

The Empire of the Sun

This text is excerpted from an original work of the Core Knowledge Foundation.

Who were the Inca? They were people who built a great civilization on the western coast of South America. The first Inca people lived in the area around Cuzco in modern-day Peru. In the early 1400s, these people began conquering neighboring lands and extending their empire. By the time the Spanish conquistadors (/kahn*kees*tuh*dorz/) arrived in the 1530s, the Inca Empire was the largest in the Americas-larger even than the Aztec Empire had been.

The Sapa Inca was the ruler of the vast Inca empire. He ruled over more than twelve million people. His territory stretched for more than two thousand miles along the Pacific Coast. The empire covered an area so large that most of modern-day Peru and parts of Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina would lie inside its borders.

This is a region of great geographical diversity. Arid plains stretch along the western coastline. This region is so dry that not even a cactus can grow. Farther east, the twin ranges of the snow-capped Andes Mountains rise toward the skies. Between the ranges lies a high plateau. Land here is sizzling hot by day and freezing by night. East of the Andes are thick forests where heavy rains feed the mighty Amazon River. All these lands were ruled by the Sapa Inca.



The Sapa Inca was the ruler of the vast Inca Empire, which stretched over two thousand miles of the South American coast.

arid ar · id

Advanced Definition

adjective

1. extremely dry or parched, esp. as land which has received little or no rainfall.

Survival is a challenge in the arid desert.

2. lacking imagination or feeling; uninteresting.

The book's topic was of interest, but the writer's arid prose put her to sleep.

Spanish cognate

árido: The Spanish word *árido* means arid.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Utah Junipers grow in very **arid** (dry) environments. They live on rocky slopes where there is not much rain.
2. The wind swept across the **arid** landscape. Sandstone rocks appeared in the shapes of anvils, arches, and steeples.
3. Penguins could never survive in a region with **arid** climate. It is very dry there with very hot summers.

empire em · pire

Definition

noun

1. a group of nations under one ruler.

The queen sent soldiers to expand her empire.

Advanced Definition

noun

1. a single political unit, with one supreme ruler, composed of an aggregate of nations or peoples.

The tsar expanded the Russian empire to the east.

2. the government of such a unit, or the historical period in which it existed.

These lands were under control of the Ottoman Empire.

Many were enslaved during the Roman Empire.

3. an extensive range of enterprises or activities under the authority of one person or a central organization.

He founded a publishing empire and became extremely wealthy.

adjective

1. (cap.) of or pertaining to styles in architecture, clothing, and home furnishings prevalent in France during the first empire under Napoleon I.

I'm not fond of these dresses with a high Empire waistline.

Spanish cognate

imperio n.: The Spanish word *imperio n.* means empire.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. The western part of the Roman **Empire** was defeated.
2. The Byzantine **Empire's** rulers made it a Christian empire.
3. In 1453 A.D., the Byzantine **Empire** fell to the Turks.

4. This was centered in Constantinople and became known as the Byzantine **Empire**.
5. Latin and Greek were the two most important languages of the Byzantine **Empire**.
6. Most of all, Dulce was drawn to the mystery of the Mayan **empire**.
7. In 330 A.D., the Emperor Constantine moved the capital of the Roman **Empire** from Rome.
8. Assur (or Ashur) was one of the leading cities of Assyria, the center of a great **empire**. Today, ancient Assur is in ruins.
9. Everyone else, it seemed, was starting with the "Mexica" section, about the fearsome Aztec **empire**, so Dulce decided to begin in the Maya building.
10. In 476 A.D., the city of Rome was conquered. The western part of the Roman **Empire** was defeated. After that, only the eastern part of the empire was left.

range range

Definition

noun

1. the two end points or limits between which something can vary, or the distance between these two limits.

In this school, the range of ages is from five to eleven.

The paint store has a wide range of paint colors to choose from.

2. a large piece of equipment for cooking. A range is an appliance with a stove and an oven.

Their kitchen has a gas range.

3. a group of mountains.

The highest mountain range is in Asia.

Advanced Definition

noun

1. the extent or limits of possible variation.

I hope they have a piano within the range of what I can afford to pay.

2. the sphere or scope of activity or functioning of something.

When we were within the range of hearing his shouts, we began to run faster.

3. the distance between a weapon and a target.

These missiles travel over a long range.

4. an area used for target shooting.

The police recruits are training at the target range.

5. a large open region used for the grazing of livestock.

Cattle wander on the open range.

6. a series of mountain peaks.

The Himalayan mountain range is the highest on earth.

7. the area over which something is distributed.
8. a cooking stove with burners and an oven.
9. an order or rank.
10. an area where missiles are launched.

adjective

1. grazing or having grazed on a range, as cattle.

They're researching a disease that affects range cattle.

transitive verb

1. to arrange in a systematic way; order or classify.

We range the books from smallest to largest on this shelf.

2. to move over or through.

The camels ranged the landscape.

3. to pasture (animals).

They range the cattle in the foothills.

4. to determine the distance of (something aimed at).

intransitive verb

1. to fluctuate within defined limits.

The sound ranges from loud to soft.

The ticket prices range from twenty to fifty dollars.

2. to extend in a row or line.

Small shops range along the street.

3. to roam; wander.

He ranged all over Kentucky before settling down.

The discussion always ranges over many subjects.

4. to be found or to extend throughout a period or region.

This type of plant ranges from Southern California down through most of

Mexico.

5. to find a point at which something can be aimed.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Injuries **range** from cuts to broken bones.
2. It sits in the Himalayan mountain **range**.
3. The Rockies are the longest mountain **range** in North America.
4. They span over 3,000 miles. The **range** stretches through Canada and the western United States.
5. The team searched the Andes, a **range** of mountains that stretches the whole western length of South America.
6. Much of the continent is made up of grasslands and plateaus broken up by the occasional mountain **range**.
7. American tree frogs **range** in color from lime green to yellow. A tree frog's most distinct characteristic is its long toes with suction cups.
8. Temperatures **range** from about 85 degrees Fahrenheit during the day to 70 at night. Tropical rainforests get at least 80 inches of rainfall each year.