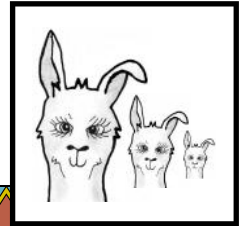


HOW THE INCAS KEPT RECORDS



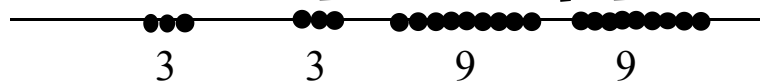
Some Inca men were given the job of remembering information, for example the number of llamas in their own districts. These men were known as Quipucamayocs or Rememberers. They had to remember the information because the Incas did not have writing.

But they didn't have to remember the actual numbers. These were recorded on a set of cords called a quipu. Each group of knots on the quipu represented a number. (Nowadays officials use computers to do the same sort of job, except that the information can now be written rather than memorised.)

An example of Quipu numbers:

Height of Cusco, the Inca capital, above sea level, in metres: 3399

The same number on a quipu. Each black 'bead' represents a quipu knot:



1) Draw the knots on this quipu for each of the numbers. (0 is just a space)



↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
Thousands Hundreds Tens Units

- ⇐ c1000 Andes has high population, and many small states
- ⇐ c1250 The Incas appear, as a small tribe
- ⇐ 1438 Viracocha becomes Sapa Inca. Incas now powerful.
- ⇐ 1441 Pachacuti becomes Sapa Inca. He makes a large empire.
- ⇐ 1471 Topa Inca Yupanqui becomes Sapa Inca. Adds land to empire.
- ⇐ 1493 Huayna Capac becomes Sapa Inca. Expands empire to North.
- ⇐ 1525 Huascar becomes Sapa Inca. Civil War begins.
- ⇐ 1532 Atahualpa becomes Sapa Inca, but is defeated by Spanish.
- ⇐ 1535 Manco Capac fails to drive out Spaniards.
- ⇐ 1569 Inca lands become part of the Spanish empire.

2) Discuss: If you had to learn 4 dates from Inca history, what do you think are the 4 most important, and why?

(You could write your answer on the other side)

