

Online Book Club

The Mystery at Machu Picchu

TALK ABOUT IT!

1. No one knows for sure why Machu Picchu was abandoned about 100 years after it was completed. What do you think might have caused the residents to leave?
2. Name four to five things you learned about Peru and the Peruvian culture from this mystery. Name four to five things you learned about Machu Picchu.
3. Imagine that you are Hiram Bingham seeing Machu Picchu for the first time. He wrote that the scene "fairly took my breath away." What do you think he meant by that? Discuss what he saw and how you think he felt.
4. Many artifacts were taken from Machu Picchu to Yale University in Connecticut. Do you know what an artifact is? Those artifacts have now been returned to Peru. Do you think it's important for artifacts to remain in the country where they're found? Why or why not?
5. Do you think the professor was wise to give the urn to a perfect stranger like Grant? What other choices could he have made?
6. People in Peru wear interesting hats. What are some of the reasons people wear hats? Use online resources to find a photograph of the "pizza hat" Grant described in the book. If you were shopping for a souvenir hat in Peru, which style you choose?
7. Llamas are very interesting creatures. What have you learned about llamas in this mystery? Why do you think they spit? What other animals are similar to llamas?
8. What was your favorite part of the mystery? Why? Who was your favorite character? Why?



Know your SAT Words!

The Mystery at Machu Picchu

SAT Words



1. accelerate
2. acclimate
3. anagram
4. conquistador
5. impetuous

Write a sensational sentence using all five SAT Words from this mystery.



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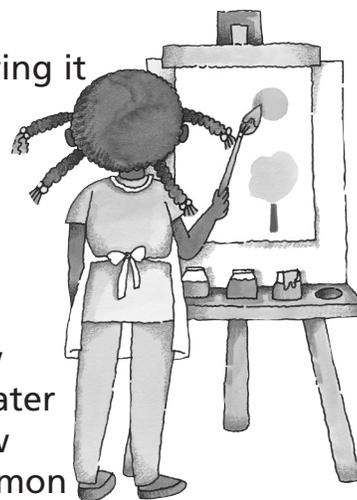
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Bring It To Life!

1. Use modeling clay to re-create the urn described in the book. Then, make one using your own imagination. Create your own version of the Incan cross to put on the urn.
2. The Incas loved jewelry. Use online resources to find some pictures of their jewelry. Use feathers, foil, and other art supplies to make your own Incan jewelry.
3. Use online resources to look for pictures of "litters" or "sedan chairs." Create your own version using art supplies such as dowels, cardboard, construction paper, foil, etc. You can use action figures for porters and riders.
4. Find a word that has several anagrams. See if a friend can figure out the original word! Can you make an anagram from your name?
5. With adult supervision, make your own Peruvian hot chocolate.

Ingredients: two cups of water, one cinnamon stick, four cups of milk, one 12-oz. can of evaporated milk, one 14-oz. can of sweetened condensed milk, 3 ½ ounces of finely chopped chocolate bar, ½ cup of cocoa powder, one tablespoon of cornstarch

Instructions: Combine the water and the cinnamon stick. Bring it to a boil for five minutes. Add and stir the milk, evaporated milk, and sweetened condensed milk and allow it to simmer over low heat for two minutes. In a separate bowl, combine the chopped chocolate bar and cocoa powder. Remove one cup of the hot milk mixture and add it to the bowl, then stir until the chocolate melts and the powder dissolves. Add the chocolate mixture back to the pot of milk and cook over low heat for five minutes. Dissolve the cornstarch in ¼ cup of water and add it to the milk mixture, stirring continuously over low heat for two minutes. Remove from heat, remove the cinnamon stick, and serve. Enjoy with the members of your book club!



Online Quiz

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Fact or Fiction?

Write Fact or Fiction next to each question below.

- _____ 1. The Andes Mountains are the world's highest mountain range.
- _____ 2. A chullo is a round hat that Grant described as looking like a pizza.
- _____ 3. Spanish is the official language of Peru.
- _____ 4. Peru is located above the equator.
- _____ 5. The Incan ruler or king was known as the "Sapa Inca."
- _____ 6. The Incan people used llamas to carry goods up and down the mountains.
- _____ 7. An aqueduct is a structure to transport water from one place to another.
- _____ 8. The Andean condor is a vulture, which means it only eats live animals.
- _____ 9. Ancient Incan people often buried figurines with the dead as offerings to the gods.
- _____ 10. The only way to reach the ruins of Machu Picchu is by riding a tour bus.



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