

CELEBRATIONS

Inti Raymi—The festival of the sun

1. Warmer

a. Write your answers to these questions as quickly as possible.

In your country:

When does winter begin? _____

When does summer begin? _____

What weather is typical for winter? _____

What weather is typical for summer? _____

When is the shortest day of the year? _____

When is the longest day of the year? _____

b. Work in pairs and compare your answers.

2. Key words

Read the article about the history of *Inti Raymi* quickly. Find the keywords in context and match them to the definitions below.

antlers	crops	emperor	maize
please	sacrifices	shine	solstice

1. the day of the year when the sun is above the horizon for either the longest or the shortest amount of time _____
2. a man who rules an area made up from a number of countries _____
3. acts of killing a person or animal as part of a ceremony to honour a god _____
4. make someone feel happy _____
5. produce light _____
6. plants grown for food _____
7. the horns on the head of a male deer _____
8. a tall plant with yellow seeds that are called sweetcorn when cooked and eaten _____

INTI RAYMI – HISTORY

For the Incas, Inti Raymi was the greatest festival of the year. The festival was created in 1412 by Pachacutec to celebrate the winter solstice. He was the ninth and most powerful Incan emperor. He also built Machu Picchu. Inti Raymi celebrated the return of the sun, and the time of year when the days started to get longer.

In the past, the festival included animal and human sacrifices. The Incas thought the festival and the sacrifices would please the sun god, called Inti. They wanted Inti to return and shine warmly on the land to make the crops grow so the Incan people would have food to eat.

Every winter solstice, around 25,000 Incans went to Cusco in Peru - the centre of the Incan Empire – to celebrate the nine-day festival. They painted their faces yellow like the sun, wore deer antlers, cleaned the main road and covered it with flowers before the Sapa Inca – the ruler of the Inca Empire – and Mama Oclla were carried along it to the celebration ground. There, people danced and played. On the fourth day of the celebration, the Sapa Inca climbed a golden tower, offered a drink made from maize to the sun god, and spoke to his people.

Spanish invaders banned Inti Raymi because it was not a Catholic festival. The modern-day celebration of Inti Raymi started again in 1944 and is now held every year in June.

3. Comprehension check

Mark the statements true or false according to the history of Iti Raymi text.

Correct any that are false.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. The festival of Inti Raymi is over one thousand years old. | True / False |
| 2. The first Inti Raymi celebrations took place at Machu Picchu. | True / False |
| 3. The festival was celebrated by dancing, drinking, and killing. | True / False |
| 4. The festival took place around the longest day of the year. | True / False |
| 5. Inti was the name given by the Incas to the sun god. | True / False |
| 6. Pachacutec was the first and greatest Sapa Inca. | True / False |

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4. Find the information

Read the texts about how Inti Raymi is celebrated today in Peru and Ecuador. Then answer each question with P or E.

INTI RAYMI – in modern day Peru

The biggest Inti Raymi festival today takes place every year in the city of Cusco. It is the second biggest festival in South America, only the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro has more visitors. It is held on three stages: the temple of the sun, the town square, and the Fortress of Sacsayhuaman. Tickets for the festival cost more than 200 dollars. Many people who cannot afford the expensive tickets watch the festival from the hills around the fortress. The actors must speak in Quechua, the native language of Peru. They wear costumes made with gold and silver, and feathered headdresses. The celebrations are similar to those of the ancient Incas, but today, there is no sacrificial killing. After the main celebration, there are street fairs, live music, and dancing in the town of Cusco.

INTI RAYMI – in modern day Ecuador

Inti Raymi is also celebrated in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Argentina at the time of the winter solstice. The celebrations in Otavalo, in northern Ecuador, go on for many days. Many tourists go to these celebrations which are very different to Inti Raymi in Cusco, Peru.

A mountain spirit called Aya Uma is at the centre of the Otavalo celebration. He frightens away demons and looks after the crops. Aya Uma wears a mask with two faces and twelve horns. At midnight, he goes to a sacred waterfall with dancers who dance in two circles—one circle for the summer solstice and one circle for the winter solstice. The dancers stamp their feet to music and offer gifts of fruit to Mother Earth (also called Pachamama) so that the crops will grow and there will be food to eat.

1. Which has the most visitors? _____
2. Which festival takes place near water? _____
3. Which involves a mountain spirit? _____
4. Which celebration no longer includes sacrificial killing? _____
5. Which is centred around a tower and a fortress? _____
6. Which gives gifts to the sun god? _____
7. Which gives gifts to Mother Earth? _____

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5. Videos: writing and speaking

a. Watch two videos of the celebrations of Inti Raymi in Peru and Ecuador:

Peru	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSv0W_KBlgg
Ecuador	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_O6P-vtqKo

b. Write a simple script which describes what happens in the videos. Practice your script and then read it out as the videos are playing.

c. Use the information from texts and videos about Inti Raymi to analyse the celebrations.

- Say how the festivals in Peru and Ecuador are similar and different.
- Say where you would like to experience the Inti Raymi festival: in Peru or Ecuador.

6. Discussion

Answer the questions in pairs or groups.

Are the summer or winter solstices celebrated in your country?

If yes, give an example.

Do you know any other sun festivals or solstice festivals?

What do you know about them?

Have you ever been to a sun festival or a summer or winter solstice festival?

If yes, talk about it.

Do people in your country look forward to (and celebrate) the arrival of the sun, or the start of the rain?

If yes, say why.