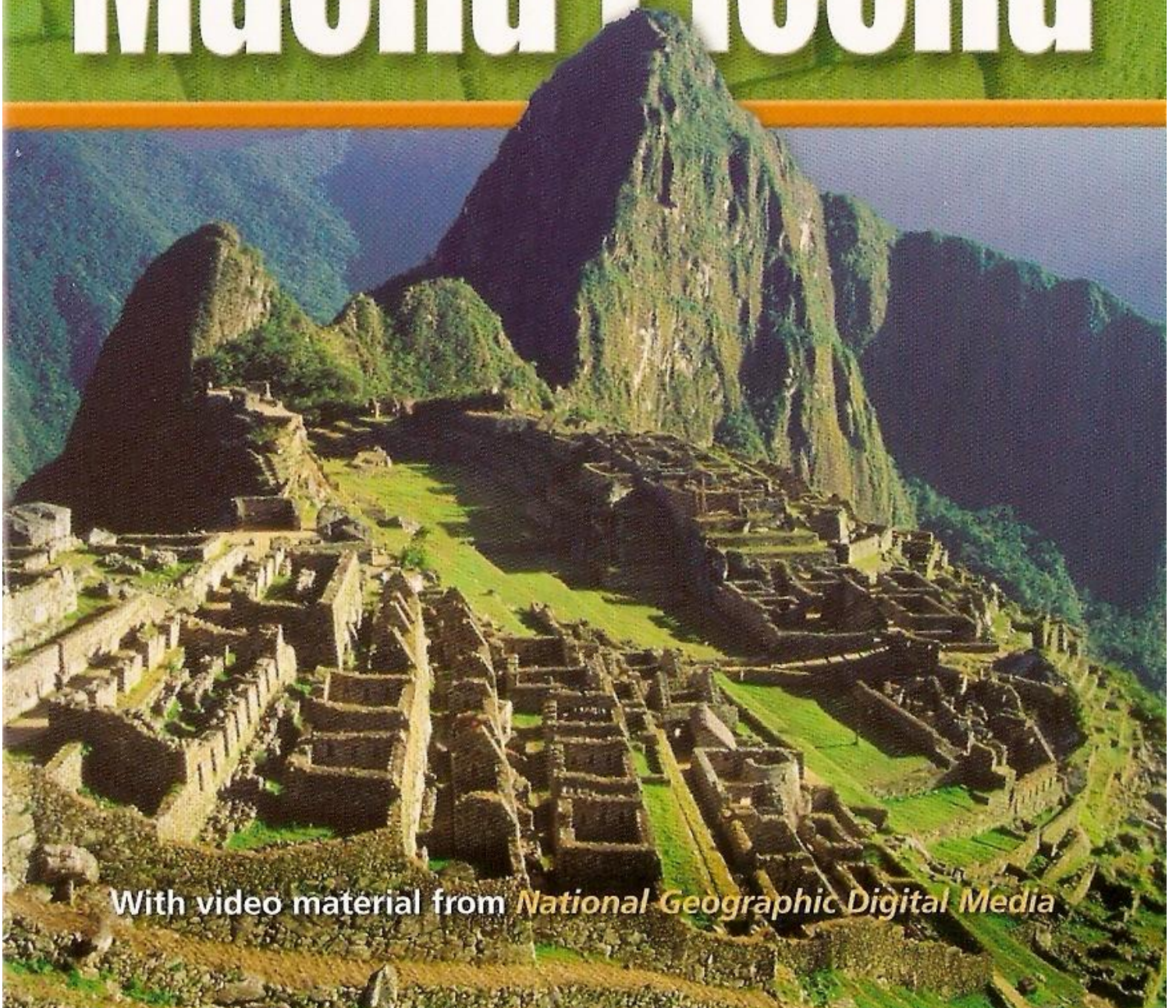




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The Lost City of

Machu Picchu



With video material from *National Geographic Digital Media*

Words to Know

This story is set in Peru in South America. It happens at a place called Machu Picchu [mətʃu: piktʃu:], in the Andes mountain range.



A Machu Picchu and the Ancient World. Read the paragraph. Complete the definitions with the underlined words.

Machu Picchu was an ancient city in the Andes Mountains. A group of people called the Incas built Machu Picchu a long time ago. The Inca civilisation lasted from around 1100 A.D. until about 1500 A.D. When it suddenly ended, few people knew about the city of Machu Picchu. Because of this, it is sometimes called the 'Lost City of the Incas.' In 1911, an American explorer found Machu Picchu. Since then, many people have visited Machu Picchu to climb the ruins of the city.

1. move up or over something: _____
2. very old: _____
3. a person who travels to learn about new places: _____
4. the remains of buildings: _____
5. people and culture: _____

