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From Grass to Bridge



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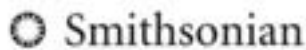
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The Incredible Inka

Hundreds of years ago, the Inka Empire was the largest empire on Earth. It stretched for more than 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) along the west side of South America.

The Inka were great builders. They had no iron or steel. They made palaces of stone and gold. They built cities on the sides of mountains. Their walls still exist in places that were part of their empire.

The Inka also used their building skills to create roads. Inka roads went up the Andes (AN-deez) Mountains and down into valleys. They crossed strong rivers. The roads let soldiers move quickly from place to place. People could send news faster. Farmers could bring food to big cities. Inka roads helped the empire run smoothly. The most impressive parts of the Inka roads were the bridges. Amazingly, some Inka bridges were made out of a simple resource. They were made from grass.



Some Inka structures are still standing.

This bridge connects two mountains in Peru.



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