

TIME DETECTIVES



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THE QUEST FOR INCA GOLD



 Orpheus

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THE QUEST FOR INCA GOLD



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This is the story of two children who went on an incredible journey back through time. On their travels through history, they found themselves in all kinds of exciting places – and dangerous situations – simply by opening a door. Luckily, the children had a guide to accompany them on their journey and show them the way to the next door. Each time they opened a new one, they passed through to a new place and in a new time – weeks, years or even centuries earlier.

At the end of this book, you can read more about the real historical events that shaped the lives of pirates, Spanish adventurers and the Incas, many years ago.



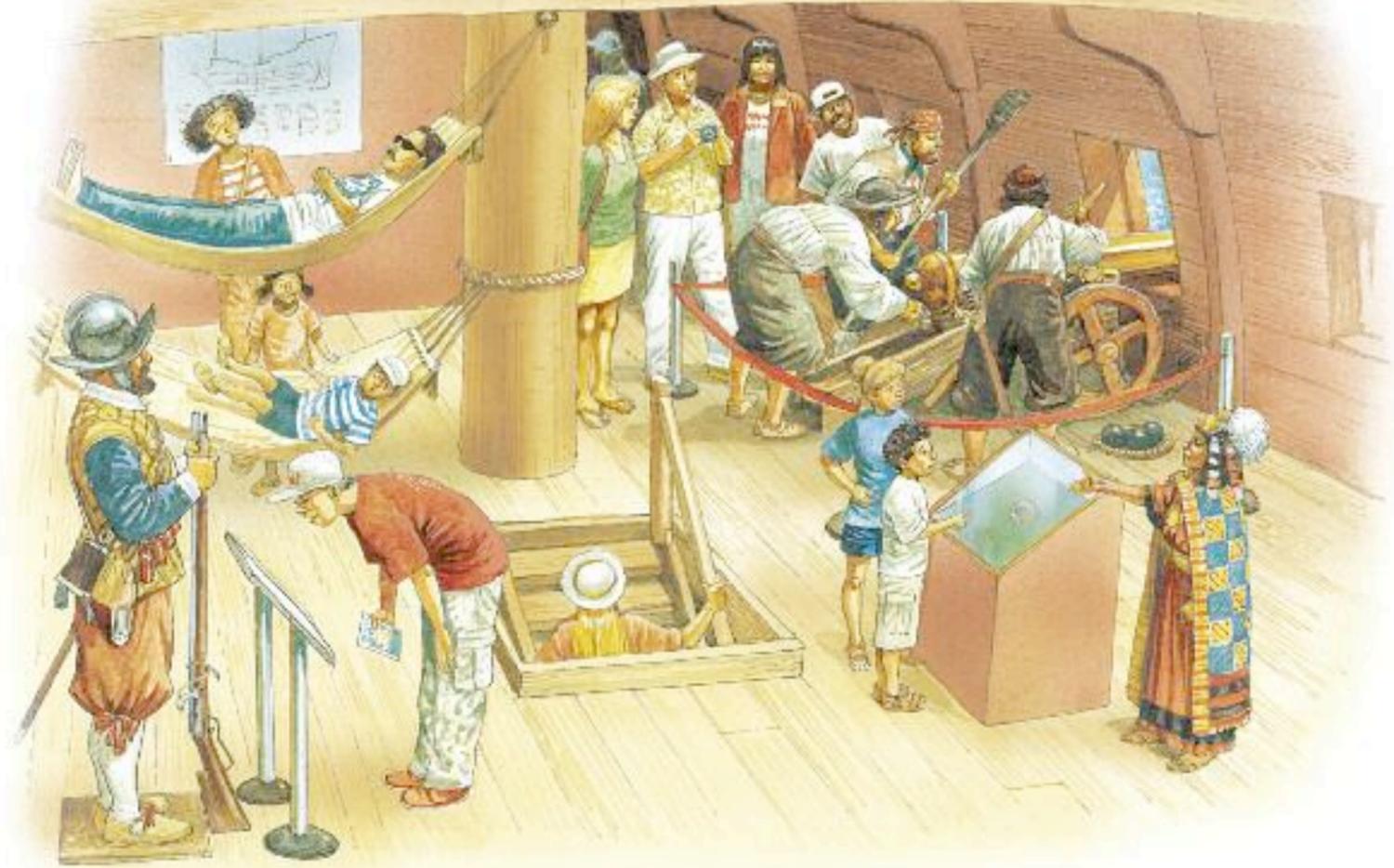
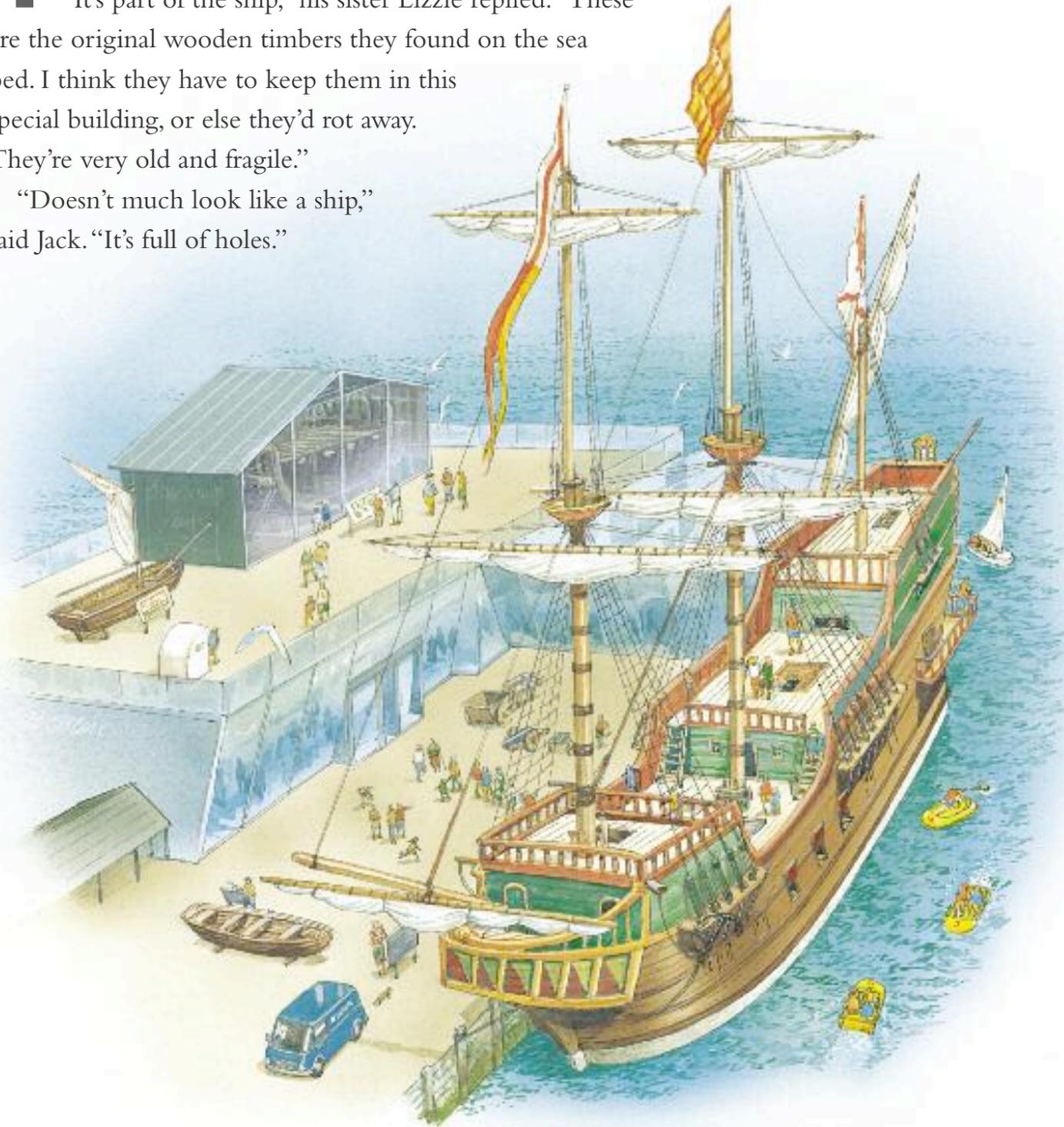
Today: A museum on board a Spanish galleon

