

Social Studies

Genre

Nonfiction: Textbooks

present facts and ideas about nonfiction topics.



Text Features

Textbook segments often feature changes in print, such as key words in color and boldface or italicized type. Headings and subheadings help to organize information. Captions and labels provide more information for photos and graphic aids.

Content Vocabulary

maize

quipu

terracing

aqueducts

legacy



EMPIRE IN THE ANDES

Once a great empire grew in the Andes mountains of South America. This civilization took its name from its ruler, the Inca. The empire stretched from what is today Ecuador to central Chile.

Like the Aztec, the Inca worshiped the sun, depended on **maize**, and organized a strong army.

FROM VILLAGE TO EMPIRE

The Inca Empire began around 1200 in Cuzco (KOOS koh), a small village in a fertile mountain valley in what is today Peru. A drought reduced their farmland, so the Inca took over their neighbors' land. During the 1300s, the Inca ruled most of the valley.

In 1438, a ruler called Pachakuti (pah chah KOO tee) Inca extended the Inca borders west to the Pacific Ocean and south to Lake Titicaca high in the central Andes.

SWEAT OF THE SUN

The Inca worked rich gold mines. They called the metal “sweat of the sun” and used it to decorate temples to their sun god. The sun god’s temple in Cuzco had a huge sculpture of him decorated with precious stones. There was even a golden “garden” with flowers and birds made of gold.

THE INCA CAPITAL

Cuzco served as the center of government, religion, and trade. The temples and government buildings at the center of Cuzco were constructed of stone blocks. These blocks still fit together so well that it is impossible to put a knife between them. They can also withstand earthquakes.

Beyond the main plaza were the palaces of the emperor and wealthy nobles. The nobles wore special headbands and earrings. One of the Spanish soldiers who visited the city was impressed by Inca wealth and skill. He wrote the following description in the 1500s:

The interior of the temple [of the Sun] was . . . a mine of gold. On the western wall was . . . [the sun god] . . . engraved on a massive plate of gold of enormous [size], thickly powdered with emeralds and special stones . . . The morning sun fell directly upon it at its rising, lighting up the whole apartment.

The ruins of Machu Picchu, an ancient city of the Inca Empire, high in the Andes



Peruvian quipu for counting and recording facts and events; of Inca workmanship.

TECHNOLOGY: SPEAKING WITH THREAD

The Inca used a special cord called a **quipu** (KEE poo). A quipu was about two feet long and had many threads of different colors hanging from it. For example, white threads stood for silver, yellow stood for gold, and red stood for war. By tying knots in the strings in a particular order, the Inca could send messages and keep records of battles, items traded, and births and deaths in a village.

A LOST CITY

The Inca built a vast network of highways over 19,000 miles in length. One road climbed into the Andes and ended at the city called Machu Picchu (MAHCH oo PEEK choo). This town was forgotten until an American explorer named Hiram Bingham came across it in 1911.

No one is sure why Machu Picchu was built or why it was abandoned. Machu Picchu is just one of many Inca mysteries. Although Spanish conquerors destroyed many Inca treasures in the 1500s, those remaining can give us a sense of the brilliant culture created by the “Children of the Sun.”

