

LIVING

STREETS

LET'S  
WALK TO  
SCHOOL

# INCA TRAIL

MAY 2018



Did  
you  
know?



The Inca Trail is an ancient path through the Andes Mountains of Peru and leads to the lost city of the Incas, Machu Picchu.

Machu Picchu was built by the Inca king Pachacuti and was so well hidden that after the Inca Empire disappeared it stayed hidden until being discovered again in 1911.

The stone road from Cuzco to Machu Picchu is still used today by tourists to visit the ruins.

## AIM

To learn about the lost city of Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail and create a descriptive diary entry.

## OBJECTIVES

- To find out about why the lost city of Machu Picchu lay undiscovered to the outside world for so many years.
- To imagine what the trail and city looked like when it had been hidden for so many years and create a diary entry based on imagination.

**TIMING** 45 mins

## RESOURCES

Globe or map, photographs of Machu Picchu now and when it was rediscovered in 1911, pencils/pens, paper.

## CURRICULUM LINKS

England **ENGLISH, GEOGRAPHY**

Wales **ENGLISH/WELSH, GEOGRAPHY**

Scotland **ENGLISH/GAELIC, SOCIAL STUDIES**

We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking. These learning resources support participation in WOW, the year-round walk to school challenge.

For further information on WOW and the full set of learning resources, visit [www.livingstreets.org.uk/walktoschool](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walktoschool)

Get in touch: [walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk](mailto:walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk) 020 7377 4900

# INCA TRAIL

## LESSON PLAN



### INTRODUCTION

Locate Machu Picchu on the map and talk about how its remote location in the mountains meant that for many years it lay undiscovered to the outside world. The city was built by the Inca civilisation but was abandoned once the Inca Empire died out due to conquest and illness. Machu Picchu was forgotten, except by the people who lived nearby but in 1911 American explorer Hiram Bingham was shown the site by a local farmer. Bingham set about clearing the site and telling the world about the lost city. It is now a popular tourist destination and is described as one of the seven wonders of the modern world.

### DEVELOPMENT

Ask the children to imagine being in Bingham's party of explorers. Imagine being led by the farmer up through the long trail into the mountains, seeing the clouds part and spying the lost city buried under the jungle. Imagine seeing the stone ruins of temples, homes and buildings just visible under the trees, vines and leaves. Imagine pulling some vines off the ruins and looking at the hand-worked stone buildings, the terraces where the farmers grew crops and the paths snaking between the buildings. Many people kept detailed diaries so write a diary entry as an explorer and describe everything you can see, hear and feel. How does it feel to be one of the first people to see these ruins again? What do you imagine the future of the city will be?

### PLENARY

Ask some of the children to read out their diary entries. Did they use descriptive language? Were you able to feel you were there? Make a display with some of the diary entries alongside photographs of Machu Picchu.

### EXTENSION

On the walk to school, get the children to look at the number of paths and trails in the local neighbourhood. Look at built trails such as pavements and roads and the natural paths such as those made by humans through trees and grass or by water sources like streams and rivers. Try and spot where built and natural paths collide – sometimes humans will create a shortcut across a patch of grass or through trees.

If you require these learning resources in Welsh please email [wales@livingstreets.org.uk](mailto:wales@livingstreets.org.uk)

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