

# The Inca

# Rise of the Inca

- In 1200 AD, Incas settled in Cuzco, a village in the Andes Mountains (now in Peru).
  - Most were farmers.
- In 1438 AD, Pachacuti became ruler of the Incas and conquered more lands/people.
  - The empire stretched 2,500 miles and ruled 12 million people.
  - They used runners to spread news—at a rate of 250 miles a day!



# Machu Picchu



# Cuzco

- The jaguar was an important symbol to the Incans.
  - Cuzco (capital city) was built in the shape of a jaguar!



# Accomplishments

- They were excellent farmers, builders, and managers.
- Roads and aqueducts:
  - Incans built more than 19,000 miles of roads (over mountains)!
  - They also built canals and aqueducts to carry water to dry areas.
    - aqueduct—pipe or channel designed to carry water to a distant source; irrigates dry land



# Aqueduct





# Accomplishments

- Farming:
  - The Inca cut terraces into the Andes to create farmland.
  - They developed a large variety of foods.
  - They also discovered ways to store and preserve food.
    - The potato was a staple food (due to it being able to grow in the high altitudes of the Andes).
    - Other foods: tomatoes, maize, lima beans, peppers, grains

# Terrace Farming





Terrace Farming

# Architecture

- Incan ruins are some of the most impressive works of architecture in the world.
- They cut stone with such precisions that each block fit exactly with its neighbor.
  - The fit was so tight, even a thin knife wouldn't fit in the cracks.



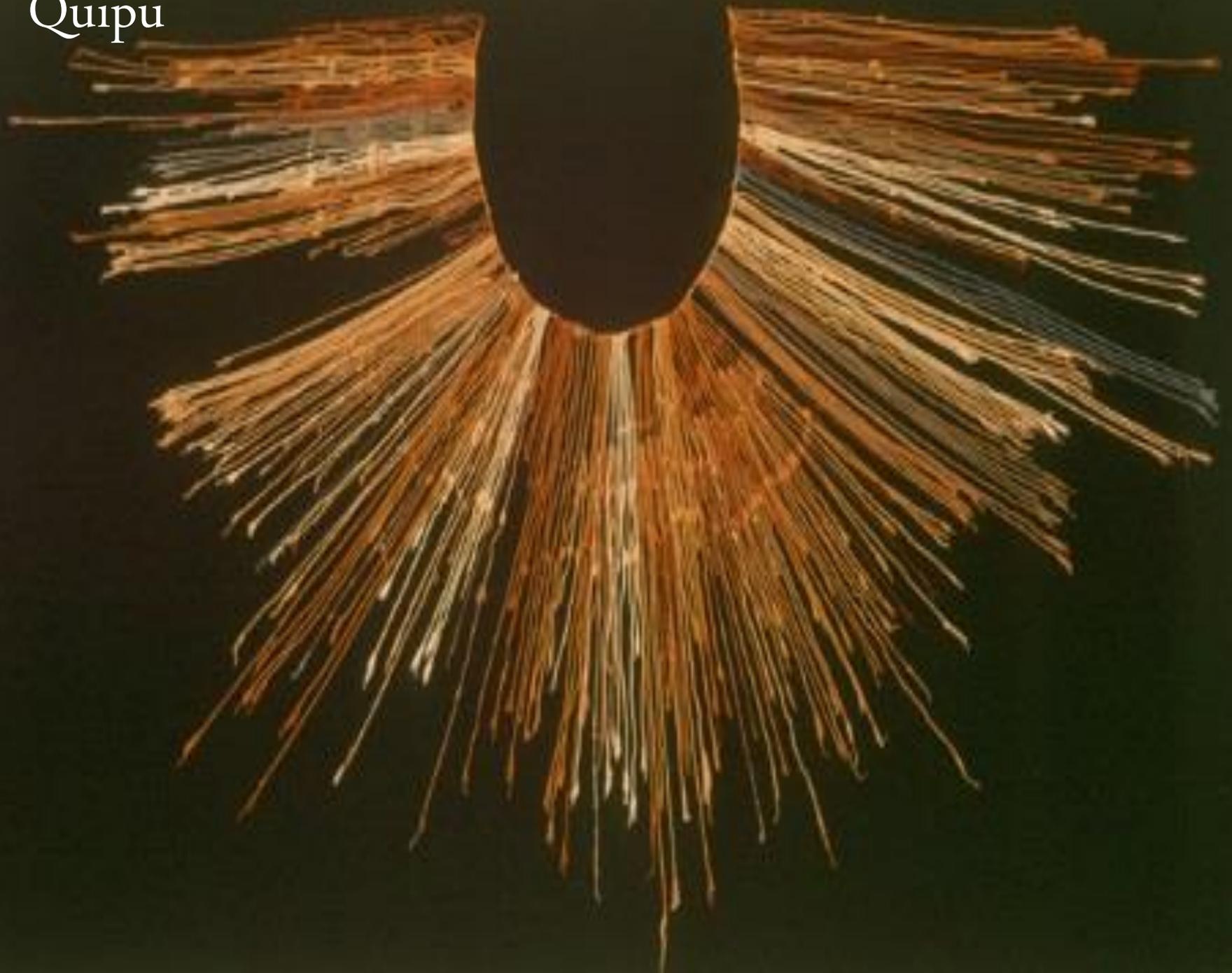




# Record Keeping

- The nobles conducted a census to count people so they could be taxed.
- They did not have a written language.
- They recorded information on knotted strings called quipus.
  - Each color represented a different item and knots of different sizes at different intervals stood for numbers.

# Quipu



# Religion

- Like the Aztec, the Inca were also polytheistic.
  - The main god was the sun god.
- Sacrifice was a big part of their religion—usually a white llama was used, but sometimes they sacrificed small children.
- They also believed in reincarnation.