mountains

Inca woman

Inca man

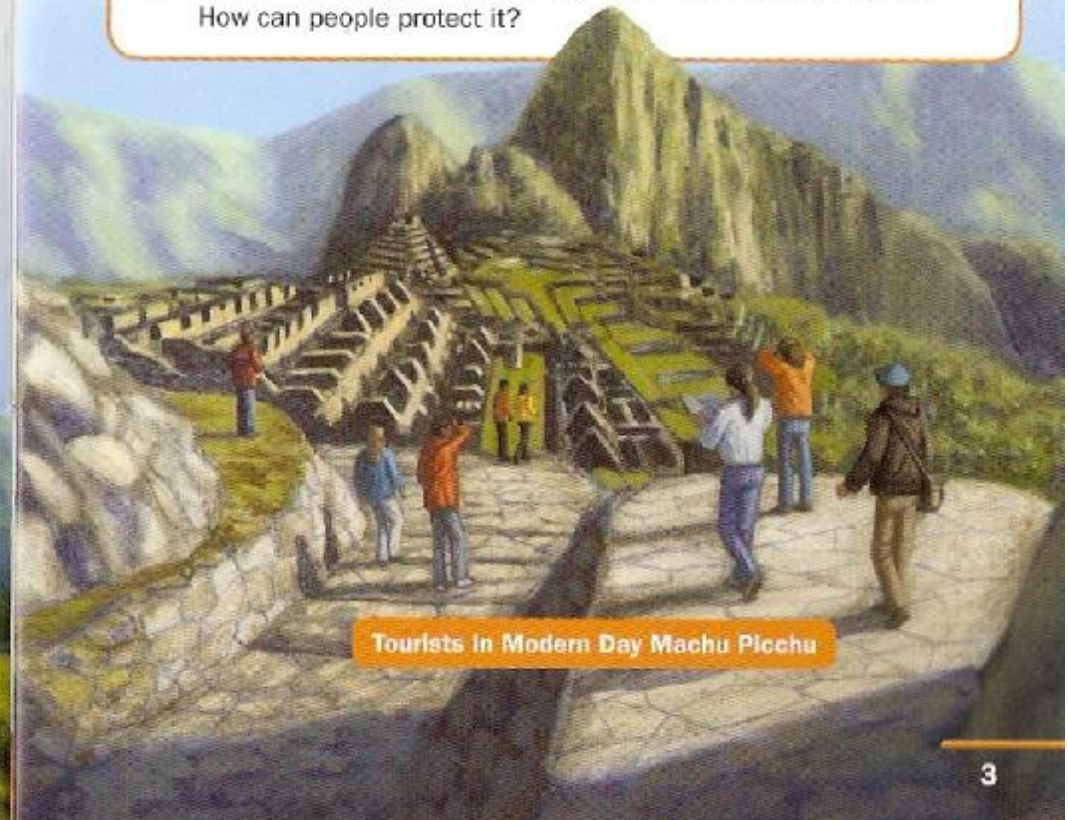
The Lost City of Machu Picchu

2

B Machu Picchu and the Modern World. Read the paragraph and notice the underlined words. Then answer the questions.

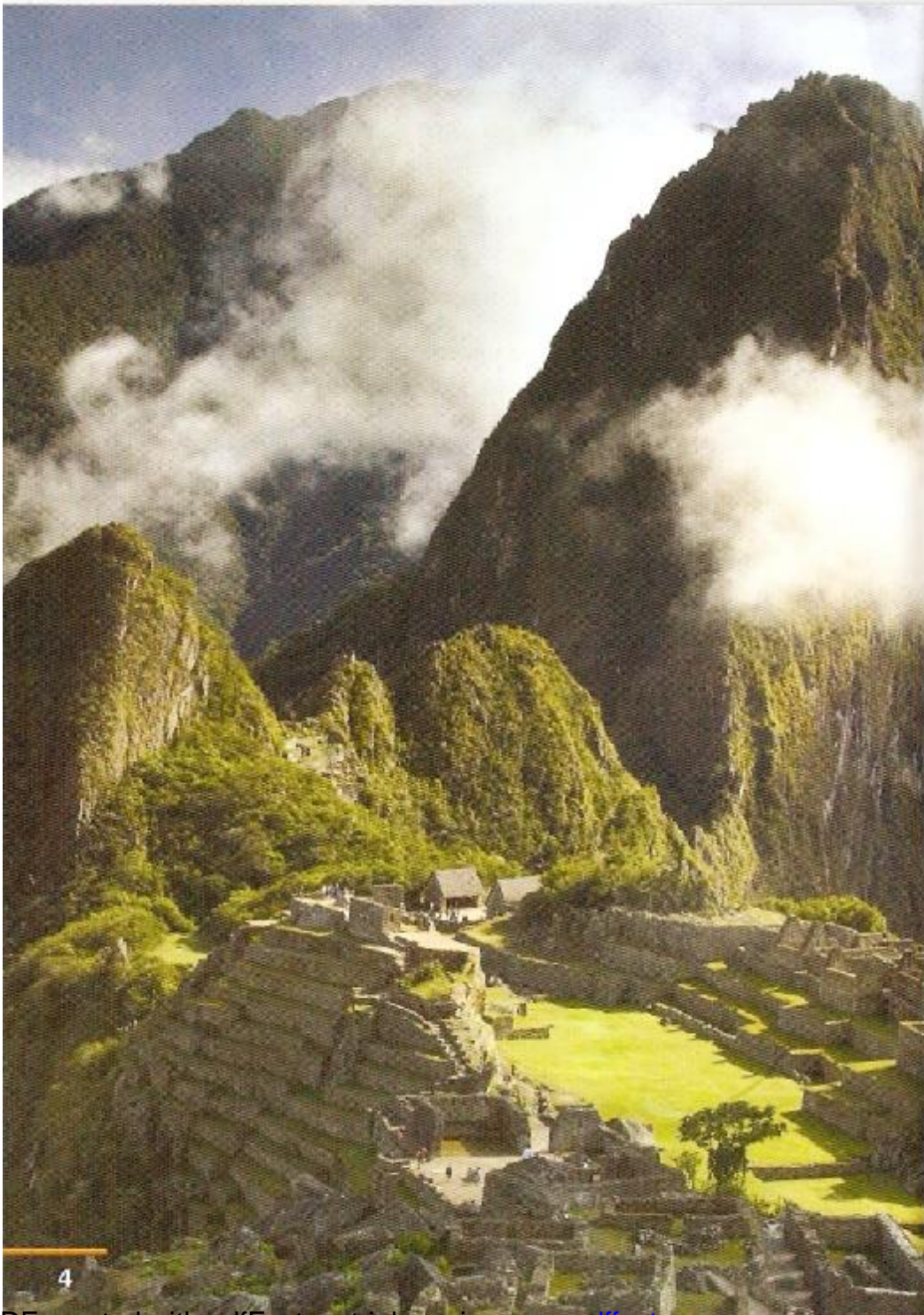
The modern world, or the world of today, has now come to Machu Picchu. A big part of this modern world is tourism. Tourism is a business that brings visitors to a place. These visitors, or tourists, come from many countries. Some conservationists think tourism might be bad for the environment. They want to protect Machu Picchu. They don't want a lot of tourists to visit this city.

1. Why do you think tourists want to go to Machu Picchu? List three or more reasons.
2. Why do you think conservationists are worried about Machu Picchu? List three or more reasons.
3. What do you think will happen to Machu Picchu in the future? How can people protect it?



