

Upper Key Stage Two Forest and Elveden Academy

Knowledge Organiser: South America

- I am learning to.....
- Describe the physical geography of different climate zones; Rainforest belts.
- To understand the process of Deforestation.
- Develop an understanding of an ancient civilisation. Incas.



Key Vocabulary:

Amazon River	The world's second largest river arises in the Andes and runs East towards the Atlantic. 4000 Miles Long.
Andes	A mountain range running along the Western side of South America.
Atlantic Ocean	An Ocean between the Americas and Europe. The Second largest in the world.
continent	A discrete area of land which is both large and continuous that is separated by a body of water. There are 7 in the world. Europe, Asia, South America, North America, Australasia, Antarctica, Africa.
Deforestation	The cutting down of trees in large areas of the rainforest.
Pacific Ocean	An Ocean between the Americas and Asia. The largest Ocean in the world.
Southern hemisphere	The half of the Earth which is below the Equator

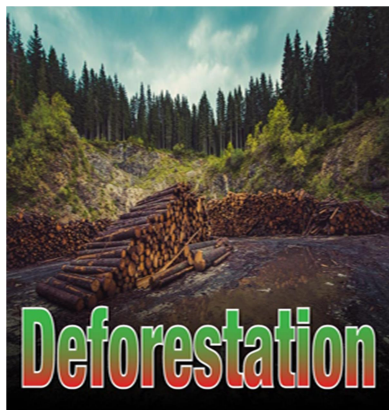
Deforestation: Amazon Rainforest.

Deforestation is the clearing, or cutting down, of forests.

The word is normally used to describe the actions of humans in removing forests from the planet, rather than destruction caused by such natural events as hurricanes.

People have been cutting down trees for thousands of years. In the Amazon Rainforest this is causing a problem because it is reducing the amount of trees, which in turn reduces the amount of Oxygen in the atmosphere.

Deforestation can also cause landslides.



Geography. South American and Rainforest Belts.



South America is the fourth largest continent in size and the fifth largest in population. It is located primarily in the southern hemisphere. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The geography of South America is dominated by the Andes Mountain Range and the Amazon River (second longest river in the world).

The largest South American country in both size and population is Brazil. The largest city is Sao Paulo, Brazil, which is also one of the ten largest cities in the world.



The Incas



Summary

The Incas were a civilisation that existed in pre-Columbian (before European influence) times, who lived from around 1200-1572CE.

The Incas created an empire high in and around the **Andes mountain range** of South America.

The word Inca can also mean the emperor or king of the Inca people.

The Inca empire was the **largest empire of the time in the entire western hemisphere**.

The empire was centred around the **city of Cusco** (sometimes called Qusco) in what is now southern Peru, in **South America**.

Machu Picchu, a 'lost city' of the Inca Empire, 8,000 feet above sea level, in the Andes Mountains.



Significant People and Places



Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui (c.1418-1471CE)

Pachacuti was the ninth Inca of the Kingdom of Cuzco, which he transformed into the Inca Empire. He did this through the conquest of neighbouring tribes and cities. His name is thought to mean 'he who remakes the world.' He reorganized the new empire into 'the united four provinces.' He promoted four 'apos' that controlled the provinces.

Huayna Capac (c.1467-1525CE)

Huayna Capac was one of the last great rulers of the Inca Empire. He built stronger transport systems, and personally checked each of the provinces himself. He probably died from plague, brought to South America by European colonisers. There were arguments about who should succeed him, leading to the Civil War.



Machu Picchu

Machu Picchu was thought to be a royal estate that was built for Pachacuti, around 1450CE. It is thought to have been either a sacred religious site or a vacation spot for the King. It was built out of large stones and mortar. It was not conquered by the Spanish, and was 'lost' for hundreds of years before being rediscovered in 1911.

Francisco Pizarro (1471-1541)

Francisco Pizarro was a Spanish conquistador (someone who conquered new lands for Spain). Arriving in South America to find an Inca in the grip of a civil war, Pizarro capitalized by defeating the Empire. He founded a capital in Peru called Lima. He became extremely rich and powerful, taking Inca treasures.



Size of and Location of the Inca Empire



At its largest, the Inca Empire covered a huge section of the western coast of South America. It was the largest empire ever seen in the Americas, and the largest in the world at the time. It mainly formed around what is now Peru, but also extended into Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, and parts of Argentina and Colombia. This meant that (in addition to the mountainous landscapes that they are famous for habiting in) the Incas also conquered rainforest, desert and plains. The rise of the Empire was spectacularly quick, taking place over only around 100-200 years.

Inca Daily Life

THE RICH AND THE POOR



Inca society was divided into four classes – Sapa Inca, Nobles, Curacas (middle class people) and Farmers/craftsmen. Life was very different for rich and poor, with a tough life in the sun for the poor. The rich and poor even went to different schools!

ARCHITECTURE



The Incas were superb builders. They used large, semi-worked rocks, which were tightly interconnected with mortar. Their cities were built to last, with fortresses built alongside them. They were normally built around a central plaza and government buildings.

FOOD/ AGRICULTURE



The Incas were largely vegetarian, but would occasionally eat meat and seafood if they could get it. The Incas developed huge farming apparatus to harvest crops. They also built storage facilities for food, to keep the Incas nourished in case of drought and disaster.

CLOTHING



Typical Inca clothing consisted of lightweight ponchos, with heavier, more blanket-like ponchos over the top. The Incas would also wear sandals and hats. The rich often wore gold earrings to show their wealth. Women and men wore the same clothing.

RELIGION



Religion was an important part of Inca daily life. The Incas believed that their ruler (the 'Inca Sapa') was part God himself. They believed that the Gods lived in three places: the sky, the earth's core, and the earth's surface – many mountains were thought to inhabit Gods. **Inti** was the most important God – the God of the Sun. He was married to **Mama Quilla** – the Goddess of the Moon. **Pachamama** was the Goddess of the Earth.

HUMAN SACRIFICE



The Incas offered human sacrifice to their Gods during important events (commonly the funeral of someone important, such as an Inca). Often, the sacrifice would be a child. Children were chosen because of their purity.

Key Vocabulary

Inca

Empire

Machu Picchu

Pre-Columbian

Andes

Sacrifice

Conquistador

Inti

Mama Quilla

Pachamama

Poncho

South America

Apu

Top 10 Facts!

- The Incas created over 18,000 miles of roads across their Empire.
- The Incas studied health and medicine – they even performed skull surgeries!
- The Incas had a postal system! Messengers ran across rope bridges to other message teams.
- The Incas believed in reincarnation.
- Quechua was the official spoken language of the Incas. They had no written language.
- Cusco was the capital of the Empire, with fertile valleys alongside the Marañon River.
- The Incas used canals and ditches to irrigate their crops.
- There were believed to be over a million Inca people in the Empire.
- Many Incas died from diseases brought over by the Europeans in the early 1500s.
- Humans were often sacrificed at Inca funerals and festivals!