



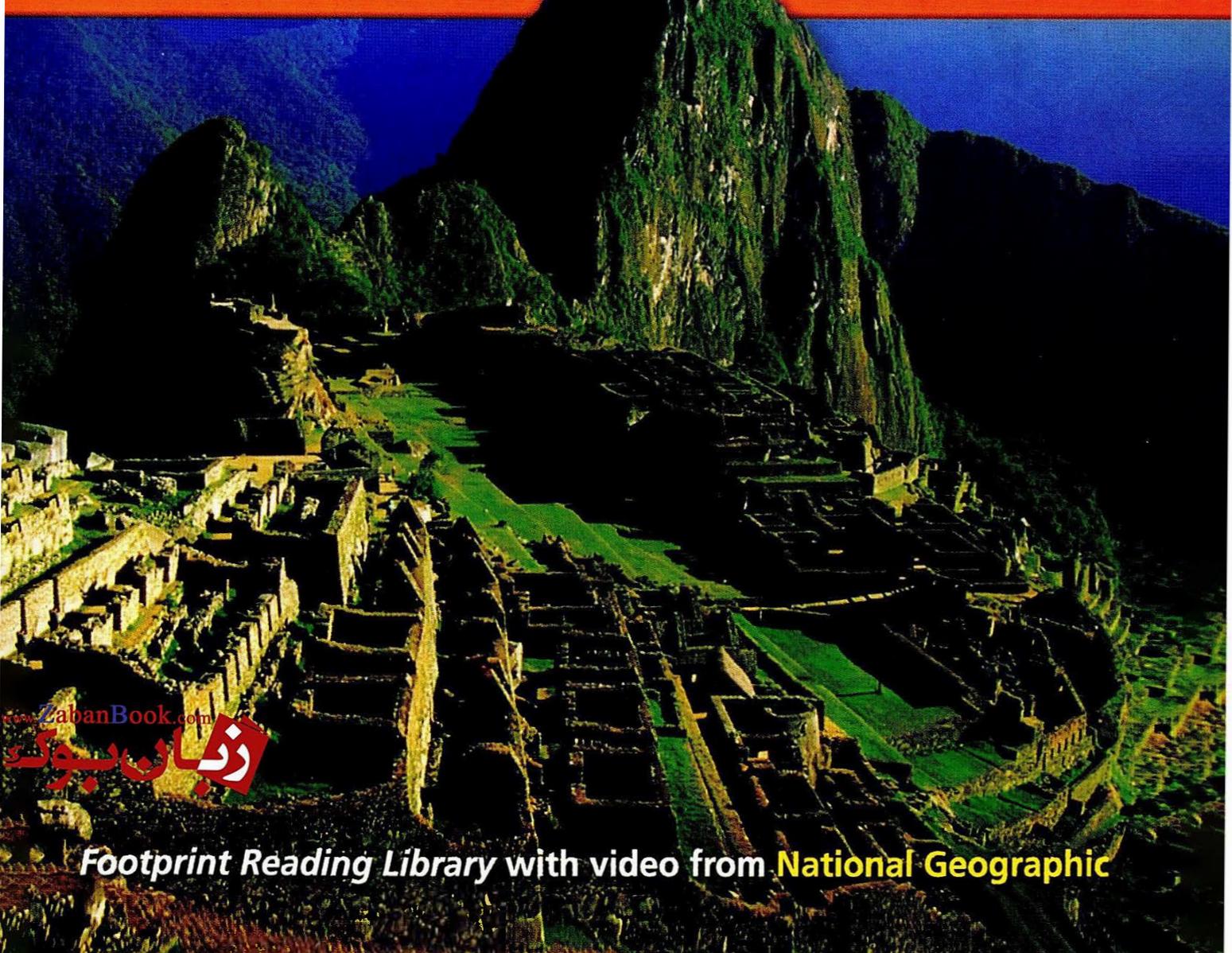
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The Lost City of

Machu Picchu



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The Lost City of Machu Picchu

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The Lost City of Machu Picchu



Rob Waring, *Series Editor*

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Words to Know

This story is set in Peru in South America. It happens at a place called Machu Picchu [mə:tʃu: pi:ktʃu:], in the Andes mountain range.



A Machu Picchu and the Ancient World. Read the paragraph. Complete the definitions with the underlined words.

