

THE INCAS

By John Kavanagh

HISTORY

The Incas were an ancient people. In the 16th century they controlled the greatest empire in America. The Incan Empire lasted about a century from 1438-1532.



Location of the Incan Empire

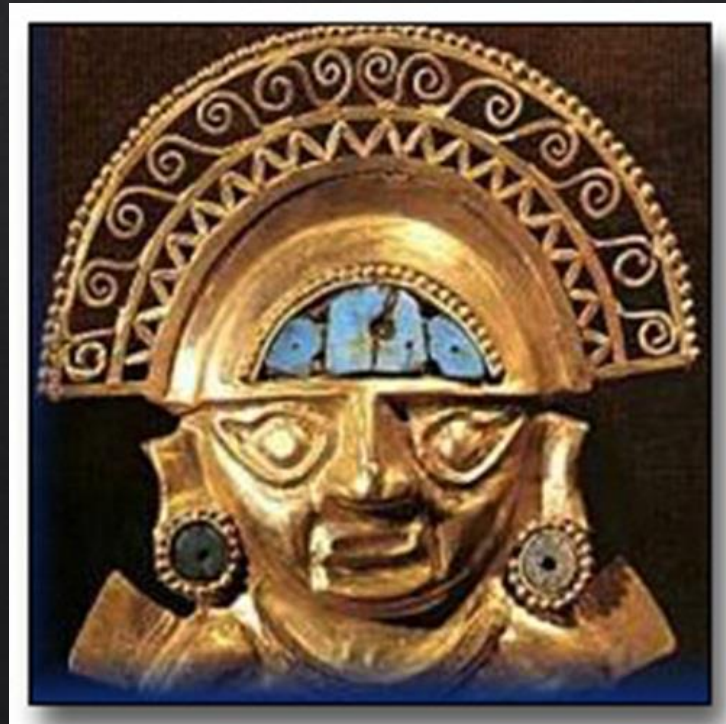


CULTURE

The Inca culture was an advanced civilization and was led by 13 Incas, who were in charge of governing a people divided into social classes. Quechua was the official language.

INCAN GODS AND GODDESSES

Inti is the ancient Incan sun god and the main god of the Incan culture.



INCAN GODS AND GODESSES

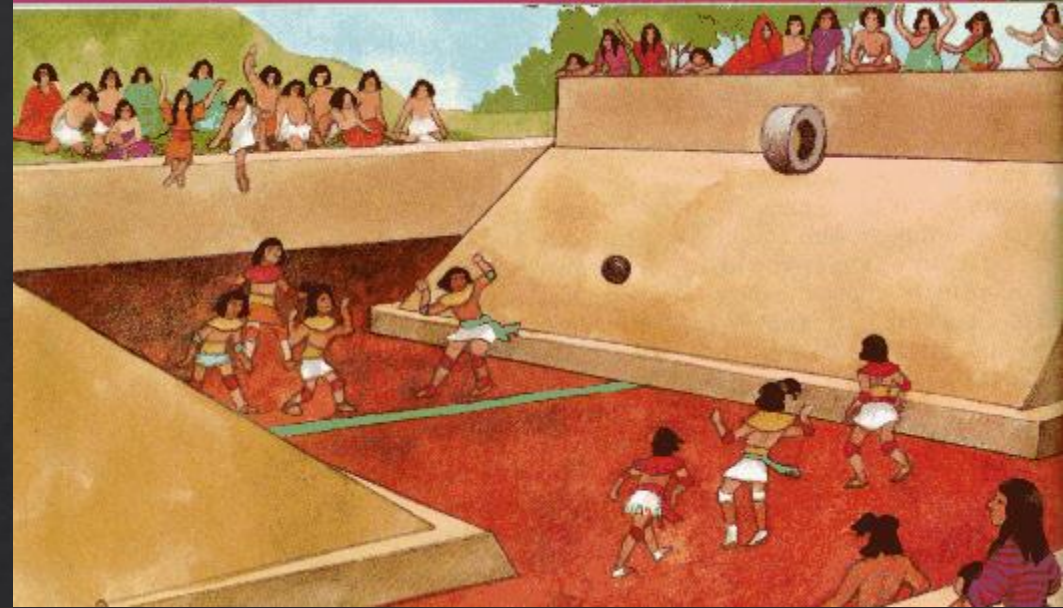
The supreme god of Incan Mythology was the creator Viracocha. Viracocha was both the god who created the world and also a man who travelled the earth doing great things. Viracocha created the world and the sky with all its stars and he brought the sun and the moon out of an island in lake Titicaca to light it.

INCAN GODS AND GODDESSES

Mama Quilla is the Incan moon goddess. She is also known as Mama Killa, or Mother Moon. She is considered a defender of women. She also the goddess of marriage.

SPORTS

The Incas played a game called Tlatchti which is a mixture of football and basketball. The game consists of trying to smack a leather ball through a hoop 27 feet high [8.23 meters].



THE SPANISH CONQUEST OF PERU

Emperor Athahualpa led an army of up to ten thousand but was defeated by just 168 Spanish conquistadors. The Incas were already weakened because so many had died of diseases the Europeans brought like smallpox and because of an ongoing civil war.



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