Tourists in Modern Day Machu Picchu

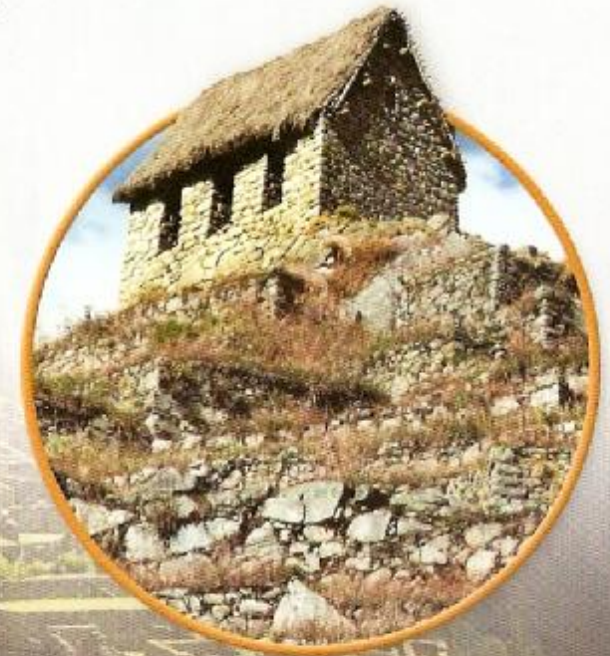
3



This beautiful, quiet place is covered in sunshine and has very high mountains all around it. Its name is Machu Picchu. It's sometimes called the 'Lost City of the Incas,' and it's nearly **8,000 feet**¹ up in the Andes Mountains of Peru.

The story of Machu Picchu is the story of a place where the ancient world and the modern world meet.

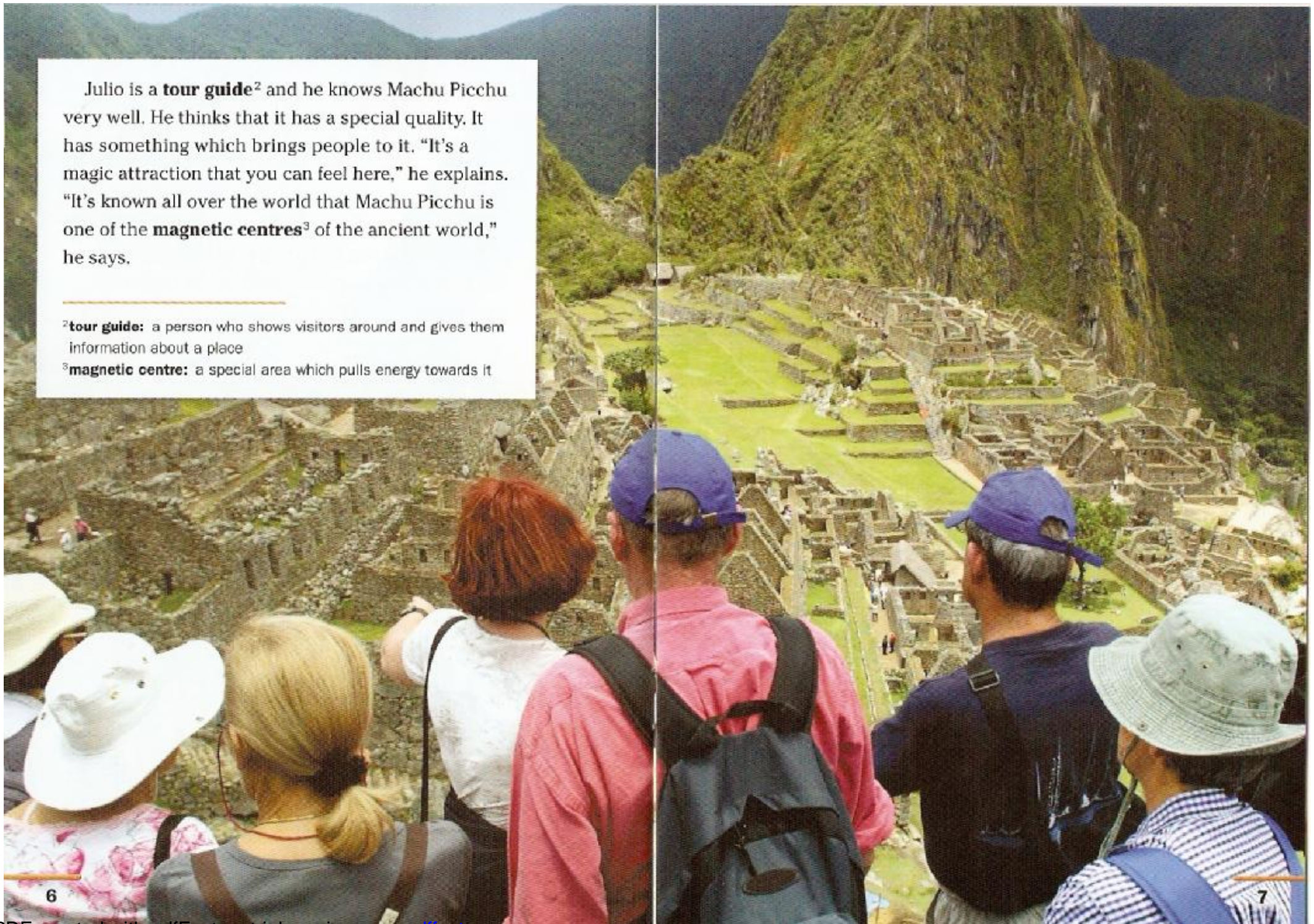
¹8,000 feet: 2,438 metres



Julio is a **tour guide**² and he knows Machu Picchu very well. He thinks that it has a special quality. It has something which brings people to it. "It's a magic attraction that you can feel here," he explains. "It's known all over the world that Machu Picchu is one of the **magnetic centres**³ of the ancient world," he says.