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

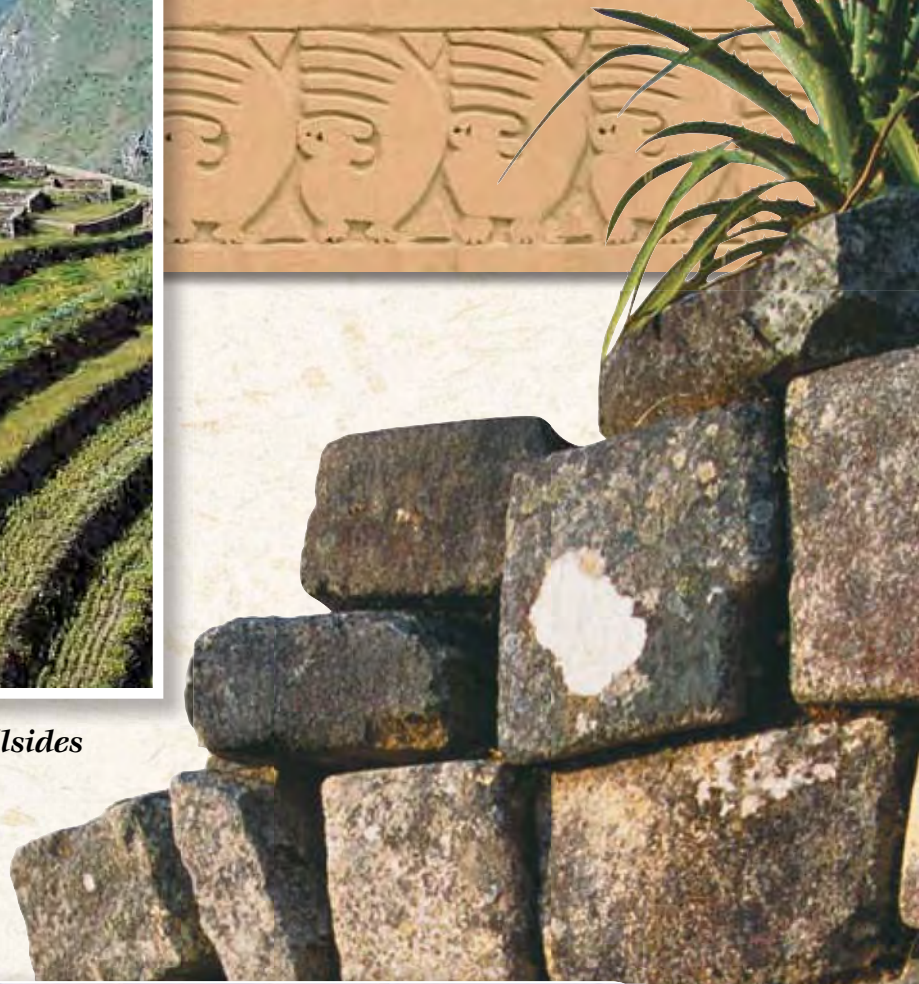
Inca farmers began **terracing** and using fertilizer to increase the crops their land produced. In addition to many roads, Inca engineers built large **aqueducts**.

The Inca Empire controlled much of western South America until it was conquered by the Spanish in 1532. However, the Inca **legacy** remains. Millions of people still speak the Inca language, and many of the songs and poems of the Inca are still recited today.



The Inca built terraces on hillsides to hold rainwater for crops.

A stone wall (right) from Machu Picchu



Connect and Compare



1. How do the subheadings, photos, and captions help you understand the text better? **Reading Text Features**
2. How do we know the Inca were brilliant engineers? **Analyze**
3. Compare “Empire in the Andes” with *Lost City*. Give examples of two details in *Lost City* that are explained further here. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Social Studies Activity

If you were with Hiram Bingham in Machu Picchu in 1911, what would you include in a journal entry? Include some facts you have read about Machu Picchu.



Find out more about Machu Picchu at www.macmillanmh.com

Write a Friendly Letter

Writer's Craft

Topic Sentence and Details

Even when writing a letter, you should include a strong topic sentence and important details. Delete **unimportant details** that do not relate to your topic or improve your writing.



October 16, 2008

Dear Aunt Becky,

My topic sentence is about my visit to a science center.

How are you? Yesterday, Mom, Dad, my friend Nicole, and I went to COSI, Columbus's Center of Science and Industry.

COSI is enormous! We went to the planetarium and saw a show about our universe. We sat on benches around the edges of the room and leaned our heads back to look up at the stars.

I remembered to make my letter interesting by including only the specific details about my special day.

My favorite part of the center was the Gadgets section. It had places where people can take things apart and put them back together again to see how they work. I actually lifted myself up off the floor with a pulley.

Do you remember how I told you that I wanted to be a scientist when I grow up? Well after visiting the Gadgets exhibit, I think I want to be an engineer.

Before we left, we got the calendar of events. I want to be sure to go back to see the dinosaur exhibit next month.

Love,
Jennifer



Your Turn

Write a letter to a friend or a relative. In your letter, describe an interesting place you visited. You might describe a visit to a local historical site or a trip to a local museum. Use details to capture the feeling of the place. Remember to use complete sentences and proper punctuation. Use the Writer's Checklist to review your letter.



*Columbus's Center of Science and Industry
Gadget Display*

Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I delete **unimportant details** about the place I chose?
- Organization:** What kind of order did I use? Why does it work well for this letter?
- Voice:** Does the letter express my feelings about the place? Which words clearly express my opinions?
- Word Choice:** Which words bring the description to life? Which words could be more vivid?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I write in complete sentences?
- Conventions:** Did I punctuate the letter properly, using commas where needed? Did I capitalize the greeting and the first word in the closing? Did I check my spelling?