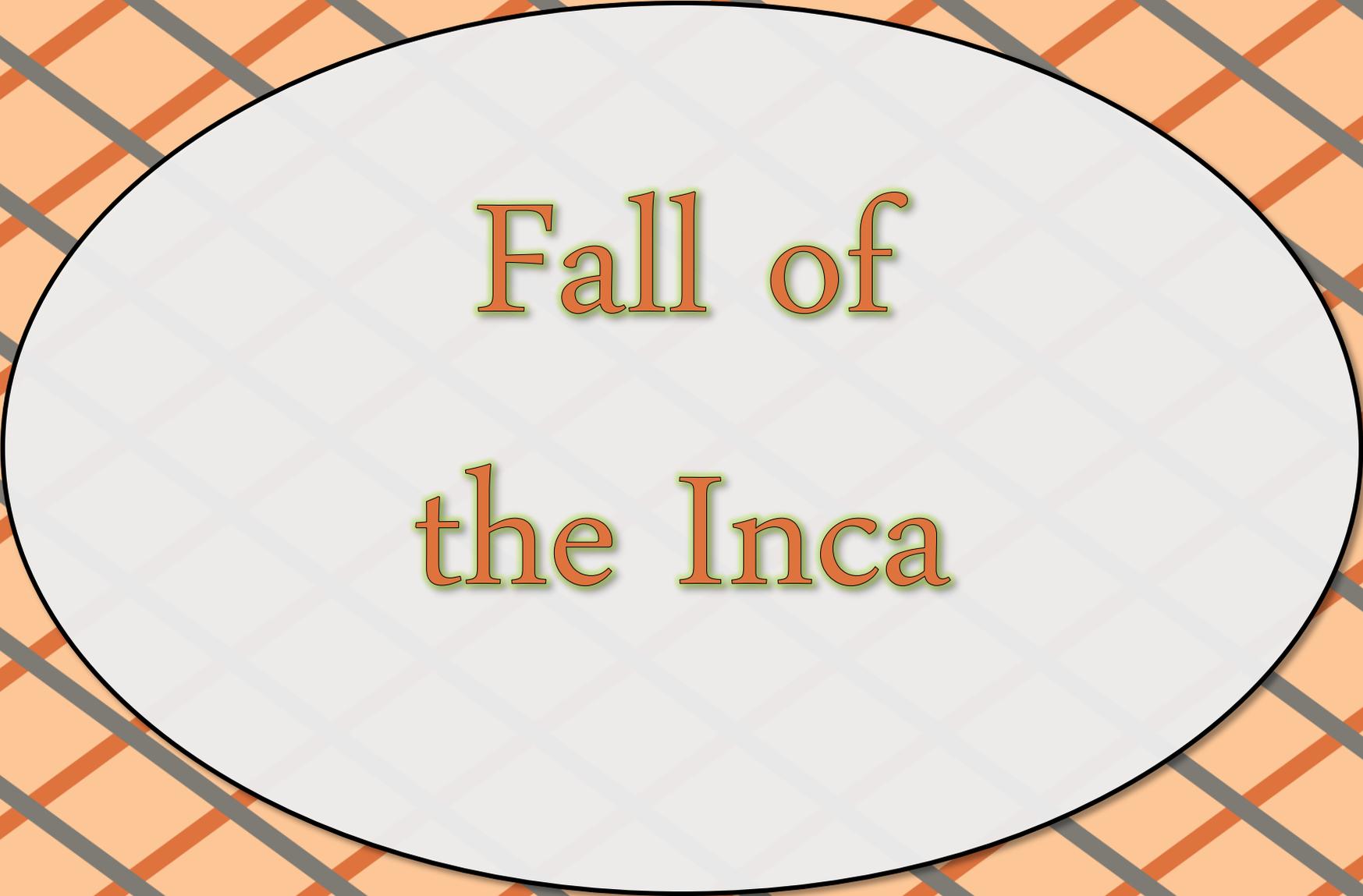
# Sun God



# Incan Mummy

(Over 500 Years Old!)





Fall of  
the Inca

# The Inca

- In the 1530s, the Incan empire was HUGE!
- Inca thought they ruled most of the world; two threats from the north soon proved they did not...
  - 1.They couldn't stop the spread of smallpox.
  2. They couldn't scare away Pizarro.



# Francisco Pizarro

- Pizarro was from the Extremadura.
  - He was not of noble birth; could not even write his name.
  - At age 16, Pizarro fled a job herding pigs in Italy.
- In 1502, he arrived in the Americas and became very wealthy by exploring Panama.
  - He heard a rumor that there was a great empire filled with gold in the mountains of South America...



# Pizarro & the Inca

- Pizarro led 160 soldiers to the Incan homeland.
  - They raided Incan storehouses & fired guns at villagers.
- Incan emperor, Atahualpa, thought Pizarro was crazy. How could he stand up to an army of 80,000 Incan warriors?
- In 1532, Pizarro came up with a plan to defeat the Inca...

Atahualpa





# Pizarro Defeats the Inca

- Spanish messengers invited Atahualpa to a meeting.
- He agreed & left most of his army behind--brought only 5,000 bodyguards.
- Pizarro's 160 soldiers attacked the Inca & kidnapped Atahualpa.
- Pizarro offered to free Atahualpa if he filled one room with gold & one with silver.
- Atahualpa kept his end of the bargain, but Pizarro killed him in 1533.



# After Conquering the Inca

- The Spanish king made Pizarro the governor of Peru.
- Pizarro's conquest of Peru opened most of South America to Spanish rule.
  - Spain controlled a vast territory covering 375,000 miles with almost seven million inhabitants.

