





## Talk About It

If you could uncover a lost city, what would it be like?



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lost cities at

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# A LOST CITY

## Vocabulary

remote	undergrowth
escort	venomous
interpreter	withstood
vegetation	foretold



## Word Parts

**Compound Words** are made up of two or more words. The meanings of the individual words provide clues to the compound word's meaning.

undergrowth = *under* + *growth* = small trees and bushes that grow under large trees

# AN INCA CITY

by Miguel Rojas

*Dear Li,*

I'm sorry I didn't write sooner. I was away for the last month. I went to Peru with my mom and dad. My mom's company sent her there on business. It was great! We flew into Cusco. One weekend we took a train to visit Machu Picchu.

"What is Machu Picchu?" you ask. Well, it is a **remote**—and I mean secluded—Inca city. Actually, it is the remains of that city. Machu Picchu is on top of a mountain peak that overlooks the Urubamba River. It is more than 7,000 feet above sea level!

*Greetings  
from Machu Picchu*



How did we get up that high? We could have hiked the Inca Trail for four days. Instead we decided to ride the train. It runs right along the river. It takes only a few hours. Our **escort** was a man from the area who is descended from the Inca. Not only did he provide information about the area, he also worked as our **interpreter**. Some of the people of Peru speak Quechua, which of course we don't understand.

As we rode the train, our escort pointed out unfamiliar **vegetation** that grows in the rain forest. The **undergrowth**, the plants that grow near the floor of the rain forest, was so thick I could hardly imagine trying to get through it back in 1911. That was when Hiram Bingham, the man who searched for the ruins, started his expedition. We also learned about the animals that inhabit the region. There are some **venomous** snakes that live there.

One bite can kill a person. It must have been quite a journey that Bingham took!

His trip was well worth it, in my opinion. Machu Picchu was so big and beautiful! The stones have **withstood** the test of time. They have been there since the 1400s. There were terraces cut into the sides of the mountain, and green was everywhere. To top it all off, we were in the clouds!

We saw where the people lived, where they worshipped, and where they farmed. The history is fascinating!

The travel brochure **foretold** we would have an amazing adventure, and it certainly didn't lie!

*Yours truly,  
Maria*



## Reread for Comprehension



### Story Structure

#### Character, Setting, Plot

By analyzing the structure of a story readers can see how the characters, setting, and events are depicted and how they develop.

Use a Character, Setting, Plot Chart to help you note particular people, places, and events as you reread "An Inca City."

Character	Setting	Plot