



Advanced Inca School Project Ideas & Topic Selection Guide

How to Use This Guide: Choose one specific topic below. Avoid covering the entire Inca Empire. Instead, focus your research on proving the specific analytical angle listed under your chosen topic to easily meet advanced grading rubrics.

Category 1: Engineering & Architecture

- **Topic 1: Seismic Resilience of the Coricancha Temple.**
 - *Project Format:* Foam/Balsa Wood Model or 3D CAD Design.
 - *Analytical Angle:* Explain how inward-leaning trapezoidal doors and mortarless ashlar masonry allowed structures to survive massive Andean earthquakes.
- **Topic 2: The Microclimates of Moray.**
 - *Project Format:* Clay Diorama or GIS Mapping Presentation.
 - *Analytical Angle:* Demonstrate how circular agricultural terraces created temperature variations, allowing the Incas to bioengineer crops at extreme altitudes.

Category 2: Economics & Logistics

- **Topic 3: The Mita System (Labor as Taxation).**
 - *Project Format:* Interactive Timeline or Simulated Debate.
 - *Analytical Angle:* Analyze how a moneyless society funded massive public works and military expansions through mandatory, organized labor quotas instead of currency.
- **Topic 4: The Qhapaq Ñan and the Chasqui Runners.**
 - *Project Format:* Digital Map (Google Earth) or Data Visualization Slide Deck.
 - *Analytical Angle:* Calculate the logistics of moving messages and supplies across 25,000 miles of mountainous terrain without wheeled vehicles.

Category 3: Society, Culture & Technology

- **Topic 5: Decoding the Quipu Accounting System.**
 - *Project Format:* 3D Printed Replica or Hand-crafted String Model.
 - *Analytical Angle:* Explain the mathematics behind the knots and how the central government tracked regional inventories and census data with zero written text.
- **Topic 6: Textile Arts and the Llama Supply Chain.**
 - *Project Format:* Textile Weaving Project or Economic Simulation.
 - *Analytical Angle:* Prove how geometric textile motifs served as regional identification codes, and why the alpaca/llama supply chain was the absolute backbone of the Andean economy.



Student Checklist Before Starting:

- Does my chosen topic require making a physical model or a digital presentation?
- Have I verified my historical data against a peer-reviewed academic database?
- Did I add a 40% time buffer to my project schedule for troubleshooting and drying times?