

## Ask Andy

## Inca Fact, Legend Hard to Sort Out

Andy sends a complete, 20-volume set of the World Book Encyclopedia to Chuck Guy, age 12, of Nashville, Tenn., for his question:

Where did the Incas come from?

The empire of the Incas stretched 3,000 miles along the Pacific shores and extended inland over the ridges of the lofty Andes. Archeologists are trying to sort the facts from fiction concerning this vast organization of territory, for the Incas told fabulous tales about themselves and their origins. These leg-

ends do not agree with the facts revealed by scientific investigation. It is true that the Inca people built and ran a vast and well-organized empire. But they were not satisfied, it seems, with their own tremendous achievements. They pretended to be more than they actually were. They invented glamorous tales of their origins to impress their subjects. To do this, they had to destroy the true history of South-American culture which existed before the Inca people came to power. We are impressed with the

true deeds of the Inca people. But we do not thank them for trying to wipe out the records of the cultures that flourished before them. Time after time, it seems, civilizations developed in and around the Andes mountains and, because of the Incas, archeologists have had to dig hard to bring them to light. The Inca people say that they originated near Lake Titicaca, which is high in the mountains of southern Peru. From here they went north to establish their first city of Cuzco. These items may well be true, for we know from the

ruins of Cuzco (or Cuzco) that this city was certainly the center of the Inca empire. From here, these energetic people spread out to conquer and organize their vast empire, and the job was done within 100 or 200 years. The Inca people were a tribe of Indians called the Quechua or Keshua, and Quechua was the official language of the Inca empire.

Andy sends a Hammond's International Atlas to Martin Cleveland, age 10, of Visalia, Calif., for his question:

How are geodes formed? When you find a pebble that feels a lot lighter than its neighbors, you might be lucky. It may be a hollow geode lined with dazzling walls of semi-precious crystals. The process started ages ago in a bed rock. Here and there the bedrock was riddled with holes and cavities. Through the ages, water, bearing dissolved minerals, seeped through its pores and pockets.

Some of the minerals were deposited and left to crystallize on the walls of the empty pockets. In time they formed layers of colored quartz crystals or perhaps bands of agate. You see these beautiful linings when you break open the geode—and where you find one geode you are likely to find others, which have formed in the same bedrock. Copyright, 1963, Los Angeles Times. Andy awards each day a full set of the World Book Encyclopedia for the first question he selects to answer. When a second question is answered, a large world globe or atlas is awarded. Questions are accepted from teenage or less-than-teen-age readers. They should be addressed to the Register-Guard, 875 High St., Eugene. Andy prefers that questions be written on postcards, rather than in letter form.

## To Your Good Health

## Narcotics Addiction Not Easy to Detect

By DR. JOSEPH G. MOLNER

Dear Doctor Molner: What signs should one watch for to determine whether an acquaintance is addicted to dope?—Mrs. A.B.

Contrary to fiction (written or word-of-mouth) addiction to narcotics is not easy to detect in its early stages. Deprived of drugs, addicts become nervous and sometimes even violent. But they return to normal behavior just as rapidly, once they get drugs. Pupils of the eyes are usually small; however, there is so much variation in people that this is hardly a reliable sign; it's no more than a helpful indication at times.

As an addict becomes more dependent, he ultimately turns to injecting drugs into veins of the arm with a hypodermic, and then the needle scars are a giveaway.

Dear Doctor Molner: Our two-year-old grandson speaks a few words, but nouns only. No verbs. His hearing is very sharp, and he has a good memory and seems bright. He mimics very much, and communicates most of his wishes by pointing to what he wants, or gesturing. We are very worried that he may be mute. —A.B.

Mute, when he speaks words? Of course not. I think you're expecting too much from him. There's a lot of difference in the age at which youngsters decide to talk. I've even known of youngsters that didn't talk at all—not even nouns—until about three years old. And at least one such hasn't stopped talking since!

If a logical-minded baby can get what he wants by pointing, why should he talk? Overprotection and anticipation of a child's wants may, indeed, slow up its need to speak, but I don't know that this necessarily means any harm in the long run.

