



INTI RAYMI ☀️ (PERU)

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Before You Read

Discuss:

1. Why do countries celebrate traditional festivals?
2. How can festivals help preserve culture?
3. Should governments spend money on cultural events?

Reading

Inti Raymi: Keeping History Alive

Inti Raymi, known as the Festival of the Sun, is one of Peru's most important cultural celebrations. The festival has its origins in the Inca Empire, where it was held to honor the Sun, which the Inca considered essential for life and agriculture.

Today, Inti Raymi takes place in Cusco and attracts thousands of visitors from around the world. The event includes music, dancing, traditional costumes, and dramatic performances that recreate ceremonies from the Inca period.

For many Peruvians, Inti Raymi is more than a festival. It is a way to preserve cultural identity and share historical traditions with younger generations. Through celebrations like Inti Raymi, people can learn about their heritage and maintain a connection with the past.

The festival also has an economic impact. Hotels, restaurants, guides, and local businesses benefit from increased tourism during the event. This provides income for many families and helps support the local economy.

However, some people argue that large cultural festivals can become too commercial. As visitor numbers increase, there is often pressure to make events more attractive to tourists. Critics worry that this may reduce the authenticity of traditional celebrations.

Despite these concerns, Inti Raymi remains a powerful example of how culture, history, and tourism can work together to keep traditions alive in the modern world.

Vocabulary in Context

Match the words to their meanings.

Word

1. heritage
2. identity
3. authenticity
4. commercial
5. tourism
6. economy

Meaning

- the characteristics that define a group or culture
- related to business and making money
- traditions and history passed down through generations
- the system of money, trade, and business
- being genuine and true to tradition
- travel for pleasure

Reading Comprehension

1. Why did the Inca celebrate Inti Raymi?
2. What activities take place during the festival?
3. How does Inti Raymi help preserve culture?
4. How does tourism benefit the local community?
5. What concerns do some critics have?
6. Do you think tourism helps or harms traditional festivals?

Analysis

Discuss

1. Can tourism protect culture?
2. Can tourism sometimes damage culture?
3. How can countries balance tradition and tourism?

Teacher's Key

Vocabulary in Context

Word	Meaning
heritage	traditions and history passed down through generations
identity	the characteristics that define a group or culture
authenticity	being genuine and true to tradition
commercial	related to business and making money
tourism	travel for pleasure
economy	the system of money, trade, and business