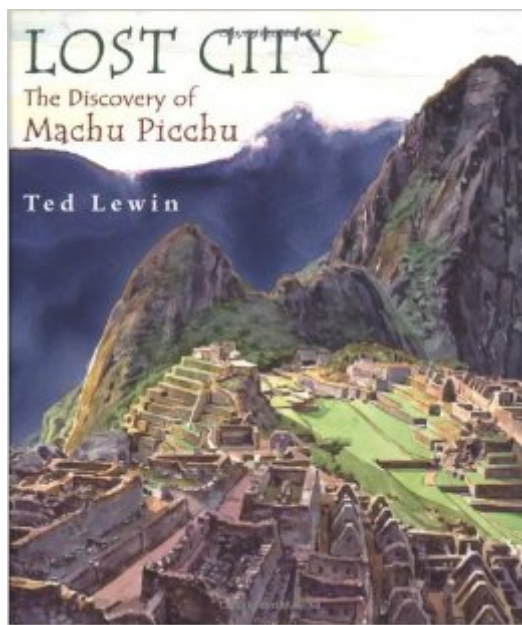


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# Lost City: The Discovery Of Machu Picchu



## Synopsis

Caldecott Honor-winner Ted Lewin takes readers on a thrilling journey to the wilds of Peru in this story of Hiram Bingham, who, in 1911, carved a treacherous path through snake-filled jungles and across perilous mountains in search of Vilcapampa, the lost city of the Incas. Guided the last steps by a young Quechua boy, however, he discovered not the rumored lost city, but the ruins of Machu Picchu, a city totally unknown to the outside world, and one of the wonders of the world.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD670L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; First Edition edition (June 2, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399233024

ISBN-13: 978-0399233029

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.4 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,028,898 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Central & South America #337 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery #6235 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Dominated by beautiful artwork, this picture book traces Hiram Bingham's trek from Cuzco to his discovery of Machu Picchu - the so-called Lost City of the Incas. A few of the key characters involved in this specific segment of Bingham's 1911 are interspersed into the short book, but the boy whose family was living and farming on Machu Picchu and led Bingham to the ruins, creates a dreamlike quality to the tale. Lewins' watercolors fill the entire pages and explode with color, shading, details and subtlety. The story is written in language appropriate for readers in grades 1-3, and works equally wonderfully when read by an adult. Machu Picchu was named one of the NEW seven wonders of the world in 2007 and Bingham's "discovery" of Machu Picchu celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. My 7-year-old stared at the images in Lewin's book in awe, and could

relate to the boy who leads Bingham to the incredible stonework ruins that straddle two magnificent peaks of the mighty Andes. This is a terrific introduction to a legendary story of a legendary people.

Accessibly written and very beautifully by Caldecott Honor Winner Ted Lewin, *Lost City: The Discovery Of Machu Picchu* is a picturebook history presentation about a 1911 journey into Peru in search of Vilcabamba, the lost city of the Incas. What was actually discovered was the forgotten city of Machu Picchu, resulting in an extraordinary testimony to archaeological history and a Native American legacy, in this wonderfully illustrated, deftly told, and strongly recommended story.

Bought this book for my granddaughter to help explain Machu Picchu (we recently returned from a trip there). The drawings are beautiful but the language is a bit awkward and not as "kid friendly" as I had hoped.

My 5 year old was captivated by the story of the search for the lost city of the Incas. We read this book many times before our visit to Machu Picchu. She was thrilled to climb up the steep trail and come out on the hill overlooking the city to find the view "looks just like in my story!" There's enough detail to make the story interesting for adults to read aloud. The inclusion of the little boy who helps Bingham locate the lost city makes the story even more enticing for young readers. My daughter remembered all the facts from the story and was so excited to see the real place and learn that it was a true story. I very strongly recommend this book for young kids interested in Andean peoples or who will be visiting Machu Picchu.

**Review for *Lost City: The Discovery of Machu Picchu*** This is not the story of Machu Picchu but of the discovery of this lost city by Hiram Bingham in 1911. The hardcover is 9.5 X 11, a good size for small hands to hold and even better to see the vibrant watercolor images throughout the story. The author/illustrator totally captures the imagination. To start a story with a very small boy looking very small high up in these very tall Andes mountains commands attention. The dwellings and the flora seem very to reflect the site well. Lewin's rendering of the stone walls in Cuzco is dramatic especially when he puts humans next to them. Our little one's attention never strayed. There is a mini lesson in culture as local costumes---hats, shoes, ponchos, narrow streets---give the flavor of the area. Lewin does as well on nature scenes. Wild canyons, rivers, granite cliffs are rendered in beautiful colors ensuring a child's attention. The illustration of Bingham crossing river torrents on a flimsy bridge on his hands and knees is something many of us can relate to. The jungle scene with almost hidden

snakes makes one sit up. The fact that a real boy led Bingham to this magnificent ruin is exciting to a child and is the stuff dreams are made of. Of course, if you're the adult reading the story to the child you will have questions to contend with, such as "What happened to the little boy?" "When can we go?" "Where does Mr. Bingham live now?" OK Google, here we come. Parents and librarians, this is a good book to have available for your young charges to read.

I bought this book as a gift for my 7-year-old nephew. I recently returned from a trip to Peru and my nephew was asking a lot of questions about the Inca and Machu Picchu. There aren't many books for kids for sale in the US about Machu Picchu, but this one is very good at telling the story from the point of view of Bingham and the boy who helped him to "discover" Machu Picchu. I think the illustrations are beautiful and the story held my nephew's attention.

Witty and informative. A wonderful introduction to both the place and the history of the man who brought Machu Picchu to the world's attention.

This is a book for very small children and provides only rudimentary information on Machu Picchu. I was disappointed.

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