²**tour guide:** a person who shows visitors around and gives them information about a place

³**magnetic centre:** a special area which pulls energy towards it



Machu Picchu is a city with a long history; it's more than 500 years old. Today, it's a favourite place for visitors. These visitors are not only people from Peru. People from all over the world visit Machu Picchu. They want to attempt to step back in time and to understand the Inca civilisation. They don't only go there in the sunshine, either. Even in the fog,⁴ many think it's wonderful to climb up the mountain and walk through the ruins of the city.

⁴**fog**: a cloud near the ground that makes it difficult to see

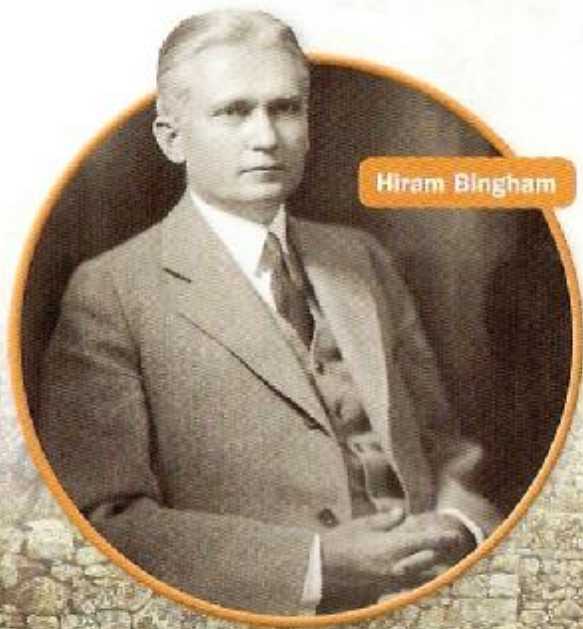
Scan for Information

Scan page 8 to find the information.

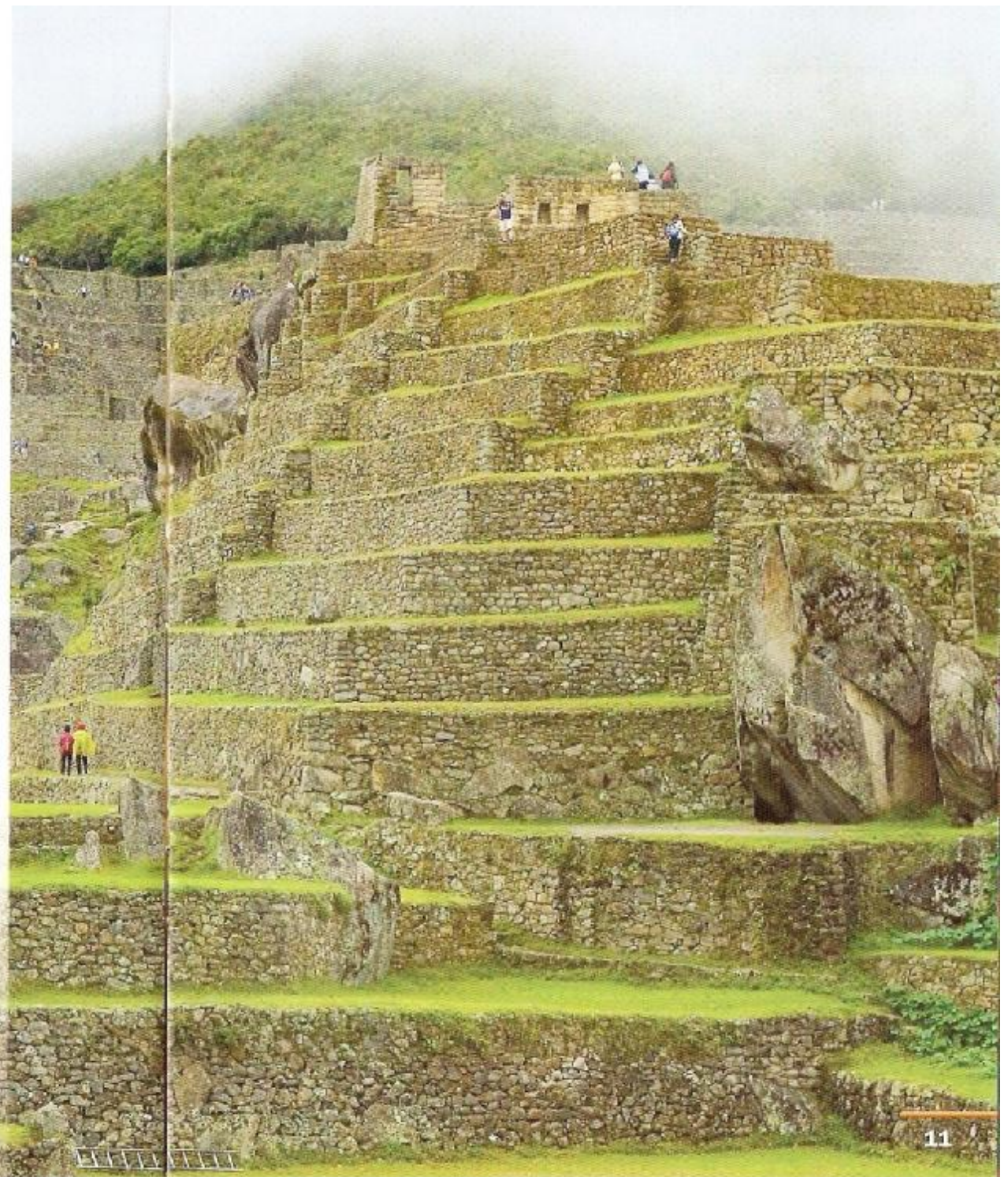
1. How old is Machu Picchu?
2. Who visits Machu Picchu?
3. What is one thing visitors do there?