The children pressed their noses against the glass and peered in.

“What is it?” asked Jack.

“It’s part of the ship,” his sister Lizzie replied. “These are the original wooden timbers they found on the sea bed. I think they have to keep them in this special building, or else they’d rot away. They’re very old and fragile.”

“Doesn’t much look like a ship,” said Jack. “It’s full of holes.”



Lizzie and Jack had come with their parents to visit an exciting new museum. A wreck of a Spanish galleon, nearly 400 years old, had been discovered on the sea bed a few years ago. Now a shiny new galleon had been built to look exactly like the original one. Painted in brilliant colours, it was a magnificent-looking ship.

A new museum had been opened on board the vessel. The exhibits were laid out on the decks inside. Visitors were taken back to the time when Spanish treasure ships sailed back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean bringing back priceless cargoes of gold and silver from the Americas. Waxwork models of the crew and soldiers showed what life on board must have been like all those years ago.

Lizzie and Jack found a glass case with a gold bracelet inside. “Wow,” cooed Lizzie, softly. “Real treasure.”

“You’re right” came a quiet voice. Just then, a girl, wearing a *very* strange costume, stepped out of the shadows.



The girl wore a richly coloured cloak over a long red dress. A headdress of white feathers was held in place on her braided hair by a gold fast. Seeing the astonished look on the children's faces, she smiled.

"My name's Tica." She looked round at the visitors. "It's OK, no one can see me."

No one but the children had noticed her arrival out of apparently thin air.

"I'm from another time, you see. My father was Emperor of the Incas."

Is she for real? the children gasped.

"Yes, I am a princess. The Incas, my people, lived 600 years ago. This bracelet –" Tica tapped the showcase " – belonged to them."

"So what's it doing here?" Jack asked. "What are *you* doing here?"

Tica laughed. "It's a long story. This bracelet has had many adventures. Would you like to know more?" The children nodded furiously. "Well then, why not follow me and I'll show you everything." She led them towards a door. "By the way, can you swim?"



1995: The Caribbean Sea

The instant they went through the door, the children found themselves deep under water. They both caught their breath in astonishment.

Tica mouthed to them: *hold my hand*. Somehow, they felt safe with her. All around them were divers, like themselves wearing scuba gear. Through the murky water, the children could make out part of the ancient wooden hull that was on display at the museum.

The divers were busy, carefully picking out various objects from the wreck. A cannon was winched to the surface while the children watched. One of the divers had fixed a balloon to a tray containing some gold items they couldn't quite identify. Then Tica pointed at something that the children recognized straight away. It was the gold bracelet! One of the divers had seen it too, and he was about to pluck it from the sea bed.

But where were they? How had they got here? The children were still wondering when Tica guided them through the water to the next door ...



1622: The Caribbean Sea

At least they had their heads above water now. But only just ...

“Where are we, Tica? What’s happening?” cried Lizzie in a frightened voice.

“You’re still in the Caribbean Sea,” she shouted, above the noise of the crashing waves. “But before, you had only gone back a few years. Now you’ve travelled back nearly 400 years! This is our galleon, but it’s hit a bit of a storm!”

Lizzie took a few moments to take it all in. “You mean, the real galleon? The treasure ship *itself*? Us ... here ... *now*?”

“YES!” shouted Tica, at the top of her voice. “WATCH OUT!”

Just then, a massive wave surged through a hole in the ship’s side, hurling pots, barrels, cannon, treasure chests – even some of the sailors themselves – right across the cabin.

“Look, there’s the bracelet!” squealed Jack, just managing to stay on his feet.

But, with another wave about to smash into the stricken vessel, Tica quickly grabbed both the children and shoved them through the next door.



A few weeks earlier

From one peril to another! At least they were out of the water and standing on deck. But – uh-oh – so were a lot of fierce-looking men with guns and swords. The air filled with blood-curdling yells, the boom of gunfire and the clash of metal. Worse still, more and more men brandishing weapons of all kinds were pouring into the ship.

