



6B

THE REDISCOVERY OF VILCABAMBA

MATCHING SENTENCE ENDINGS

- 1 Identify the key words in the sentence
- 2 SCAN the text to find them or synonyms and read that section of the text carefully
- 3 Find the sentence ending that best fits the information in the text.
- 4 Check the grammar of the complete sentence.



suggested time
9 minutes

TASK

Look at the text on “The Rediscovery of Vilcabamba” on the following pages.

Choose one phrase from the list of phrases **A – I** to complete each sentence **1 – 6** below.

REMEMBER

There will be more options than you need, so you won't use all of them.

The correct answer will be the only answer which is logical in terms of both meaning and grammar.

- A) Spanish letters.
- B) disagreed about the site of Vilcabamba.
- C) Machu Picchu and Rosaspata.
- D) in the 17th Century.
- E) after it fell to the Spaniards.
- F) a valley.
- G) contemporary accounts.
- H) discovered Espiritu Pampa.
- I) believed that Espiritu Pampa was Vilcabamba.

Example

Vilcabamba ceased to be the capital of the Neo-Inca State

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- 1) Local people forgot the location of Vilcabamba in _____
- 2) Dias and Romero _____
- 3) Bingham rediscovered Inca ruins at _____
- 4) Vilcabamba had a warm climate according to _____
- 5) Caselli and Savoy _____
- 6) Additional proof of the location was revealed by the discovery of _____

The Rediscovery of Vilcabamba

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Vilcabamba is often called the *Lost City of the Incas*. The city was the capital of the Neo-Inca State from 1539 to 1572 and was the last refuge of the Inca Empire until it fell to the Spaniards and their indigenous allies in 1572, signaling the end of Inca resistance to Spanish rule. Subsequently, Vilcabamba was abandoned and its location forgotten during the 17th century by the few remaining inhabitants of the region.

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In 1710, an explorer, Juan Arias Diaz, found Choquequirao, 70 kilometres southwest of Vilcabamba, and identified it as the Incan capital, but in 1909, Peruvian historian, Carlos A. Romero, debunked the claim that Choquequirao was Incan Vilcabamba based on his studies of writings by Spanish chroniclers of the 16th century, and identified the village of Puquiura as the site of Incan Vilcabamba.

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In 1911, Hiram Bingham was on the expedition which resulted in him bringing to a wider world attention the Incan ruin of Machu Picchu. Romero pointed him toward Puquiura as the site of Vilcabamba, and Bingham discovered there the ruins of Rosaspata. He correctly identified Rosaspata as the Incan Vitcos rather than Incan Vilcabamba. Drawn by rumors of another lost Inca ruin in the lowland forest, Bingham ignored tales of a hostile plantation owner and dangerous Indians and proceeded onward. After a difficult three days of foot travel, he found the plantation. Its owner and the Asháninka or Campa Indians working there were friendly and helpful. They assisted him in cutting a trail through the jungle and two days later he found Inca ruins at a place called Espiritu Pampa. He found artificial terraces, stone houses, including a rectangular building 59 m long, a fountain, Inca pottery, and a stone bridge. But Bingham was running out of supplies and only spent a short time at Espiritu Pampa. Based on his brief observations, Bingham concluded that Machu Picchu was the Incan Vilcabamba. That opinion went largely unchallenged for 50 years.

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In 1964, Peruvian explorer Antonio Santander Caselli visited Espiritu Pampa and later claimed the discovery that Espiritu Pampa was the Incan Villabamba. In the same month, American explorer Gene Savoy reached Espiritu Pampa. He discovered that Bingham had only seen a minor part of the ruin at Eremboni Pampa and that the main ruin of Espiritu Pampa was 640 m distant. Savoy found 50 or 60 houses and 300 houses at Espiritu Pampa. Savoy concluded that Espiritu Pampa was Vilcabamba, contradicting Bingham. Savoy's 1970 book *Antisuyo* brought the site to even wider attention.

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Researcher and author John Hemming also concluded the Espiritu Pampa was Incan Vilcabamba in his 1970 book *The Conquest of the Incas*. He cited contemporary Spanish and Inca accounts of Vilcabamba as evidence. Titu Cusi Yupanqui said that Vilcabamba had a 'warm climate,' unlike Vitcos which was in 'a cold district.' This statement is consistent with the elevation of the two places: 1,450 metres for Espiritu Pampa and 2,980 metres for Vitcos. Moreover, both the conqueror of Vilcabamba, Hurtado de Abierto, and the Spanish chronicler Martín de Murúa cited the tropical crops—coca, cotton, and sugar cane—grown near Vilcabamba and that the city lay in a 'hot country'

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unlike most Inca cities. The Inca preferred to live in the high, cool climate of the Andes. Hurtado also described Vilcabamba as being in a valley with 'pastures for cattle,' unlike Machu Picchu which is on a steep ridge. Finally, Hemming cited Spanish sources indicating that Vilcabamba was northeast of Vitcos—unlike Machu Picchu which is west of Vitcos. Thus, Bingham's claim that Macchu Picchu was Incan Villabamba and other claims that Vitcos was Vilcabamba were discredited.

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In 1976, Professor Edmundo Guillén and Polish explorers Tony Halik and Elżbieta Dzikowska continued to explore the ruins at Espiritu Pampa. Before the expedition, Guillen visited a museum in Seville where he discovered letters from Spaniards, in which they described the progress of the invasion and what they found in Vilcabamba. Comparison between the letters' contents and the ruins provided additional proof of Espiritu Pampa as the location of Vilcabamba.

Later extensive archeological work by Vincent Lee, and especially his exhaustive study, his 2000 book *Forgotten Vilcabamba*, gave further and even more precise confirmation that has made Espiritu Pampa the definitively accepted site of the historical Vilcabamba.