

11c The life of an explorer

Listening the life of Hiram Bingham

1 2.20 Listen to the biography of Hiram Bingham. Answer the questions.



- 1 When was he born?
- 2 What did he teach?
- 3 Was he an archaeologist?
- 4 When he rediscovered Machu Picchu, where was he travelling?
- 5 Where did he take many of the objects to?
- 6 When did he die?

2 2.20 Listen again and correct the ten mistakes in the biography of Bingham on the right.

Word focus set

3 Replace the words in bold with the verb *set* and one of these particles.

about off out to up

- 1 We had **decided to** find the old pyramids and nothing would stop us.
- 2 After a long day walking, it was night and time to **put up** the tents.
- 3 As soon as we woke up, we **started taking** down the tents because we wanted to reach the pyramids by the evening.
- 4 We **started on** our journey early in the morning before the sun was up.

Hiram Bingham

Hiram Bingham had different jobs, but he is most famous as a ~~mountaineer~~ and, later in life, as a politician in the United States Senate. He was born in 1885 in Hawaii. As a student, he studied history and politics at Yale University. Then for a few years he taught history, including North American history.

Hiram never trained as an historian, but he rediscovered the lost city of Machu Picchu while he was travelling in Mexico. He wrote about his journey and returned a few times to the city with financial help from Oxford University and the National Geographic Society.

While in Machu Picchu, Hiram and his team excavated many Aztec objects and took them back to the US. Later, the government of Peru asked him to return many of the objects.

After his years of adventures, Hiram returned to England and started a family with his wife Alfreda. They had seven sons. He became a captain in the army, and in the thirties he started a career in politics. Bingham died on July 6, 1956.