

Machu Picchu

Wonders of the Medieval World



Back in the days of the Inca Empire, Emperor Pachacuti told his people to build him a gigantic house worthy of his presence. His people delivered, creating him a sprawling estate perched on a mountain ridge in Peru's Cusco Region. The entire estate is called Machu Picchu (an Incan word that means "old peak"), but several structures make up the famous landmark. Some of the most popular are the Temple of the Sun, the Room of Three Windows, and the Hitching Post of the Sun.

After the fall of the Inca Empire in the 16th century, Machu Picchu spent several hundred years isolated from the rest of the world. It wasn't till major excavations in the early 20th century that Pachacuti's estate became a major wonder of the world.

Question & Answer:

Pretend that you're Emperor Pachacuti. You have all the resources and manpower of the Inca Empire at your disposal. What kind of estate would you build? Would you build your new house on a mountain like Pachacuti or would you pick a different location?

Draw your estate and describe it here:

Why do you think it took explorers and architects so long to find Machu Picchu?

Word Scramble:

OEPRREM IHAPCUACT

_____ He ordered his people to build him a royal retreat.

SCOUC

_____ This Peruvian city was the capital of the ancient Inca empire.

AUCMH HCICPU

_____ It is an Incan word that means “old peak.”

VOINXAETAC

_____ A word that means uncovering and recording a buried archaeological site.

EURP

_____ The South American country where Machu Picchu was discovered.

DID YOU KNOW?

The compound contains more than 100 separate flights of stairs. Most of the individual staircases were carved from one slab of stone.

Word Scramble answers: Emperor Pachacuti, Cusco, Machu Picchu, excavation, Peru