

NAME:

BLOCK:

INCA EMPIRE

**DIRECTIONS:** In addition to reading pages 408 -411 in your textbook, read the following excerpt on the Inca Empire and respond to the following questions.

INCAN EMPEROR PACHACUTIINCAN EMPIRE CITY: MACHU PICCHUPACHACUTI

In the Andean region of South America, the Inca civilization came into being in the 1100's. For the next three centuries, no civilization stood out more than any other. But, in 1438, a historic change occurred. Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui, a skilled warrior and leader proclaimed himself Sapa Inca, or emperor.

From his small kingdom at Cuzco (located in present day Peru), Pachacuti set out on a campaign of conquest. Once he subdued neighboring peoples, he enlisted them in his armies. His son, emperor Yopa Inca Yupanqui, continued the expansion. With Cuzco as its capital, the resulting empire stretched more than 2,500 miles along the Andes, from Ecuador in the north to Chile in the south.

ROLE OF THE INCAN EMPEROR

The "Sapa Inca," or emperor held absolute power and claimed to be divine, heralding himself as the empire's religious leader. Laying claim over all the land, herds, mines and people of his empire, people had no personal property. Therefore, there was little demand for items to sell or barter. As a result, trade did not play a major role in the Inca economy. Instead, the emperor kept the people fed and public works projects staffed using a labor tax. Periodically, he would call upon men of a certain age to serve as laborers for short periods, perhaps a few months. By doing so, he could access millions of laborers at once.

UNITING THE EMPIRE

To unite the Inca empire, in addition to imposing their language, Quechua, and their religion on the people they conquered, the Inca also created one of history's great road networks. At its greatest extent, it wound about 14,000 miles through mountains and deserts, passing through an area inhabited by almost 10 million people. The roads allowed armies and news to move rapidly throughout the empire. At stations set regular distances apart, runners waited to carry messages. Relays of runners could carry news of a revolt swiftly from a distant province to the capital. Inca soldiers stood guard at outposts throughout the empire. Within days of an uprising, they would be on the move to crush the rebels.

In addition, the Inca strictly regulated the lives of millions of people within their empire. The leaders of each Inca village, called an "ayllu," carried out government orders. They assigned jobs to each family and organizing the community to work the land.

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

\*\*Use both the excerpt and textbook to respond to the following questions\*\*

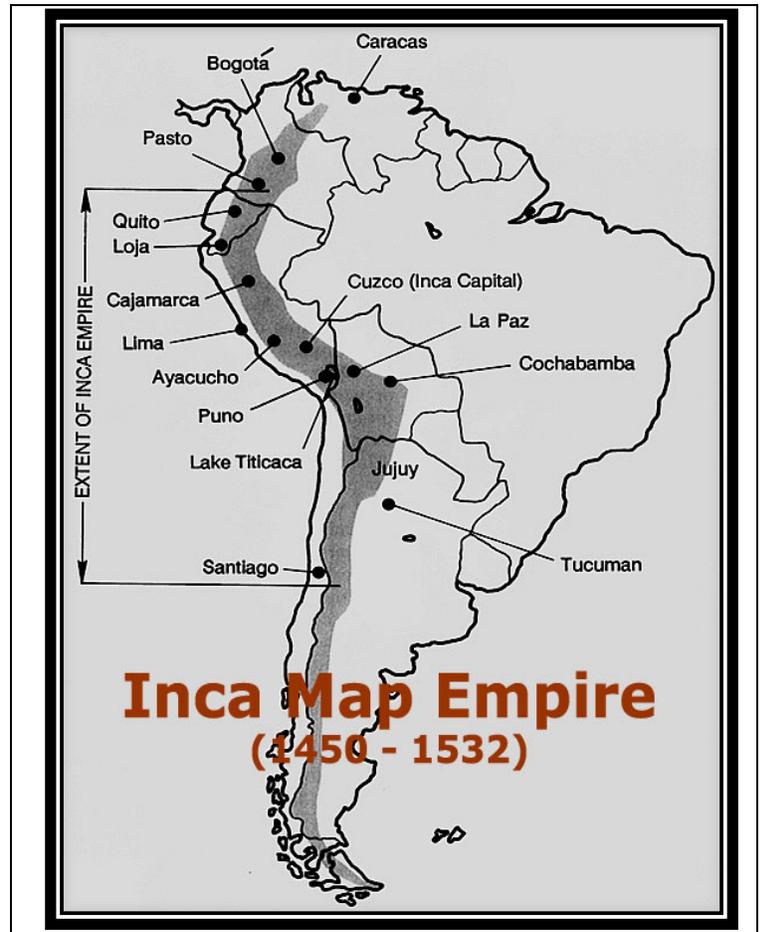
1.) Explain two ways in which you think the Inca system of roads strengthened the empire.

2.) What are two challenges you believe the Inca faced in building and maintaining their empire?

3.) From the point of view of the Inca people, not the government officials, what might be an advantage and disadvantage in having an absolute ruler like Pachacuti?

4.) Why do you think the Inca were able to impose their customs on the people they conquered and continue to expand?

5.) After reading both the excerpt and the textbook reading, what term or phrase do you think best represents the empire-building strategy of the Inca? In other words, what is the Inca's form of "devshirme," or "universal ruler"?



**PART II.**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read pages 408 to 411. As you read, fill in the graphic organizer with what you believe to be a governmental strategy, social strategy or economic strategy that the empire of the Incas used to build (and maintain) their empire.

<p><b><u>GOVERNMENTAL STRATEGY</u></b>                      Military,                      Law administration,                      Bureaucracy</p>	<p><b><u>SOCIAL STRATEGY</u></b>                      Cultural appreciation                      (upholding/removing traditions, rituals),                      religious toleration/intolerance,                      cultural advancements (arts, sciences),                      maintenance of specific class system,                      foreign &amp; domestic politics &amp; diplomacy)</p>	<p><b><u>ECONOMIC STRATEGY</u></b>                      Foreign &amp; domestic networks of trade,                      Conquest of geographical locations key to                      prosperous trading</p>