

## Ice Mummies

## Program Contents

## Frozen in Heaven

**Note:** This program contains information about child sacrifice. You should preview the program to determine its appropriateness for your classroom.

NOVA accompanies anthropologist Johan Reinhard as he journeys to the 5,639-meter (18,500-foot) peak of Sara Sara in southern Peru in search of evidence of *capa cocha*, a ritual in which the Incas were said to sacrifice their own children to the gods.

- The program describes Spanish chronicles that detail Inca life and beliefs.
- Archaeologists ascend the mountain in search of evidence of the chronicled, but never proven, ritual. Observations of several bodies discovered earlier support the ritual's existence, including a boy found frozen in the Chilean mountains, a girl found frozen on Mt.

Ampato in Peru, and a boy found on Mt. Aconcagua in Argentina.

- The program ends with the discovery of Sarita, a girl buried 500 years ago.

Researchers unearth the body of Sarita from her sacrificial burial ground on Sara Sara.



Sara Sara, Peru

## Before Watching

- 1 Ask students what rituals or ceremonies they or their families participate in or know about, and why these are performed. Discuss with students why ancient civilizations might have had rituals, such as providing offerings to gods. Have students record the rituals as they watch this program.

## After Watching

- 1 Have students discuss the rituals they recorded. Why might those rituals have been performed? How might they be similar to or different from rituals performed today?