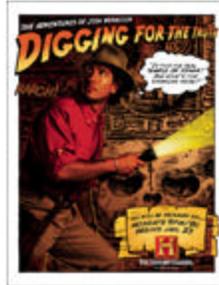


THE HISTORY CHANNEL® PRESENTS:
Digging for the Truth:
The Real Temple of Doom
An Original Documentary



The mystery surrounding the ancient civilization of Chavin, a prosperous and mystifyingly unfortified civilization high in the Andes Mountains of Peru in 1,000 B.C., has plagued historians for thousands of years, but recently the veil that shrouded the truth for centuries has been removed and facts have come to light. One of the most surprising ancient civilizations this world has ever seen, historians have learned that Chavin was an intricate society which used methods of total control, manipulation, and religious ritual that have only recently been understood. In *Digging for the Truth: The Real Temple of Doom* ace host Josh Bernstein travels to the source in order to sort through new evidence into this perplexing past. Chavin's prime symbol, its intricate obelisk, tells a story of a people who migrated from the ancient banks of the Amazon to tens of thousands of feet higher in the Andes Mountains of central Peru. Historians have been baffled for years as to why the civilization was so prosperous and wealthy, yet unprotected and open for what many consider imminent attack.

Rumor has it that Chavin had no armor, no weapons and no fortifications, yet how did it survive and prosper for so many years? The answer emerged as historians learned more about the priests who led the civilization and exercised enormous control over the population through divine worship and sacrifice. These priests also controlled the temple of doom, which trained the most devout followers to become leaders themselves. Utilizing dance, worship, underground caverns, miles of canals, fire, and, of course, the temple of doom, the priests made Chavin into a religious mecca that relied only upon divine protection for 800 years.

Digging for the Truth: The Real Temple of Doom reveals the truths about this ancient society and its enigmatic foundations. Viewers will travel on this exciting journey through the ancient past along with host Josh Bernstein as he helps uncover this fascinating past and correct the misnomers about the temple of doom. Using preserved obelisks, colorized models, Stanford University's special archeological team, and other numerous experts, the program deciphers fact from fiction, and creates an accurate perception of the daily activities of the people of Chavin. The visitors, the priests, the

sights, the sounds, the chants and the story of the Chavin civilization come together in this riveting and thorough *Digging for the Truth* program.

Curriculum Links

Digging for the Truth: The Real Temple of Doom would be an excellent addition to any middle school or high school class on Global History and courses on South American History, Ancient History, Peruvian History, History of the Amazon, Religion, or South American Society and Culture. It fulfills the following standards as outlined by the National Council for History Education: (1) Civilization, cultural diffusion and innovation, (2) Human interaction with the environment, (3) Values, beliefs, political ideas, and institutions, and (5) Patterns of social and political interaction.

Footnotes to History

DID YOU KNOW that the Chavin were one of the first South American civilizations to use Amazon animals to control their citizens? Chavin priests would declare that Amazonian animals were divine beings, thus making them omnipotent creatures.

Vocabulary

Using the dictionary at www.merriamwebster.com, an internet resource such as www.history.com, or an encyclopedia, students should define or explain the significance of the following terms:

Cayman	Nomadic
Desolate	Obelisk
Diktat	Omnipotent
Etymology	Piety
Exegete	Renascent

Comprehension Questions

1. Why are there images from the Amazon basin on the sacred Chavin obelisk? What do these animals and objects represent?
2. What was so influential about the anaconda in Chavin society? What do historians today think it represented thousands of years ago in the Chavin society?
3. What are some theories as to why the Chavin civilization had no fortifications or weapons? Do you believe these opinions to be true?
4. Why were conch shells blown by priests in Chavin? Who came when these shells were blown?
5. What is the temple of doom? What purpose did it serve the people and priests of Chavin?
6. What was the main special effect the priests created when acting out the religious dances? Why was this special effect so important?
7. What was the significance of the mucus on the stone head that was excavated by the Stanford University team? What did it tell us about drug use in Chavin?

8. What drugs were used on the citizens and guests of Chavin? Why did the Priests use these drugs on all the visitors who came to the area?
9. What effects did the drugs have on those who were able to go into the temple of doom? Why would these drugs help the priests' plans?
10. What is the theory behind having total darkness in the temple of doom, except for the room where the obelisk lay?

Extended Activities

1. Excavation, Searching and Learning

Quite often a person can find something – a relic, a piece of garbage, or something from another era in their backyard, the local park or local woods. Go out searching on your own and find some type of object that existed before your time. Once you have found/ selected an object, make a 5 minute presentation to the class about your object's history, its purpose, how you found it, and other interesting facts about it. Be sure to use the internet to aid in your research if necessary.

2. Digging for Your Own Truths

There are many mysteries to life and no one can solve them all, but seeking answers, especially as a student, is always beneficial. Find something that has seems mysterious to you, whether it is an object or subject matter, research it and learn more about it. Anything from how airplanes work to why trees have bark would be perfect. Answer the following questions and elaborate in a well written three page essay: How does it work? What are its functions? Who would use it or why does it exist? Why does this object have the properties it does? *Optional class presentations are possible here as well.

3. Understating the Peruvian Religious Beliefs

Peru is a country with intimate religious ties to the Catholic Church. In order to better understand the ancient city of Chavin, one must look at the modern framework of religion in Peru in order to understand the way in which religion evolved in the country. Using an internet resource such as www.google.com or an encyclopedia, research the role of religion in Peruvian culture and assess its importance in the Chavin culture. Write your thoughts in a well written three page essay.

Additional Resources

Internet

Extensive website dedicated to the Chavin society (en español):

<http://chavin.perucultural.org.pe/>

Stanford University website dedicated to Chavin de Huántar:

http://www.stanford.edu/~johnrick/chavin_wrap/chavin/

Quality photographs of ancient relics and modern excavation sites:

<http://www.anthroarchart.org/chavin.htm>

Books

Burger, Richard L. *Chavin: And the Origins of the Andean Civilization*. Thames & Hudson, 1995.

Miller, George R. *Our Father the Cayman, Our Dinner the Llama: Animal Utilization at Chavin de Huántar, Peru*. American Antiquity, 1995.

Stone-Miller. *Art of the Andes: From Chavin to Inca*. Thames & Hudson, 1995.



Machu Picchu – Another mystical ancient Peruvian city