

MACHU PICCHU

Machu Picchu was discovered on July 24, 1911, American archeologist Hiram Bingham got his first look at Machu Picchu, an ancient Inca settlement in Peru that is now one of the world's top tourist destinations. Tucked away in the rocky countryside northwest of Cuzco, Machu Picchu is located in some of the most attractive mountainous territory of the Peruvian Andes Mountains. It is believed to have been a summer retreat for Inca leaders, whose civilization was virtually wiped out by Spanish invaders in the 16th century. For hundreds of years afterwards, its existence was a secret known only to the local villagers living in the region. That all changed in the summer of 1911, when Bingham arrived with a small team of explorers to search for the famous "lost" cities of the Incas. Traveling on foot and by mule, Bingham and his team made their way from Cuzco into the Urubamba Valley, where a local farmer told them of some ruins located at the top of a nearby mountain. The farmer called the mountain Machu Picchu, which meant "Old Peak" in the native Quechua language. The next day—July 24—after a tough climb to the mountain's ridge in cold and drizzly weather, Bingham met a small group of peasants who showed him the rest of the way. Led by an 11-year-old boy, Bingham got his first glimpse of the intricate network of stone terraces marking the entrance to Machu Picchu.

A. Read the text and write True or False to the statements.

1. Machu Picchu was discovered in 1911. _____
2. The settlement was discovered on the top of a mountain. _____
3. People had already known the existence of the place. _____
4. The settlement belongs to the Maya civilization. _____
5. One of the villagers showed the way to Machu Picchu. _____

B. Answer the questions according to the text.

1. When was Machu Picchu discovered?

2. Where was Machu Pichu settled?

3. Which civilization used Machu Picchu for summer retreat?

4. Who saw the settlement first after hundreds of years?

5. How did they find the settlement?
