**The Inca: A lost society**

**Reading texts for stage 2**

(Cut these out and give one to each person in the group)

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2. How is it that a people who had no written language and didn't even know of the **existence** of the wheel could within the space of a hundred years build an **empire** that **spanned** some 2, 500 miles across South America?

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5. The people I'm referring to are of course the Inca. The Inca were a small **ethnic** group who came to rule an empire of more than 12 million people. They ruled their empire from Cuzco in Peru and were not the **brutal** conquerors that many think them to be. They took control of other cultures through a mixture **arms** and gifts.

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1. They were skilled **craftsmen** who were able to produce beautiful jewelry and **textiles**. Many villagers were so impressed by them that they thought of them as gods. The Inca were in many ways very tolerant and **assimilated** new peoples, their cultures and even their religions into their own, but not so the Spanish conquistadors who arrived in 1532.

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4. With an army of less than 400 men they were able to defeat the 40,000 strong Inca army and they soon **set about looting and plundering** the riches of the Inca culture. Most of the amazing architecture and complex building they had worked to build up was **torn down** and made into palaces and fortresses for the conquering

Spanish.

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3. Amazingly one Inca **site** remained undiscovered until 1911. It was the amazing Machu Picchu, the Inca **temple** to the sun, but by this time of course the Inca were long gone, either killed off by conquistadors or the diseases that they brought with them. Today it still stands, at the top a mountain beside the Urubamba River in Peru, a **memorial** to the greatness of a people that we can now only read about in books.

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**Definitions ✂**

(Cut these into strips and give a set to each group)

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| --- |
| the state of being |
| a group of countries controlled by a single power |
| to cover an area |
| of a racial group |
| cruel and violent |
| weapons (i.e. knives, guns etc.) |
| people who make things with their hands |
| clothes or other articles made of cloth |
| to allow one group of people to become part of another |
| to begin |
| to steal articles during time of war or disorder |
| to destroy |
| a position or place |
| a religious building |
| something that reminds people of a person or event |