

History activity wb 15.06.20

Information

The spectacular 'lost city of the Incas', high among the Andes mountains in Peru, attracts many visitors today. Hiram Bingham, the man who first revealed it to the world, was an American explorer, born in Hawaii in 1875. In 1911 he led a small expedition to Peru in search of the 'lost city' of Vilcabamba, the last city of the Inca Manco Capac II, who fought against the Spanish conquerors in the 1530s. This took Bingham and his party of seven to Cuzco and from there to a small settlement, where they encountered a local farmer named Melchor Arteaga. Through Bingham's interpreter, Arteaga told him that there were extensive ruins high in the mountains nearby at what Arteaga in his native language called Machu Picchu, meaning 'old mountain'.

They climbed up to the ruins next morning through a persistent drizzle of rain. No one else in Bingham's party showed any interest, but Bingham, Arteaga and the interpreter spent two exhausting hours clambering up the mountain to a small hut occupied by peasants who were growing crops there. They greeted the explorer and told a small boy to show him the astonishing things close by. They soon came to what Bingham called *'an unexpected sight, a great flight of beautifully constructed stone terraces, perhaps a hundred of them, each hundreds of feet long and 10 feet high.'* They continued along one of the terraces: *'Suddenly I found myself confronted with the walls of ruined houses built of the finest quality of Inca stonework.'* The ruins were overgrown by trees, bamboo thickets and tangles of vines and covered with moss, but the white granite walls were *'carefully cut and exquisitely fitted together'* and the scene *'fairly took my breath away.'*

Example starting sentence:

One day, as I was exploring Peru, a local boy offered to show me to an ancient city. I decided to follow him there.

Sentence starters:

We walked.....

Suddenly I could see....

All around me were...

It looked...

I noticed...

I felt/ thought...

I decided....