Machu Picchu was an ancient city in the Andes Mountains. A group of people called the Incas built Machu Picchu a long time ago. The Inca civilisation lasted from around 1100 A.D. until about 1500 A.D. When it suddenly ended, few people knew about the city of Machu Picchu. Because of this, it is sometimes called the 'Lost City of the Incas.' In 1911, an American explorer found Machu Picchu. Since then, many people have visited Machu Picchu to climb the ruins of the city.

1. move up or over something: _____
2. very old: _____
3. a person who travels to learn about new places: _____
4. the remains of buildings: _____
5. people and culture: _____



mountains

Inca man

Inca woman

The Lost City of Machu Picchu



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One man, however, is not worried about this at all. José owns a local hotel. He says that Machu Picchu and Peru need more visitors. The ‘Lost City’ is a very special place, he claims, and everyone should be able to see it. “Why not be like the rest of the world?” he says. “Why not **expose**⁵ and show Machu Picchu to the rest of the world?” He then adds, “It’s such a wonderful place, why keep it to a few?”

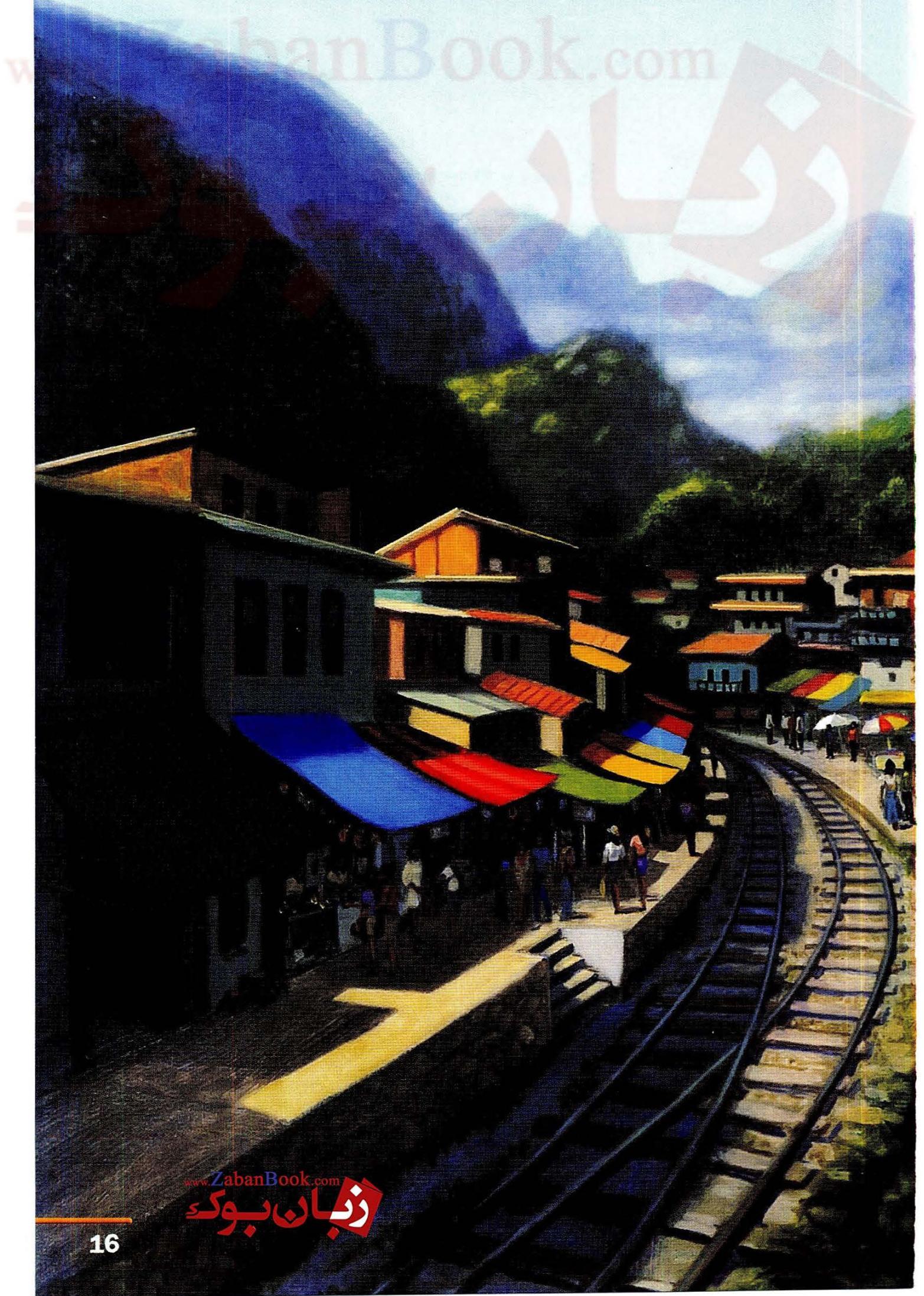
It’s obvious that some people, like José, support tourism, and some people are against it. So what does tourism mean to Peru? The truth is that parts of Peru are very poor. The tourist industry brings a lot of money to some communities.