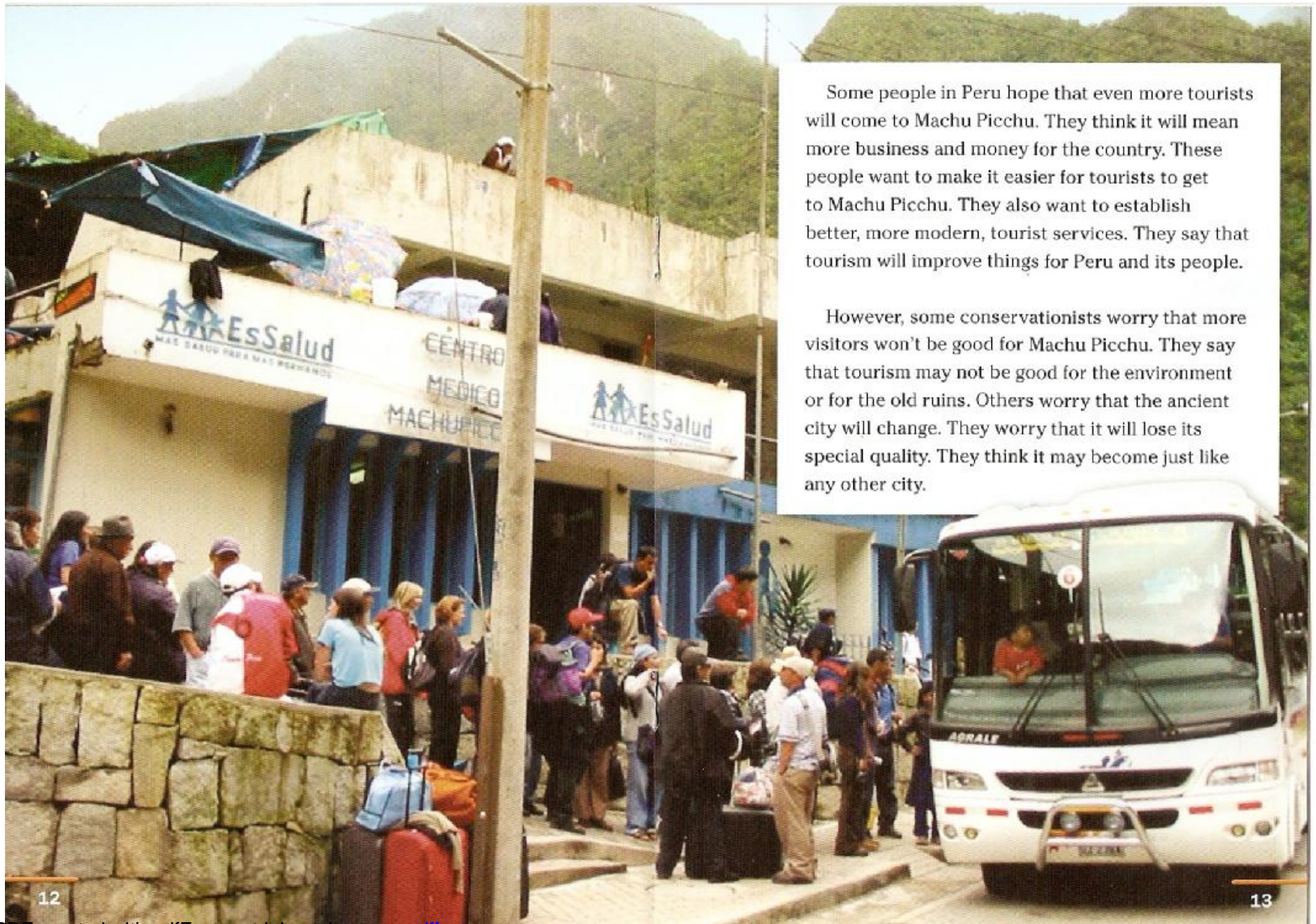
When the Inca civilisation ended, few people knew that Machu Picchu existed. For a long time Machu Picchu was lost to the outside world. Then, in 1911, an explorer called Hiram Bingham found it again.

At first, very few people visited the ruins of Machu Picchu. But now, hundreds of tourists come here every day. They walk up the steps of the ancient city and climb over the ruins. Machu Picchu is no longer quiet. It's currently full of the sounds of visitors. And not everyone likes it. Some people want the tourists to come, but other people don't.



Hiram Bingham





Some people in Peru hope that even more tourists will come to Machu Picchu. They think it will mean more business and money for the country. These people want to make it easier for tourists to get to Machu Picchu. They also want to establish better, more modern, tourist services. They say that tourism will improve things for Peru and its people.

However, some conservationists worry that more visitors won't be good for Machu Picchu. They say that tourism may not be good for the environment or for the old ruins. Others worry that the ancient city will change. They worry that it will lose its special quality. They think it may become just like any other city.

