The Incas

The Incas were an advanced civilization who built a huge empire on the west coast of South America. Throughout the 1500’s, the Inca people continued to thrive until they became the largest empire in the Americas. They were ruled by the Sapa Inca, who was believed to be the son of the Sun God, Inti. Under his rule, the Incas conquered many neighboring tribes, bringing them into their own society. The Inca were farmers and they developed a way of farming on the steep slopes of the Andes Mountains, a system known as terrace farming. Their main crop was potatoes because they could grow at high altitudes. The llama and alpaca were animals used as a main resource for food, transportation, and clothing for the Inca. The Inca were also highly skilled engineers who developed a network of roads spanning their vast empire. One of these main roads was the Royal Road which expanded 2000 miles in length. The hanging suspension bridge was another accomplishment of the Inca. These bridges were in use for over 500 years. Eventually, Spanish conquistadors led by Francisco Pizarro heard rumors of a great empire in South America. They soon arrived in the Inca empire and discovered much wealth. After a while, Pizarro and his men killed thousands of Inca including the Sapa Inca. This was the beginning of the end for the Inca empire.