

## THE INCAS AND THE SPANISH CONQUEST

The Incas had little contact with the Mayas or the Aztecs. They did not know of the earliest arrival of the white man, nor did they know of the Spanish conquest of the other tribes.

The Incan ruler, Huyayna Capac, died in 1525. He did not choose an heir to become the new ruler. Two of his sons, Atahualpa and Huscar, fought each other for this honor. Their fighting caused a bloody civil war that lasted for over five years. Atahualpa won the war and became the next ruler. He then ordered the death of thousands of Huscar's soldiers and his family.

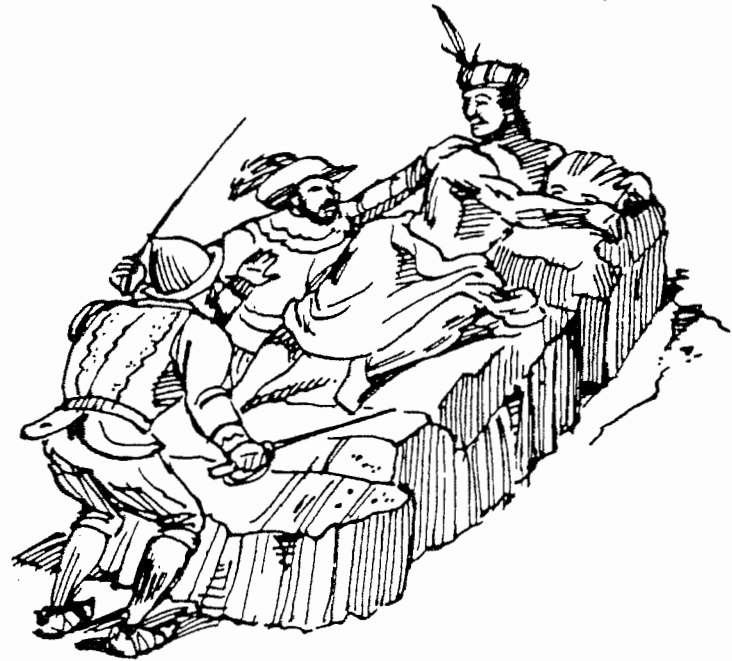
The Incas soon received reports of strange-looking pale men with beards. An enemy tribe of the Incas captured a shipwrecked European on the coast of Brazil. He joined the enemies in some fighting against the Incas. He was the first white man that the Incas ever saw. The Incas also heard stories of white men arriving in giant boats.

The Spanish landed on the Caribbean coast on May 13, 1532. Over 180 Spanish soldiers arrived to search for gold. Led by Francisco Pizarro, they brought with them guns, armor, a cannon, and horses. This was the first time that horses appeared in the new world. These strange new animals fascinated and frightened the Incas.

Atahualpa and Pizarro agreed to meet in a courtyard in the town of Cajamarca. Atahualpa and his men arrived without weapons. The Incas believed the Spanish might be gods, and so they did not want to offend the Spanish by being armed.

The Spanish, however, had planned an ambush. Atahualpa arrived in the courtyard carried on a gold throne. The Spanish then opened fire. They soon killed over 2,000 Incas. The Spanish captured Atahualpa and put him in a prison. Atahualpa agreed to pay the Spanish a ransom of enough gold and silver to fill his prison cell.

Even after he paid the ransom, the Spanish refused to free Atahualpa. They condemned Atahualpa to death and gave him a choice: would he prefer that they strangle him or burn him at the stake? He chose strangulation. With Atahualpa's death, the great Incan empire came under Spanish rule and influence.



**After agreeing to meet with the Spanish, Atahualpa was ambushed by Pizarro and his men. Atahualpa paid a huge ransom in gold and silver, but the Spanish executed him anyway.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Why didn't the Incas know about the Spanish conquest of other tribes?

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2. Why was there a civil war among the Incas?

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3. How long did the civil war last?

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4. Who won the civil war?

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5. Who was the first white man ever seen by the Incas?

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6. When did the Spanish land on the Caribbean coast?

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7. Who was the leader of the Spanish?

8. What did the Spanish bring with them that frightened the Incas?

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9. Why did the Incas meet the Spanish unarmed?

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10. What did the Incan ruler fill with gold and silver?

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