacred caves known as 'The House of Windows', located south of Cuzco. Around the 12th century the first pair of humans were Ayar Manco, also known as Manco Capac and his sister Mama Ocllo, also his wife. Three more brother-sister siblings were born. During their travels to find a place, Manco's three brothers left for various reasons. Only Mano Capac and his four sisters remained when they arrived in Cuzco and his golden staff sank easily into the ground. They defeated the people already living there and Manco Capac, established what became the Inca capital, Cuzco.

The Incas believed the myths gave them the divine right to rule over conquered peoples. They regarded themselves as the chosen few, the 'Children of the Sun', and the **Inca** ruler was Inti's representative and embodiment on earth. Inti's aim was for Mano Capac to teach men to live in society and worship the Sun god, and Mama Ocllo to teach women tasks like textiles and domestic work.

Despite these myths, it is commonly believed the Incas arrived in the Urubamba Valley in the 13th Century when they fled from Aymara. The Aymara live on high-altitude plains in the Bolivian Andes, on the Lake Titicaca plateau near the border with Peru.

Originally, there was only one Inca, The Emperor, and no other person was called Inca but overtime this name became the term for the society in general.

During the 12th to early 15th Centuries the eight Inca Emperors ruled over a modest area close to Cuzco and were a small relatively unimportant tribe.

Under the ninth Inca Emperor, **Pachacuti** the Incas began to expand in search of plunder and production resources, first to the south and then in all directions.

In 1438 the Incas defeated the Chanca, people, from the Chancay valley south of Lima and gained control of the Cuzco Valley.

In 1450 Pachacuti is thought to have built Machu Picchu, either as a family home or summer retreat, although it may have been an agricultural station.

Thupa Inca, Pachacuti's successor from 1471 to 1493, expanded the empire by 4,000 km (2,500 miles).

The Incas eventually built an empire which stretched across the Andes. They called their empire 'Land of the Four Quarters'. Cuzco was considered the navel of the world and radiating out were highways and sacred sighting lines to each quarter or suyu. Spreading across ancient Ecuador, Peru, northern Chile, Bolivia, upland Argentina, and southern Colombia and stretching 5,500 km (3,400 miles) north to south, 40,000 Incas governed a huge territory with some 10 million subjects speaking over 30 different languages.

From 1493 to 1527 **Huayna Capac the 11th** Inca leader constructed fortresses, religious temples and roads throughout the empire.

The Inca Empire was founded on, and maintained by, force, and the ruling Incas were often unpopular with their subjects (especially in the northern territories), a situation that the Spanish *conquerors*, led by Francisco Pizarro, took advantage of when he invaded South America in 1532.

The Inca Empire was still establishing itself when it faced this Spanish invasion. Rebellions were rife, and the Incas were engaged in a war in Ecuador where Capac had established a second Inca capital at Quito.

Even more serious, the Incas were hit by an epidemic of European diseases, such as smallpox and the common cold, which spread from Central America even faster than the Spanish invaders, and killed 65 -90% of the population.

In 1525 the epidemic killed Inca leader Huayna Capac and his first born son. As a result, his other two sons, **Huascar his legitimate heir**, who was in Cuzco, and **Atahualpa a son by his wife in Quito**, initiated a civil war each wanting to control the whole country.

In 1532 **Atahualpa** eventually defeated Huascar, but the victory left the country exhausted and unable to withstand attack from the Spaniard Francisco Pizarro.

In November 1532 Atahualpa was captured and held for ransom by the Spanish forces.

In 1533 Pizarro had Atahualpa murdered and in November of that year he took the Inca capital of Cuzco.

In 1535 Pizarro founded Lima as the capital of Spanish Peru.

It was this combination of factors - a storm of rebellion, disease, and invasion - which brought down the mighty Inca Empire, the largest and richest ever seen in the Americas.

Mummy Juanita

Mummy Juanita also known as the Lady of Ampato is the well-preserved frozen body of an Inca girl who was killed as an offering to the Inca gods sometime between 1440 and 1480 when she was approximately 12–15 years old. This ritual sacrifice to appease Inca Gods is called Capacocha.

Juanita was discovered on the Mount Ampato Volcano, approximate height 6,380 metres above sea level (part of the Andes mountain range) in southern Peru in September 1995 by anthropologist Johan Reinhard and his Peruvian climbing partner, Miguel Zárte. Hence, she is known as the Lady of Ampato. Her other nickname, the Ice Maiden, derives from the cold conditions and freezing temperatures that preserved her body on Mt. Ampato.

Juanita was mummified by freezing conditions on the mountain top, instead of being artificially mummified. Thus, her skin, organs, tissues, blood, hair, stomach contents, and garments were extremely well-preserved, offering scientists a rare glimpse into Inca culture during the reign of the ninth Inca Pachacuti (reigned 1438–1471).

If it weren't for volcanic activity, it's possible that the mummified young girl would have continued to sit in on the frozen mountain top for centuries to come. But because of the volcanic activity warming the snow through, Mt. Ampato's snowcap began to melt, pushing the wrapped mummy and her burial site down the mountain.

Juanita was offered to Mt. Ampato by the Inca priests. It is probable that she was sacrificed in response to climatic irregularities to placate the gods in return for water. Incan belief at the time was that mountains (and their spirits) controlled weather and water and, thus, were intertwined with the villages below. The prosperity of the crops and people depended on the approval of the mountain deity to provide water for their consumption and irrigation. Water is a life-giving source and was perceived to be connected with femininity and fertility. Therefore, the mountains that provided water were attributed to be female deities by the Incas. In Southern Peru, it was believed that sacrificing a young female would appease the mountain deity who would in turn provide a consistent water supply to the region.

For the many rituals that took place, the girl had to travel to Cusco accompanied by a great court of very important people of the region. She was welcomed in Cusco by the Inca Pachacuti in person who transmitted his divinity. From that moment she accepted the reality of her death and her own communication with the mountain gods; in this case Mount Ampato-where she would be offered in a journey without return, towards divinity.

Markers in Juanita's hair indicate that she was selected for sacrifice about a year before her actual death and she switched from a standard Inca diet of potatoes and vegetables to the more elite foods of animal protein and maize, along with large quantities of coca and alcohol.

After many festivities and rituals, Juanita was put to sleep before a club blow on her right eyebrow caused a massive haemorrhage resulting in her death. Markers in Juanita's hair indicate that she was given coca and alcohol prior to her death, probably to put her in a stupor before death.

Juanita was found wrapped in a brightly coloured burial tapestry. Her head was adorned with a cap made from the feathers of a red macaw, and she wore a lively woollen alpaca shawl

fastened with a silver clasp. She was fully clothed in garments resembling the finest textiles from the Inca capital city of Cusco. The items were almost perfectly preserved, providing valuable insight into sacred Inca textiles and on how the Inca nobility dressed. Found with her in the burial tapestry was a collection of grave goods: bowls, pins, and figurines made of gold, silver, and shell.