

WORLD WONDERS MACHU PICCHU!

NG Kids' time-travelling mouse, Max, zooms back in history to investigate the ancient city of Machu Picchu in Peru!

Woo-hoo! This month, I'm so excited! I've been on the Inca Trail, hiking for four whole days, just so I can see, with my own eyes...

MACHU PICCHU - Peru's Lost City Of The Incas!

Hidden for almost 500 years, Machu Picchu is a true archaeological wonder of the world!

The legendary Inca civilisation arose from the highlands of Peru in the 13th century. Its empire spread through the Andes mountains of South America, but it was wiped out by the invading and all-conquering Spaniards by 1572.

The city of Machu Picchu, perched high up on a plateau, was built around 1450. It was never found by the Spanish and lay hidden until explorer, Hiram Bingham, discovered it lying under a tangle of wild jungle in 1911.

The Incas were engineering experts. The entire city was 'dry built', with no mortar between the stone blocks.

See? Safe as houses!

SHAKE!

Buildings were made 'earthquake proof' which is one of the reasons it's still standing today!

Aargh! Except somehow I've trapped my finger in there!

So perfectly shaped are the blocks, that even the thinnest knife can't fit in the gaps!

Terraces of corn and potatoes to feed the small population.

2,400m above sea level and looped by the sacred Urubamba River, Machu Picchu was very safe from invasion!

There are over 100 flights of stairs. Most individual stairs are cut from one stone!

The Incas hadn't invented the wheel (or writing), so all building blocks had to be pushed up the mountain!

WHEE!

Some people think that the level of engineering was so complicated that aliens must have helped!

Yippee! Thanks!

For such a large city to lay hidden for so long is amazing!

Maybe there are still others out there yet to be found! I'm off to have a look. See ya!