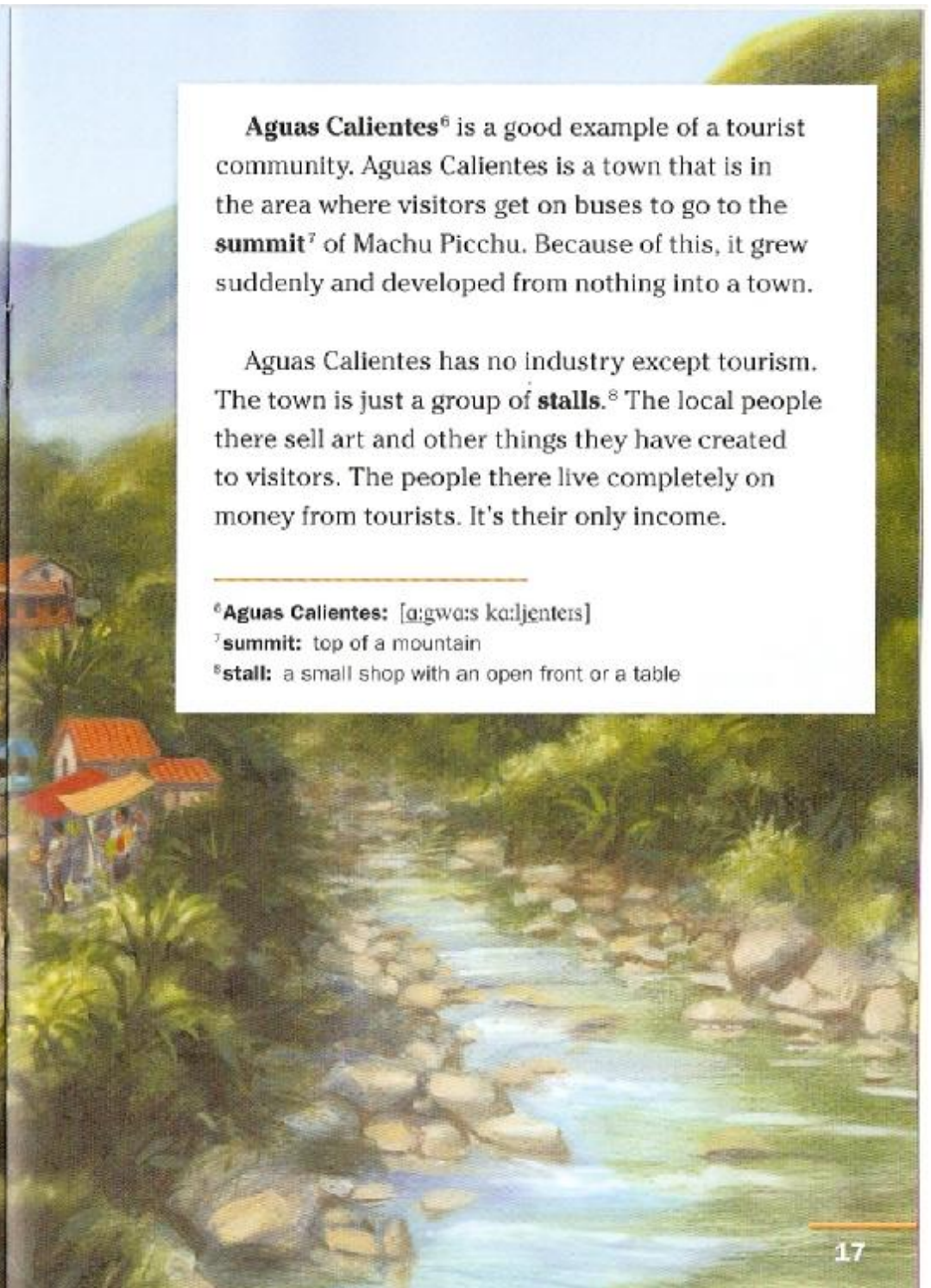
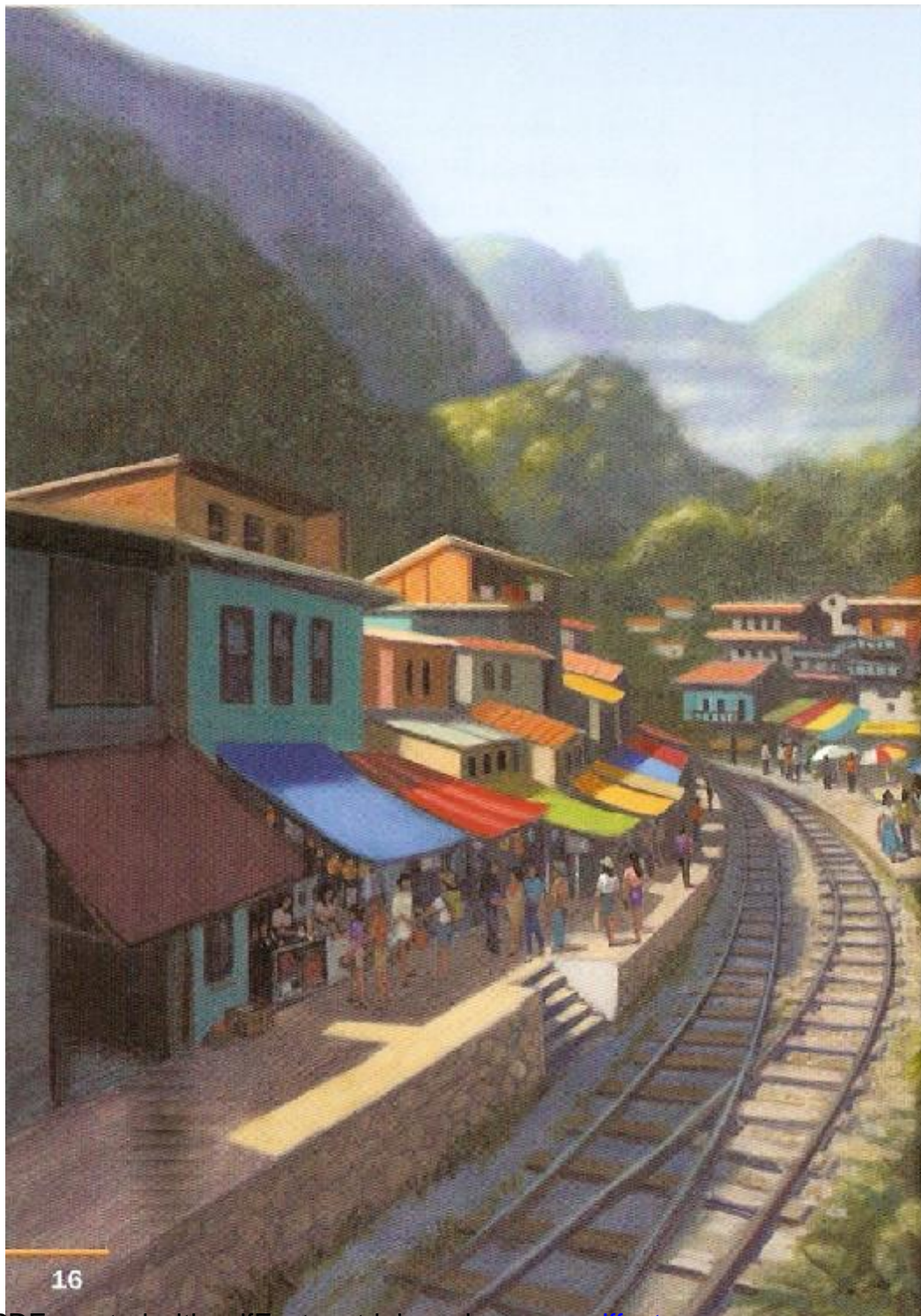
One man, however, is not worried about this at all. José owns a local hotel. He says that Machu Picchu and Peru need more visitors. The 'Lost City' is a very special place, he claims, and everyone should be able to see it. "Why not be like the rest of the world?" he says. "Why not **expose**⁵ and show Machu Picchu to the rest of the world?" He then adds, "It's such a wonderful place, why keep it to a few?"

