

Knowledge Check

Matching

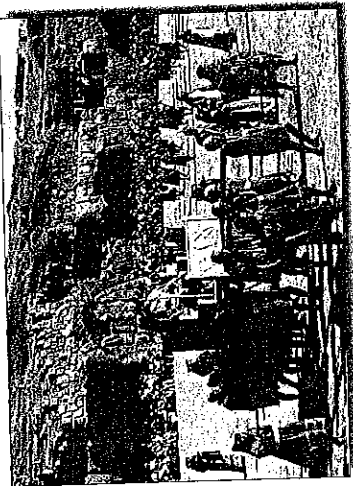
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| 1. Inca | a. word meaning "the children of the sun god Inti," the ruler of the Incan empire, and the people of this civilization |
| 2. coya | b. a canopy-covered chair on a platform on which the Inca was carried |
| 3. borla | c. the Incan crown |
| 4. litter | d. the main wife of the Inca or the Inca's sister |
| 5. mita | e. the work or labor tax all Incas had to pay to the government |

Multiple Choice

- The ancient Incas believed their ruler had descended from whom or what?
 - the gods
 - the stars
 - the earth
 - the spirit of the llama
- Who chose the next ruler after the Inca died?
 - the coya
 - The people voted.
 - a council of nobles
 - There was a contest of strength.
- What happened to the Inca when he died?
 - His body was thrown into a volcano.
 - His body was mummified.
 - His body was buried under the temple.
 - His body was burned.
- How was the Incan government able to get the great palaces, public buildings, and roads built?
 - They used slaves.
 - They paid workers to do it.
 - They used the army.
 - They used citizens paying their work tax.

Constructed Response

- Give some evidence that the Incan people treated the Inca like a god. Use details from the reading selection to help support your answer.



The Inca was carried in a golden litter by servants.

The Inca and His Government

The Inca
 Inca was the title of the ruler of the Incan empire. At first, the word *Inca* meant "the children of the sun god Inti." It later became the title of the ruler. Today, we also use Inca to mean the people of this civilization.

The ancient Incas believed their ruler was a descendant of the gods. They worshiped him as both a god and a ruler, and he had absolute power.

The Inca's Family

The Inca had many wives. His main wife was his queen. Her title was *coya*. The Inca's sister could also be his *coya*. The Inca might have over 100 children. The oldest son of the Inca did not automatically become the next ruler; instead, a council of nobles chose the next ruler. Usually, the council chose the most promising son of the *coya*. At times the selection of the new Inca led to fighting among the supporters of various sons.

The Inca's Lifestyle

A *borla*, or Incan crown, was worn by the Inca. It had a fringe of brightly colored cords. Gold tubes decorated the end of each cord. The Inca wore garments of the finest wool. Each of his garments was worn only once. The Inca ate and drank only from gold plates and goblets. Servants carried the Inca on a platform and chair made of gold since he didn't walk great distances. The chair, called a *litter*, had a canopy of gold and jewels to protect the Inca from rain and the rays of the sun. Each Inca had a new palace built. The walls of the Inca's palace were decorated with gold. The Inca's throne was also gold.

The empire had a 30-day period of mourning after the death of the Inca. Priests mummified the Inca's body. Many of the Inca's servants volunteered to die, because they believed that they would then be able to continue to serve the Inca. The old palace became a shrine for the previous Inca. They put the Inca's mummified body into the shrine, and the people then worshiped the mummies of the Incas.

The Government

The Incas had an efficient government. The rulers, priests, and generals all came from the noble class. Most were relatives of the Inca. The Inca used the road and bridge system to help him govern. Messengers and soldiers were able to move quickly throughout the empire.

All Incan men gave the government physical labor. This was the *mita*, the work or labor tax. The government built the great palaces, public buildings, and roads with this labor.