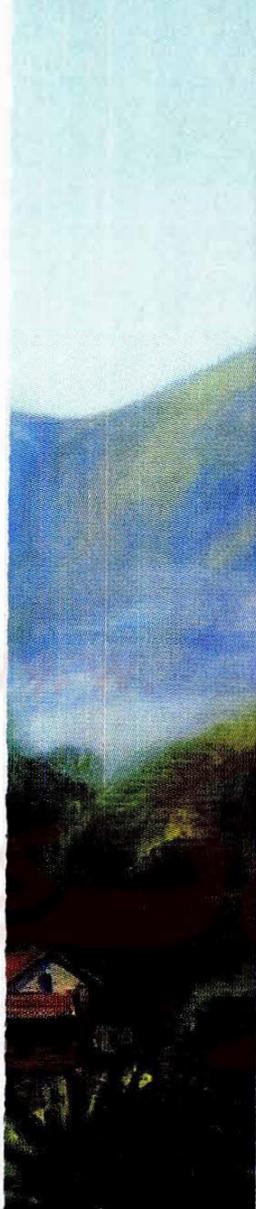
⁵**expose:** let people see

Infer Meaning

1. What’s the purpose of José’s comment?
2. How does José feel about tourism in Machu Picchu?







Aguas Calientes⁶ is a good example of a tourist community. Aguas Calientes is a town that is in the area where visitors get on buses to go to the **summit**⁷ of Machu Picchu. Because of this, it grew suddenly and developed from nothing into a town.

Aguas Calientes has no industry except tourism. The town is just a group of **stalls**.⁸ The local people there sell art and other things they have created to visitors. The people there live completely on money from tourists. It's their only income.

⁶**Aguas Calientes:** [a:gwa:s ka:ljenters]