It's obvious that some people, like José, support tourism, and some people are against it. So what does tourism mean to Peru? The truth is that parts of Peru are very poor. The tourist industry brings a lot of money to some communities.

⁵**expose:** let people see

Infer Meaning

1. What's the purpose of José's comment?
2. How does José feel about tourism in Machu Picchu?



Aguas Calientes⁶ is a good example of a tourist community. Aguas Calientes is a town that is in the area where visitors get on buses to go to the **summit**⁷ of Machu Picchu. Because of this, it grew suddenly and developed from nothing into a town.

Aguas Calientes has no industry except tourism. The town is just a group of **stalls**.⁸ The local people there sell art and other things they have created to visitors. The people there live completely on money from tourists. It's their only income.

⁶**Aguas Calientes:** [ɑ:gwa:z ka:ljenters]

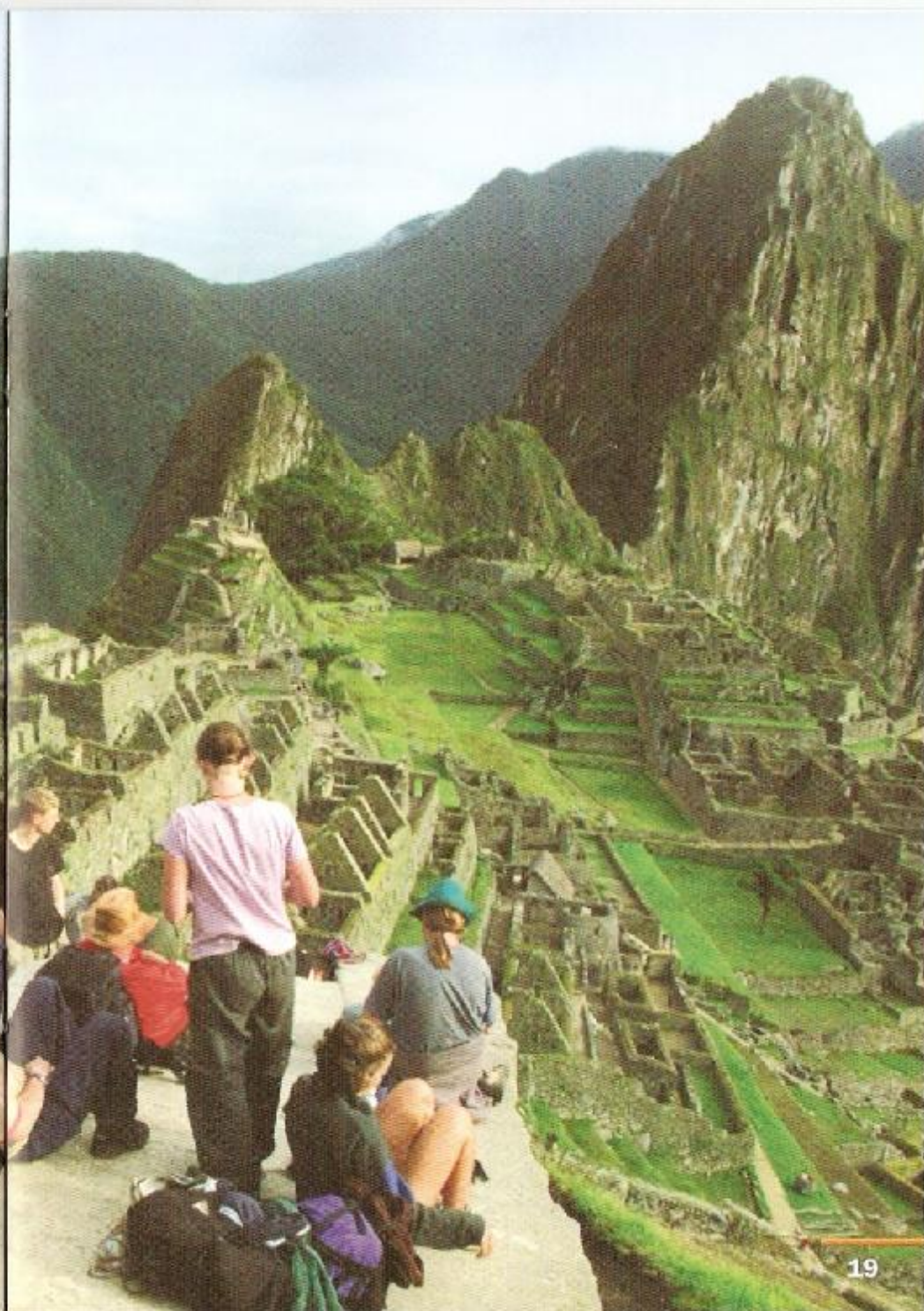
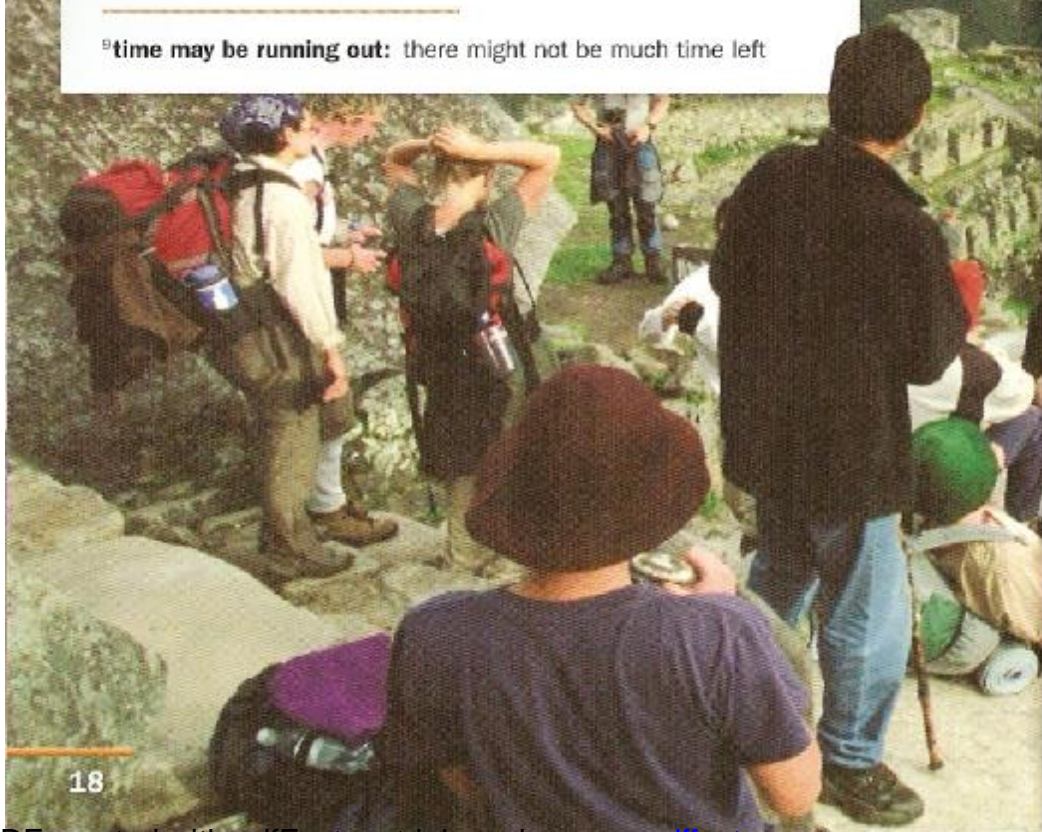
⁷**summit:** top of a mountain

