



## ***Teacher's Guide***

### **Incas: Oppression Self-Destroys an Empire** **Cultural Legacies of Ancient Civilizations Series**

#### **Grade Levels:**

7 - 12

#### **Subject Areas:**

Social Studies

World History

World Geography and Cultures

#### **Synopsis:**

Describes how the Incas conquered several other cultures, binding them together with a network of roads frequented by runners bearing coded messages knotted into strings. Praises Inca ingenuity in the engineering marvels represented by these roads, in Inca architecture and in the design of terraced farms like those at Machu Picchu. Looking deeper into the social structure of the Inca Empire, finds it lacking in its treatment of conquered people. Suggests that the ruthless oppression of defeated peoples resulted in discontented populaces who were easily converted into allies by Spanish invaders who quickly destroyed the Inca Empire.

#### **Learning Objectives:** Students will:

- Explain how the network of Inca roads maintained unity in isolated mountain communities.
- Describe Inca achievements in agriculture and engineering.
- Describe elements of authoritarian rule that alienated people conquered by the Incas.
- Explain why the Spanish conquistadors so quickly overcame the once-powerful Inca Empire.

#### **Vocabulary:**

mortar, resilient, arable, terraces, marshaled, subjugated, ruthless, allegiance, quipu, Quechua, Mita, Mitimaes, enforced taxation, inclusiveness, appease, Chichi, rebellious, hierarchy, succumbed, implacable, vulnerable

#### **Pre-Viewing Discussion:**

What was the geographical extent of ancient Inca civilization? Where are ruins of Inca civilization found today?

What were the major accomplishments of the ancient Incas? In what fields of endeavor were they most renowned?

What extinct Inca city was found high atop a mountain in Peru? Why do so many visitors risk altitude sickness to view these ruins?

Were the Incas a peaceful people? Why do you think so? (or) Why do you think they were not?

### **Post-Viewing Discussion:**

Without a written language, how did Inca authorities communicate their decisions to their widely scattered, conquered communities?

What was so unusual about Inca farming methods?

Why did the people conquered by Inca warriors grow dissatisfied with the stable society provided by Incas?

Why did the Inca Empire fall to Spanish conquistadors when there were so many more Incas than Spanish invaders?

### **Further Activities:**

Further investigate how Inca stonemasons were able to construct earthquake-proof buildings without using mortar.

Further investigate the coded messages that could be communicated by knots in a string.

Further investigate Inca religious rituals including the sacrifice of young girls to the Sun God.

Compare Hollywood versions of Spanish invaders versus Incas with historical facts recorded in primary documents.

### **Related New Dimension Media Titles:**

Great Civilizations of the Ancient World Series  
Technology & Architecture in Ancient Civilizations Series  
Beyond Our Borders Series  
History Happened Here Series  
Christianity in World History Series  
The 14 Wonders of Our World Series