⁷**summit:** top of a mountain

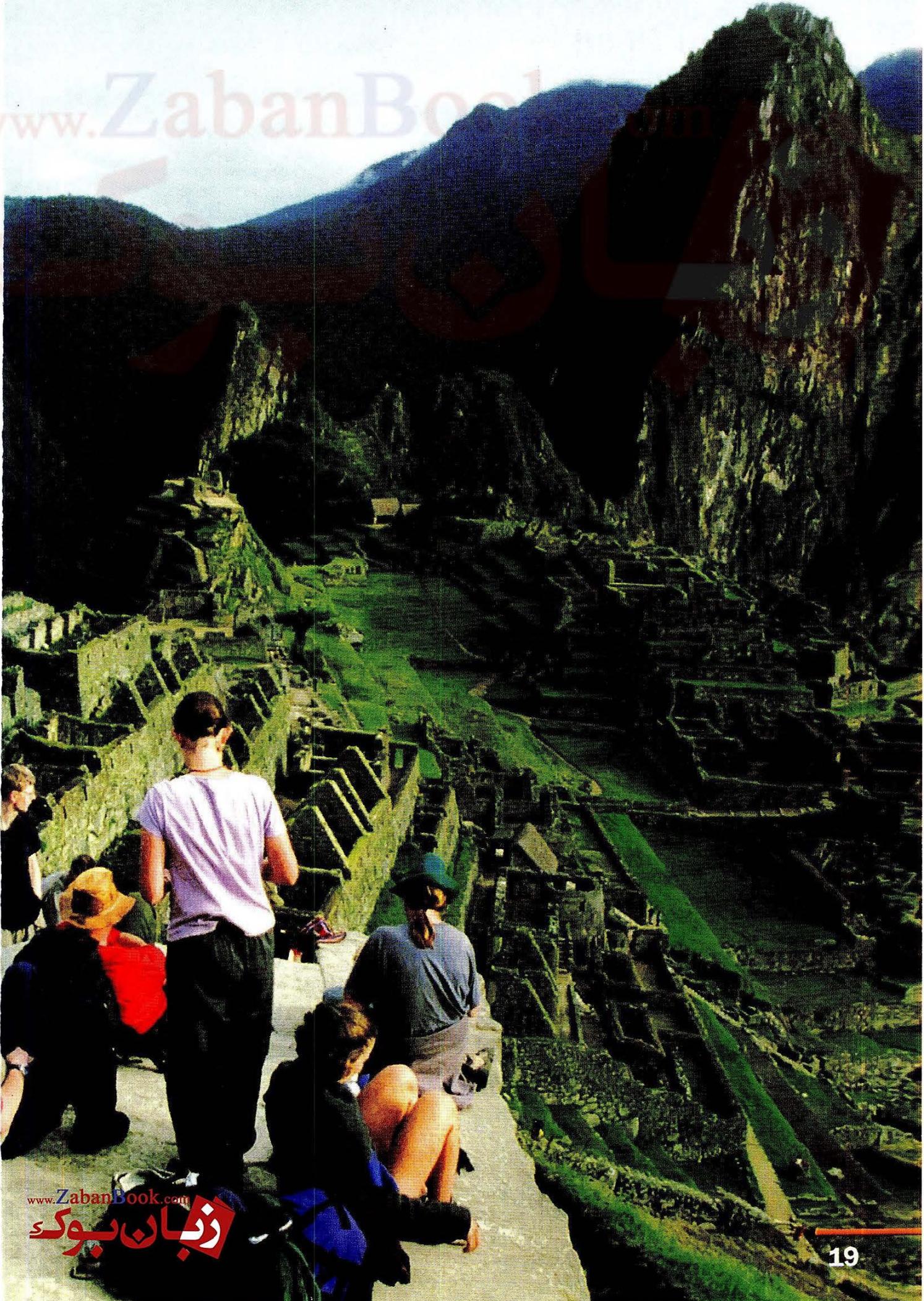
⁸**stall:** a small shop with an open front or a table

What is happening to the special quality and beauty of Machu Picchu today? Tourism is certainly changing the area. But are the effects good or bad? No one can decide.

However, one thing is certain: the 'Lost City' is no longer lost. Tourists have found it and the modern world is coming closer to this ancient world every day. In the end, it's this modern world that could bring an end to the ancient city. **Time may be running out**⁹ for the 'Lost City of the Incas.'

⁹**time may be running out:** there might not be much time left







Not a Pleasant Experience

Recently, I visited Machu Picchu. As I reached the summit, the fog cleared and suddenly I saw the view! The mountains were so beautiful. Then our tour guide showed us some of the two hundred ancient buildings. We walked around for hours enjoying the views and looking at the buildings. It is a very special place.

However, the experience was not a totally pleasant one. I'm concerned that too many people are visiting the area. For one thing, it was impossible for us to find a quiet place to sit and enjoy the view. People were running everywhere. Secondly, I could see that the large numbers of tourists are starting to have a bad effect on the land. People have cut

down a lot of the trees. They also leave paper and other things they do not want on the ground. Some of the ancient stones have even been moved and broken. I think the government should make laws limiting the number of tourists who can visit Machu Picchu each year.

Yours faithfully,
Martha Gorman



Word Count: 339

Time: _____

Vocabulary List

ancient (2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 18)

civilisation (2, 8, 10)

climb (2, 8, 10)

conservationist (3, 13)

explorer (2, 10)

expose (14)

fog (8)

magnetic centre (6)

modern (3, 5, 13, 18)

ruins (2, 8, 10, 13)

stall (17)

summit (17)

time may be running out (18)

tour guide (6)

tourism (3, 14, 17, 18)

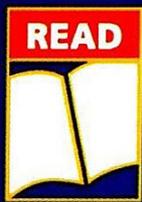
tourist (3, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18)

FASCINATING PLACES

The Lost City of Machu Picchu

Machu Picchu is a beautiful old city in Peru. It was forgotten for many years, but now many people are visiting it. Some people think that too many visitors may not be good for this old city. What will happen to Machu Picchu?

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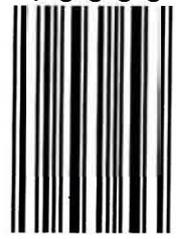
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