The best way to promote speech in a child is to talk to him in adult language (but simple words, of course) and he's likely to try to imitate it. When the child is a good mimic, that helps. I wouldn't worry about this youngster.

Dear Doctor Molner: My eyes become so swollen from sleeping sometimes it is noon or later before they subside. If I just lie on the bed for a few minutes, or if I sneeze, they swell. I have had my eyes checked.—Mrs. E.B.

Swelling can come from eye diseases, such as glaucoma, trachoma, conjunctivitis, etc., but you've had your eyes checked. The tissues of the lids are thin, so any slight accumulation of fluids can make obvious swelling. Hence kidney or liver disease with fluid retention can be a cause.

Still further, severe hypothyroidism (low thyroid activity) is accompanied by baggy skin and swollen lids. So is trichinosis (caused by worms not killed by thorough cooking of pork).

Allergy is entirely possible—sensitivity to feathers in the pillow, or to some material in the bed clothes.

Dear Doctor Molner: Will you explain the difference between a rectal polyp and an enlarged papilla in this same area? Does a papilla become malignant? —Mrs. F.S.

A polyp is an abnormal growth. A papilla is a perfectly normal thing. Rectal papillae are structures which project from an eighth to a quarter of an inch at the inside outlet of the rectum. (By definition, a papilla can be any normal projection, such as a nipple.)

A polyp (an intestinal one, but this does not apply to a polyp in the nose) has a tendency to become malignant and hence requires watchfulness.

Enlarged papillae, on the other hand, are swollen due to inflammation or irritation. Since almost any kind of tissue can become malignant, we can't say that papillae can't do so. However, a mere enlargement of a papilla isn't alarming.

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## Growing Dwarf Trees Is Subtle Art

WASHINGTON — The Japanese achieve the epitome of miniaturization in the subtle art of bonsai.

A bonsai is a dwarfed tree so perfectly controlled that it may grow just two feet in 300 years. Some bonsai are supposedly 500 years old, the National Geographic Society says.

Though bonsai are raised in shallow earthen pots, they are not merely potted plants. The best bonsai artfully evoke landscapes. A tree hardly two feet tall, for example, could suggest a gnarled grove of pines seen on a distant windswept cliff.

Cultivation of the Lilliputian trees, the Japanese believe, develops patience and soothes taut nerves. A bonsai often requires 50 years of daily watering, trimming, and pruning to reach perfection.

Bonsai are becoming popular in the United States. Gardeners find them challenging, interior decorators find them attractive, and dealers find them profitable. Choice bonsai sell for as much as \$7,000. When a prize dwarfed tree was stolen from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, bonsai lovers knew their trees had arrived.

The Japanese, who have developed thinking small into a fine art, began dwarfing trees about 800 years ago.

The first bonsai were naturally dwarfed

by poor soil on windy cliffs or mountains. Collectors risked their necks—and still do—to reach tempting specimens.

Sedentary bonsai fanciers start their trees from seeds or seedlings. They rigorously prune roots and extraneous branches, and pinch off shoots to limit growth. Branches and trunk are carefully bent and held with copper wire to direct their form.

"A bonsai needs to be tended with the affection that a mother shows for her child," a Japanese bonsai authority said. Watering and fertilizing, in particular, must be rigidly controlled. Special syringes simulate natural rainfall. One grower makes his own fertilizer by pulverizing dried fish and soaking the meal in water for a year.

Pines are favored for bonsai, but many other trees can be dwarfed, including maple, elm, cherry, cedar, cypress, and even the billowing weeping willow. Deciduous trees are considered more elegant than evergreens because they show seasonal changes.

Not satisfied with a perfect two-foot miniature of a 100-foot tree, the Japanese have gone on to mame-bonsai, or baby bonsai. These midgets are only two or three inches tall. A Tokyo gardener limited a black pine to 3½ inches of growth in 30 years. The tiniest specimens, cultivated in pots no bigger than a chestnut, are called shito-bonsai, fingertip bonsai.

BLONDIE



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ALLEY OOP



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