

Machu Picchu
Discussion Guide
Grades 3-7

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- What is an ancient city? Can you think of any? Make a list.
- What are their similarities? What are the differences between them?
- What could possibly cause people to leave a well-constructed city?
- Frontload vocabulary: see the vocabulary list

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Where is Machu Picchu?
- What does “Machu Picchu” mean in the Quechua language?
- How long had Machu Picchu been used by the Incas? What was the purpose of building it?
- Why had Machu Picchu been kept untouched?
- What are the reasons that make Machu Picchu so mysterious?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- What are the components of a civilization? Which is the most important one?
- If you have three days to spend in Machu Picchu, what would you do? Make an itinerary for your three-day visit.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.