



Teacher's Guide

Machu Picchu & The Colosseum **14 Wonders of Our World Series**

Grade Levels:

6-12

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

World History

World Geography & Cultures

Synopsis:

This remarkable introduction to the ancient Inca city, Machu Picchu, reviews the history of Inca agriculture and transportation routes, the Spanish invasion of the Inca Empire and Hiram Bingham's 1911 discovery of the lost city of the Incas. A brief section discusses Inca religious ceremonies including the worship of the Sun god. In the second section, gladiatorial contests and other blood sports are directly related to the architectural design of the Roman Colosseum. The history of the Colosseum is reviewed with a corresponding history of gladiators and gladiatorial competition from the 4th century B.C. to the fall of the Roman Empire.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Appreciate the cultural significance of these Wonders of the World.
- Explain why so many tourists are fascinated by Machu Picchu.
- Describe the accomplishments of the Incas.
- Describe the three types of columns and other architectural details of the Roman Colosseum.
- Explain how gladiatorial competitions evolved from a fight between two opponents to the blood sports observed in Rome's Colosseum.

Vocabulary:

verdant, vestal virgins, icon, encroachment, solstice, equinox, amphitheater, pacify, volatile, cult of the gladiator, mandated, squeamish, inaugurated, travertine marble, imperiously, pilasters, galleries, patricians, sachets, stench, hawked, wielded, conniving, rigorous, labyrinth

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What ancient civilization flourished in the vast regions of the Andes Mountains? Where are these mountains located? How were the Incas able to survive and flourish in such a remote area?

What Inca city is major tourist attraction today? When were the ruins of this city discovered?

What kind of recreational activities were popular in the time of the ancient Romans? Where did these activities take place?

Why were ancient Romans particularly fond of blood sports?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why do you think that Machu Picchu was chosen as a new Wonder of the World?

How did archaeologists determine that the city was a retreat for Inca leaders and their families?

How large was the Colosseum at Rome? What was its basic design? What was unique about the construction of this building?

How could gladiators gain status in Roman society? What was the nature of their daily existence? Why were they so admired by Roman citizens?

Further Activities:

Further investigate the craftsmanship and engineering involved in building Machu Picchu.

Find out how messages were communicated from one end of the vast Inca Empire to the other, without the use of a written language.

Research the lives of gladiators to determine if Hollywood movies give us a true picture of these combatants.

Read a novel that depicts the life of a gladiator. Compare the fictional account to the historical picture of gladiators and their daily lives.

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