

Peru

Pop. size 30,375,603 (42nd)

Landmass (km²) 1,285,216 (19th)

Life Expectancy 73.23 (105th)

Peru is one of the world's most fascinating countries. Contained within its borders are so many natural and man-made wonders that it has become the most popular South American destination for backpackers.

If you want to see coast, mountains, rainforests and deserts in one go – Peru is the place.

PADDINGTON

The world-famous teddy bear, Paddington, may be a resident of London now, but author Michael Bond's furry creation is actually from 'darkest Peru'.

THE GRANDEST CANYON

Cotahuasi Canyon, near the city of Arequipa, is the deepest canyon in the world. It is 3,354m (11,000ft) deep. That means you could stack 11 Eiffel Towers on top of each other, and they still wouldn't reach the top!

MASHCO-PIRO

It is said that there are more than 70 uncontacted tribes in the Amazon jungle. The Mashco-Piro are one of Peru's, and to this day they still thrive in the far west of the Peruvian Amazon, remaining separate from the modern world. It is thought that only 250 people of their kind survive.

POTATOES

When Spanish conquistadors defeated the Inca Empire, the first thing they brought back to Europe was the potato. Peru's Inca Indians first grew the potato thousands of years ago. The ancient Inca Indians valued the potato not only as a food, but as a measure of time. Units of time were related to how long it took a potato to boil.

PIGGIES

To many, guinea pigs are adorable pets. To Peruvians they are a tasty treat! More than 60 million guinea pigs are eaten each year in Peru. Could you eat one?

NAZCA LINES

One of the world's greatest mysteries, the Nazca Lines are a collection of giant pictures scratched on the floor of the Nazca desert. Created around 2,000 years ago, there are over 70 animals and plants drawn into the red desert landscape, including sharks, hummingbirds, spiders, lizards and whales.

BRIDGE OF EGGS

Puente de Piedra (the Bridge of Stone) is, unsurprisingly, made of stone. But rather more surprisingly it's also made of eggs! Over 10,000 eggs were used to stick the bricks together. It's still standing 400 years later!

WONDER OF THE WORLD

Machu Picchu is an unbelievable ruin of a forgotten Inca city. Perched in the cloud forests of Peru, the city's ruins, containing a palace and other sacred sites, were rediscovered in 1911.

The Travel Book: A Journey Through Every Country in the World by Lonely Planet Kids

Challenge 1

- 1 '...one of the world's most fascinating countries.' Write another word similar in meaning to 'fascinating'.

.....

1 mark

- 2 '...natural and man-made wonders...' What is another word for 'wonders'?

.....

1 mark

- 3 '...they still thrive...' Circle the word below that is closest in meaning to 'thrive'.

farm

prosper

struggle

hide

1 mark

- 4 'When Spanish conquistadors defeated the Inca Empire...' Circle the word below that is closest in meaning to 'defeated'.

destroyed

fought

chased

beat

1 mark

- 5 How were the pictures in the Nazca Desert made?

.....

1 mark

Challenge 2

- 1 Which two sections of the text give information about food?

.....

1 mark

- 2 Why do you think a lot of people want to visit Peru?

.....

1 mark

- 3 Find and copy one natural and one man-made place a visitor to Peru might want to see.

Natural place

a)

Man-made place

b)

2 marks

4 Do you think 'Bridge of Eggs' is a good title for the section about the Puente de Piedra? Give a reason for your answer.

1 mark

5 Find two pieces of information about the Inca from the text.

2 marks

Challenge 3

1 Give a reason why nobody is sure how many members of the Mashco-Piro tribe there are.

1 mark

2 What evidence is there in the text that eggs can make a good building material?

2 marks

3 Can you think of a reason why the Nazca Lines might be described as 'mysteries'?

1 mark

4 What does the word 'perched' suggest about Machu Picchu?

2 marks

Total: _____ / 18 marks



Had a go



Getting there



Got it!