



## **Inca Civilization**

(Cuzco was founded in the 1100s;  
the Inca expanded from Cuzco in the early 1400s;  
the last Inca stronghold was captured in 1572)

- Inca emperor (thought to be a direct descendant of the sun god Inti), married one of his sisters, to assure that this was the case for his successor as well
- Inca were (distant) blood relatives of the emperor

It was some 4500 kilometers running north-south (just under the distance across the US). Across their territory spanned 22,000 kilometers of roads. Relays of messengers would run short distances, and together, cover a combined total of 240 kilometers in a given day (about as long as a trip from Victorville to San Diego).

Roads, aqueducts, bridges, maintained to secure communications throughout empire

the land was terraced, to provide ground to farm crops

### **Rigid system of control**

- For every 10,000 people, there were 1331 officials (according to one estimate), starting with one over a group of 10, then an additional overseer over every group of 100, and another over every group of 1000, then 10,000.
- Flocks of llamas, and mines throughout the empire, were under the control of the Inca emperor and government
- Conquered land was divided among three sections: land devoted to the Sun god, land devoted to support the Inca, and that devoted to the people in that area. Work done on Inca land was known as the *mit'a*.
- Inca undertook annual censuses, counting people and enumerating the quality of the land and its produce. Land was re-divided, based upon family size
- Inca laws were ruthlessly enforced, with the death penalty for major (and repeated minor) crimes; warnings and punishments meted out for minor offences

People who resisted Inca authority had their nobles killed, and their districts broken up; often their populations would be exiled to other regions of the empire.

Interesting facts about the Inca:

They had no system of money, doing little if any trade with the outside world

They didn't have the use of the wheel, or of beasts of burden