**The Inca People - Narratives**

1st - Students can take the notes for these sections at: [incas@mrdonn.org](mailto:incas@mrdonn.org). I usually give them the notes for the first sections and support them with note-taking in the others.

2nd - The notes for each section can be turned into paragraphs.

3rd - Assign each student a role: Sapa Inca, Sapa Inca’s wife, Male Noble, Female Noble, Male Commoner, or Female Commoner.

4th - Have students write about their lives and adventures from their assigned perspectives, sharing out sections of their writing regularly.

5th - Assign them new roles and have them write another narrative. Have some share parts of these. Model revising and have them work in small groups to improve one another’s work.

6th - Repeat until they lose interest or, as I discovered last year, until they have written narratives from all 6 perspectives.

7th - Have each child share their favourite narrative from beginning to end. Allow 2 15-minute blocks per day for about a week to hear them all.

**The Ranks** (this info. did not come out of a single, labelled section on the website but the others were for the most part)

* the Sapa Inca was believed to be a direct descendent of the sun god and so a god himself - so important that looking him directly in the eyes was an offence punishable by death
* the Sapa Inca had many wives and up to 100 children
* the nobility were relatives (by blood or marriage) of the Sapa Inca
* the Common people - were often peoples that had been conquered or surrendered when an Inca mediator was sent to negotiate with them

**Daily Life**

* Commoners were not allowed to travel on the roads - caught doing so - thrown off a cliff to their death immediately[[1]](#footnote-1)
  + stayed home, did jobs, grew food
  + even if they went to a festival elsewhere, they had to return to their own village each night [[2]](#footnote-2)
* royalty and nobility - life of luxury

**Clothing**

* men - sleeveless tunic
  + cloak and sandals when chilly
* women - one-piece dress to ankles, tied at waist
  + in cold weather - shawl pinned in front

- everyone - bright colours and embroidery on clothing (but less than the class above their own)

* Sapa Inca
  + only one allowed to wear a hat made of gold and feathers
  + wore heavy gold jewelry and earplugs
  + slippers of fur and finest cloth
  + wore each outfit only once, then it was burned
  + had a team of weavers preparing his daily outfits for him
* Nobility - had clothing with or made of feathers
  + wore outfits more than once but changed them with embroidery, hair bands, jewelry & feathers
* Commoners - same fashions overall but rougher fabrics and no feathers
  + conquered peoples - assigned designs that they had to wear or penalized

**Hairstyles**

* Commoner males - short in front, long enough in back to tie with a woven band
* Commoner females - long, parted in the middle
  + never cut hair except when husband died - sign of respect
    - when hair grew back - time to remarry
* Nobility - same lengths as Commoners but each noble family had a distinctive hairstyle

**Head Shape**

**-** nobility and royalty - strapped boards to their children’s heads so top of their heads would grow to a point

**Jewelry**

* even Commoners wore jewelry - rings, necklaces, bracelets & pins
  + made of copper, silver and sometimes gold
* Commoners not allowed to wear more jewelry than the nobility and nobility no more than the royalty
* noblemen wore really heavy earrings
  + ears pierced when 12-14
  + by 20 - earlobes rested on shoulders - high fashion

**Kids and School**

* only kids of nobles (including the royal family) went to school
* commoners learned to farm, cook, sew and clean from their parents
* children of farmers usually had to stay farmers
  + some girls - instead servants in temples or noble houses
  + craftsmen in city - maybe live with another family
* later - nobles started giving IQ tests to commoner kids - if passed, they could go to school
  + graduates became lesser nobles
  + worked as civil servants, ran villages, collected taxes
* farm kids started working around 3 years old

**Weddings in the Inca Empire**

* marriages arranged
  + boy could ask his parents to ask her parents
  + more than 1 boy asking a girl - parents give reasons and head of village made decision
* if not married by 20 years old, a wife would be chosen for him
* 1x/ year boys aged 20 and girls aged 16 would be lined up and paired off
* men of low birth = 1 wife, higher= more wives permitted
* marriages often a 2 year trial, either could go home to parents after
* wife took care of kids, animals, house and collected food
* nobles - groom’s family built couple a home
* commoners - wife moved in with husband’s family[[3]](#footnote-3)

**As Rulers**

**(this section’s notes are from Masters of the Clouds documentary - Part 1)**

**Positive Aspects[[4]](#footnote-4)**

* gave people a choice about joining them (messengers told them the benefits)
  + if agreed sent them food and presents
* created huge food storage areas so people would have enough to eat when there was a drought or famine
  + storage was on the side of mountains
  + stores could last for years
* let people continue to worship the god of their choice and in the ways they had traditionally
* the social structure remained the same except the Incas were the highest class

**-** had laws that protected people from theft or harm

**Negative Aspects**

* if didn't agree to be conquered - their army would attack them - waiting
* made people pay taxes to them
* they expected people to help with building roads and structures together and allowed them to use them only with permission
* some parts of the buildings were only for the Inca people - depending on the colour of its wall
* made all the people of an area wear the same pattern in their clothing
* let people visit other villages but demanded they come home at night
* thrown off a cliff for most crimes - including insulting an Inca

1. Presented by Natasha Morley, Walking a Mile in their Moccasins, Oct. 21/16 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Presented by Natasha Morley, Walking a Mile in their Moccasins, Oct. 21/16 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Presented by Natasha Morley, Walking a Mile in their Moccasins, Oct. 21/16 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Presented by Natasha Morley, Walking a Mile in their Moccasins, Oct. 21/16 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)