⁸**stall:** a small shop with an open front or a table

What is happening to the special quality and beauty of Machu Picchu today? Tourism is certainly changing the area. But are the effects good or bad? No one can decide.

However, one thing is certain: the 'Lost City' is no longer lost. Tourists have found it and the modern world is coming closer to this ancient world every day. In the end, it's this modern world that could bring an end to the ancient city. **Time may be running out**⁹ for the 'Lost City of the Incas.'

⁹**time may be running out:** there might not be much time left



After You Read

1. On page 5, the word 'beautiful' can be replaced by:
 - A. sunny
 - B. lovely
 - C. Inca
 - D. high
2. Choose the best heading for page 6.
 - A. Julio Talks About The Incas
 - B. The Magical Energy Of Machu Picchu
 - C. Machu Picchu Is Known All Over The Ancient World
 - D. People Don't Know About Machu Picchu
3. Only people from Peru visit Machu Picchu.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. On page 10, 'they' in paragraph two refers to:
 - A. tour guides
 - B. Incas
 - C. visitors
 - D. explorers
5. How many visitors come to Machu Picchu every day?
 - A. a few
 - B. ten
 - C. thousands
 - D. hundreds
6. What do conservationists think about tourism in Machu Picchu?
 - A. If too many people visit, the 'Lost City' will change.
 - B. Many people should come to Machu Picchu.
 - C. Machu Picchu is not modern enough for tourists.
 - D. The world is not interested in the 'Lost City'.

7. What does the hotel owner think about tourism in Machu Picchu?
 - A. If too many tourists come, the 'Lost City' will change.
 - B. Lots of people should come to Machu Picchu.
 - C. Machu Picchu is not beautiful enough for tourists.
 - D. Only people from Peru should visit Machu Picchu.
8. Tourism brings _____ money to Peru.
 - A. more
 - B. no
 - C. a
 - D. the
9. On page 17, the phrase 'local people' means:
 - A. visitors in the town
 - B. people from Peru
 - C. people from Aguas Calientes
 - D. people from Machu Picchu
10. On page 18, what is 'it' in 'tourists have found it'?
 - A. the lost city
 - B. the special quality
 - C. the ancient history
 - D. the modern world
11. What is the writer's purpose on page 18?
 - A. To show that Machu Picchu might be in trouble.
 - B. To show that the modern world is good for Machu Picchu.
 - C. To explain that Machu Picchu has a lot of time left.
 - D. To talk about the history of the 'Lost City.'

TELT Times

TWO VIEWS OF MACHU PICCHU

The TELT Times recently received two letters to the government office of tourism in Peru. One is in favour of increased tourism in the area around Machu Picchu. The other letter is against allowing large numbers of tourists to visit the ruins. You decide who is right.

Greater International Understanding

I think Peru should do everything it can to bring more tourists to Machu Picchu. People from other countries will pay a lot to visit this beautiful and historic site. I live near Machu Picchu and strongly believe this money will help the local people have a better life. Visitors from other countries also provide a way for people to share their cultures. As a result, this leads to greater international understanding. Bringing more attention to the area will also help people realise that it's important to keep the ruins in good condition.

Yours faithfully,
Richard Wellner



Not a Pleasant Experience

Recently, I visited Machu Picchu. As I reached the summit, the fog cleared and suddenly I saw the view! The mountains were so beautiful. Then our tour guide showed us some of the two hundred ancient buildings. We walked around for hours enjoying the views and looking at the buildings. It is a very special place.

However, the experience was not a totally pleasant one. I'm concerned that too many people are visiting the area. For one thing, it was impossible for us to find a quiet place to sit and enjoy the view. People were running everywhere. Secondly, I could see that the large numbers of tourists are starting to have a bad effect on the land. People have cut

down a lot of the trees. They also leave paper and other things they do not want on the ground. Some of the ancient stones have even been moved and broken. I think the government should make laws limiting the number of tourists who can visit Machu Picchu each year.

Yours faithfully,
Martha Gorman



Word Count: 339
Time: _____



Vocabulary List

ancient (2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 18)

civilisation (2, 8, 10)

climb (2, 8, 10)

conservationist (3, 13)

explorer (2, 10)

expose (14)

fog (8)

magnetic centre (6)

modern (3, 5, 13, 18)

ruins (2, 8, 10, 13)

stall (17)

summit (17)

time may be running out (18)

tour guide (6)

tourism (3, 14, 17, 18)

tourist (3, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18)