

# Peru



**J**ourney  
AROUND THE WORLD



# South America





# PERU

Instructions:

You are playing the role of a teenager from Peru who has hemophilia.

Tell the story below (try not to read from the paper but it's ok if you have to). Make sure the campers understand what you are telling them about hemophilia in Peru. Use the enclosed pictures to decorate your area. You may use costumes, props, or other decorations but please do not use an accent or ethnic stereotype in your portrayal. Do the activity with the campers at the end of your story and Good Luck!

Make sure to stamp the camper's passports when they arrive.

*Hola!*

My name is Carlos. Welcome to Peru.

You'll know from the movies that adventurers like Indiana Jones love it here. That's because you can still see the remains of the ancient Inca Empire. The Incas worshipped the sun and were rich with gold and other treasures that people still look for.

High in the Andes Mountains you can visit the lost city of Macchu Picchu, a royal retreat that was hidden by jungle for hundreds of years. They cleared the jungle and it's now one of the wonders of the world. You know, it was a 10-year-old boy who led American Explorer Hiram Bingham to find Macchu Picchu early last century.

About 500 years before that, a young boy who had hemophilia became the ruler of the Inca Empire. He was called Yahuar Huacac, (Yawar Waqaq) which means the "blood crying Inca." According to the story, he cried tears of blood when abducted by the Inca's enemies, the Ayarmaca. Luckily, one woman took pity on the eight-year-old and eventually helped him escape.

However there was not much hemophilia treatment available in those days and Yahuar Huacac was pretty sick most of the time when he grew up and became emperor.

I also have hemophilia but I don't live in a palace. My home is an open hut by the Amazon River. There's no plumbing or electricity in the village and we paddle canoes to get around. The only road is made of dirt and we see one bus a week.

It's much warmer here in the jungle than in the Andes. But you have to watch out for man-eating piranha, or animals like jaguars and giant anaconda snakes.

Once I was attacked by a wild dog. The neighbours saved me and killed the dog, but not before it ripped my hand open. We had no medicine or factor to treat the injury.

A shaman, or medicine man, told my parents to burn the dead dog's hairs and rub the ashes into the wound. Guess what? Burnt dog's hairs don't work. So my parents went all out to get me to a hospital in the city. A doctor had an emergency supply of factor, which meant he could operate and save my hand.

People with hemophilia have access to some treatment in the cities, but factor is still in short supply. Some volunteers from the United States are helping out with medical supplies and teaching them how to manage hemophilia. They're also showing people how to recognize hemophilia early on.

That's necessary because only 456 people in Peru have been diagnosed with hemophilia and we know it should be about 2,500.

Soccer is very popular here but kids with hemophilia don't play much because they're afraid of bleeds. Instead we play other games or make our own toys, such as spinning tops, tin can telephones or paper planes.

I like to play marbles with my friends and have made up a special game. I pretend that the little marbles in the center of the circle are bleeds and you have to knock them outside the line, using the big marble.

Playing the game gives me hope that one day I'll be able to knock out bleeds for real.

Would you like to try?

Split into two groups and each take a turn knocking a marble out of the ring.

(There are enough marbles to split the group into two. Draw a 2-foot wide circle in the dirt, or with chalk on the cement and let the kids take turns shooting a marble out of the ring. Play the game over a few times until it is time for them to switch.)

Adios.

Materials Included:

Pictures

Bag of Marbles with two shooters

Chalk

Passport stamp and ink pad