Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Agustin's account shows that Indigenous communities maintained knowledge of the site across generations — knowledge that was present long before Bingham arrived. This matters because 'discovery' narratives erase the people who already knew, treated the land, and transmitted knowledge of these places. Historical credit should reflect actual knowledge, not just who published a paper in English.

2. Repatriation matters beyond the objects themselves because the act of returning artifacts acknowledges that removal was wrong, affirms the sovereignty of the source community over its heritage, and restores physical connections to history. For Andean communities, the artifacts also carry cultural and spiritual significance that goes beyond their value as archaeological data.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. A

3. C

Matching

1-C, 2-A, 3-B, 4-E, 5-D

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Richarte, 2) 60%, 3) 2010

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Local Quechua families were actively farming the terraces below Machu Picchu when Bingham arrived. A local boy guided him up the mountain. Peruvians had never lost knowledge of the site. The 'discovery' framing reflects a colonial assumption that places only exist once a Western academic has documented them, erasing the knowledge and presence of Indigenous people.

Q2: Skeletal analysis showed the residents came from many different regions of the Inca Empire, identifying Machu Picchu as a node in an imperial network rather than a purely local site. Isotope analysis of teeth confirmed this regional diversity. Ceramic analysis revealed pottery from across the empire, and plant remains showed over 100 food varieties indicating sophisticated agriculture.

Q3: A precedent is an earlier case that influences how future cases are decided. The Machu Picchu repatriation showed that sustained diplomatic pressure and public

advocacy could compel a major institution to return objects it had held for a century. This encourages source countries and communities to pursue similar claims against museums holding the Elgin Marbles, Benin Bronzes, and other collections removed during the colonial era.