Quechua People from Peru
By Vanderbilt Center for Latin American Studies

Peru is a country located on the western coast of South America. The Incas were the group of people who lived in Peru from 1438-1533 before the Spanish conquerors arrived. Because the Incas were one of the first groups of people to live in that area, they are considered to be indigenous people. Once the Spanish captured the Incan king (whose name was Atahualpa), the Incas suffered. Today, the descendants of the Incas who still live in Peru are called Quechua people. Most of them live in the Andes Mountains in Peru. The picture above is of the traditional clothing worn by the Quechua people.

The term Quechua also refers to the language spoken by the Quechua people. Quechua was the language spoken by the Incas and is still spoken by millions of people living in Peru today. Quechua is also the official language of Peru, which means that it is recognized as an important language in the country.