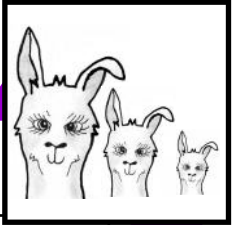


SOURCES OF INCA HISTORY



Eyewitness accounts from the 1530's

All the written eyewitness accounts of the Inca empire were produced by the **Conquistadors**, the Spanish adventurers who destroyed the Inca empire in the 1530's. They wrote their accounts at the actual time. One soldier rushed back to Spain as quickly as possible to make a 'best seller' from his account! But the Conquistadors were mainly interested in the Incas' gold and silver, and had very little interest in the details of the Inca empire.

Native Authors in the 1600's

It wasn't till the early 17th Century that Native Americans from Peru began to write their own history, in Spanish or the Quechua language. Native authors had talked to their Inca Elders, who could remember the Inca empire before its conquest by the Spaniards. The Native authors could also remember Inca customs from their own childhood, and therefore gave eye-witness accounts of this: but these were reminiscences of events of that had happened over 60 years before.

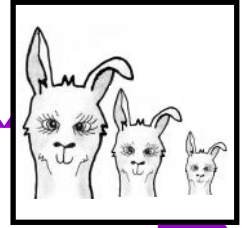
The later Spanish Chroniclers in the 1650's

These were Spanish **Jesuit** priests and monks. Their aim was to continue to convert the Indians (Native Americans) in the former Inca empire to Christianity. They were interested in the details of Inca religion - so they could destroy it. They also copied older writings, some of them eye-witness accounts, about Inca daily life and religion, that would otherwise have been lost.

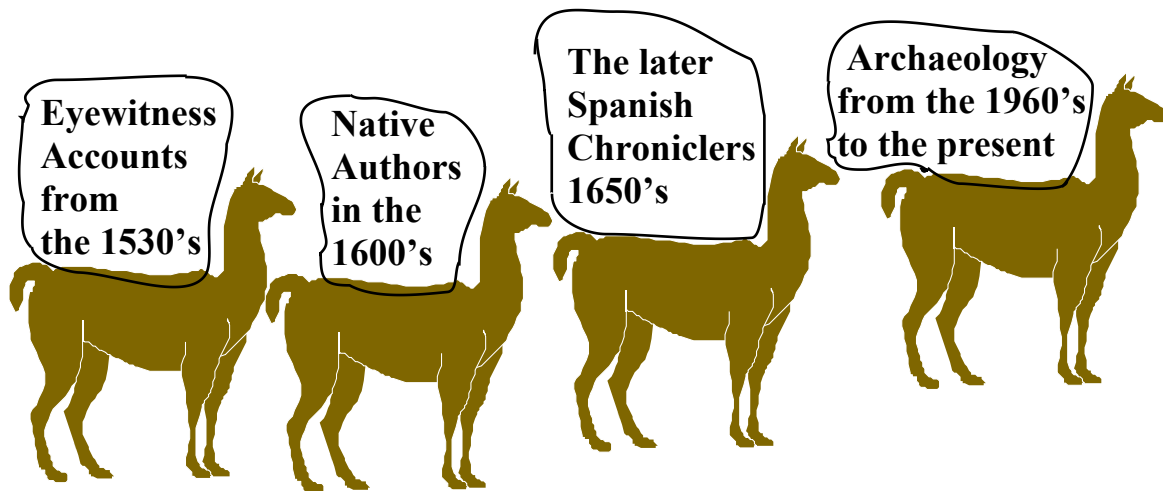
Modern Archaeology from the 1960's to the present

Recently archaeologists have examined Inca sites far away from the capital of **Cusco**. This has provided new information about how people kept their own culture, even though they were part of Inca empire. Many of these finds can be dated (while many dates taken from the written sources are unreliable). Of course archaeology can only give information about what has physically survived (in this case for four and a half centuries!)

ASK THE RIGHT LLAMA!



1. Study the **Sources of Inca History** sheet.
2. Each of the 4 llamas below carries a pack of information.
3. At the bottom of the page are questions about the Incas.
4. Which llama has the best information pack to answer each question?
5. Draw a 'rope' from each question to the llama who has the information that you think will provide the best answer.
6. Turn your paper sideways, and write down your reasons along each rope.



- **Why did the Incas sacrifice young people on mountain tops?**
 - **Did Inca religion help the people to live in the harsh conditions of the Andes?**
 - **What were Inca silver statues like?**
 - **What was it like to grow up in the Inca empire?**
 - **What were the mummies of the Inca emperors like?**
 - **What did the last Inca emperor look like?**
 - **Did Inca children play games?**
 - **How much of South America was part of the Inca empire?**