

Inca Clothing

Clothes varied based on their position in the social structure. The basic style was the same. The men wore simple tunics reaching to just above the knees. On their feet they would wear grass shoes or leather sandals. The women dressed in ankle-length skirts and usually with a braided waistband. They wore a cap on their head and on their hair they pinned a folded piece of cloth. In the highlands clothes were made of wool. In the coastal areas cooler fabrics were used.

Family Life

Most families lived in the farmlands or in small villages. The houses were made of rough blocks of stone. Since no one would be stealing, there were no doors. There was only a rough piece of hide to keep the wind out. There was no furniture; the family would sleep on mats. The main meal of day would be eaten in the evening. Everyone in the family worked hard, they helped in the fields and with many tasks. The mother would make clothes for the family. The men would braid slippers or cut out llama hide to make strong sandals.

Inca Religion

The great gods of the Incas were the powers of nature especially the Sun and the Moon. Other important gods to the Incas were the Thunder and Rainbow Gods. They believed in a great creator who reigned over them. He was both the father and the mother of the sun and the moon. He was often thought of as an old man with white hair and a white beard.

Inca Agriculture

In Inca times the population of Peru was greater than it is now, so growing enough food was a problem. Most families farmed fields at several different levels on the mountain slopes. This was called terrace farming. At the top they grew potatoes and crops which could withstand the cold. On the middle levels they grew beans with maize, the main food crop. At the bottom they grew fruits and peppers.

Events of Downfall

The collapse of the Inca Empire began with the civil war between two brothers. Atahualpa ordered the death of his brother Huascar. Pizarro, a Spaniard, marched inland to meet the Incas. The Spaniards killed the Inca leaders. Without a leader, the Incas must go with the Spanish. The Spaniards took all the gold from the Incas.