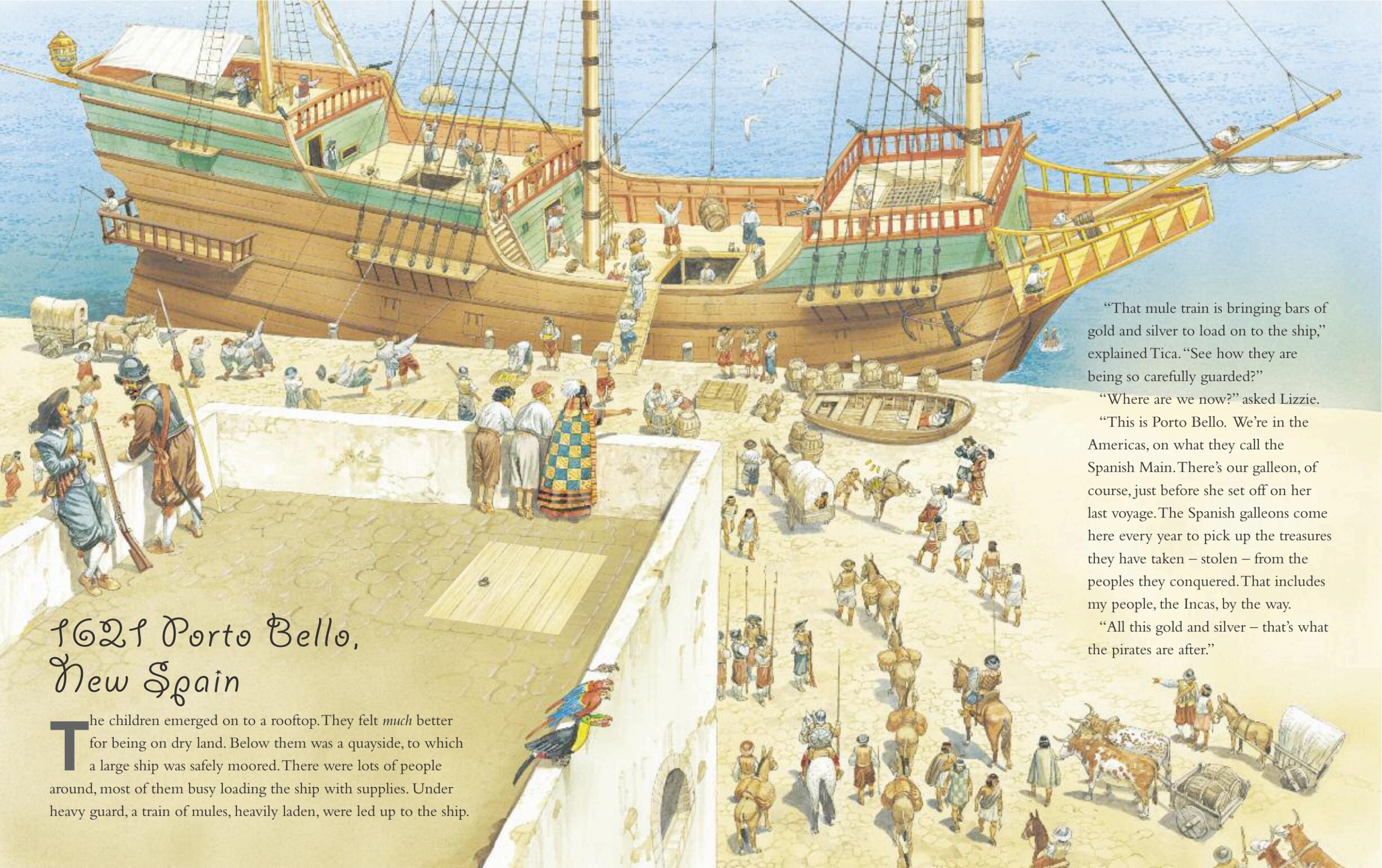
Jack immediately realised what was going on. “PIRATES!” he bellowed.

Tica nodded. She was quite calm, despite the mayhem.

“It was quite common for the Spanish treasure ships to be attacked by pirates. Either they would surrender immediately or, in this case – ” a musket ball flew past her head “– the soldiers would be ready for them. The galleon will easily see off these pirates, but it won’t survive the storm.”

She steered them towards a trapdoor in the deck.





“That mule train is bringing bars of gold and silver to load on to the ship,” explained Tica. “See how they are being so carefully guarded?”

“Where are we now?” asked Lizzie.

“This is Porto Bello. We’re in the Americas, on what they call the Spanish Main. There’s our galleon, of course, just before she set off on her last voyage. The Spanish galleons come here every year to pick up the treasures they have taken – stolen – from the peoples they conquered. That includes my people, the Incas, by the way.

“All this gold and silver – that’s what the pirates are after.”

1621 Porto Bello, New Spain

The children emerged on to a rooftop. They felt *much* better for being on dry land. Below them was a quayside, to which a large ship was safely moored. There were lots of people around, most of them busy loading the ship with supplies. Under heavy guard, a train of mules, heavily laden, were led up to the ship.

1532: Cajamarca, Peru

The children stood in a room with bare stone walls. It was hot and stuffy, but they barely noticed. A small mountain of golden objects lay in the corner. A seemingly endless line of men, under the gaze of some stern-faced guards, trailed in, tipped the precious contents of their baskets on to the pile, and left. As the pile got bigger and bigger, the children's eyes grew wider and wider. Tica's usual sunny smile had vanished. "Time for a short history lesson," she snarled.

"When the Spanish invaded our country, they were led by a man called Francisco Pizarro. He was a cunning man, and somehow managed to defeat the Inca army – tens of thousands of men – with a force of less than 200 soldiers. The Spanish had guns and horses, but we had only clubs and axes. We had no chance. Pizarro captured the Emperor, but promised to release him in return for enough gold to fill a room."

Tica turned and pointed at the pile of golden objects. She all but spat out the words: "*This gold. This room. And they still killed him. Come, let's go. Back to happier times.*"



1472: Machu Picchu, Peru

A broad, beaming smile spread across Tica's face once more.

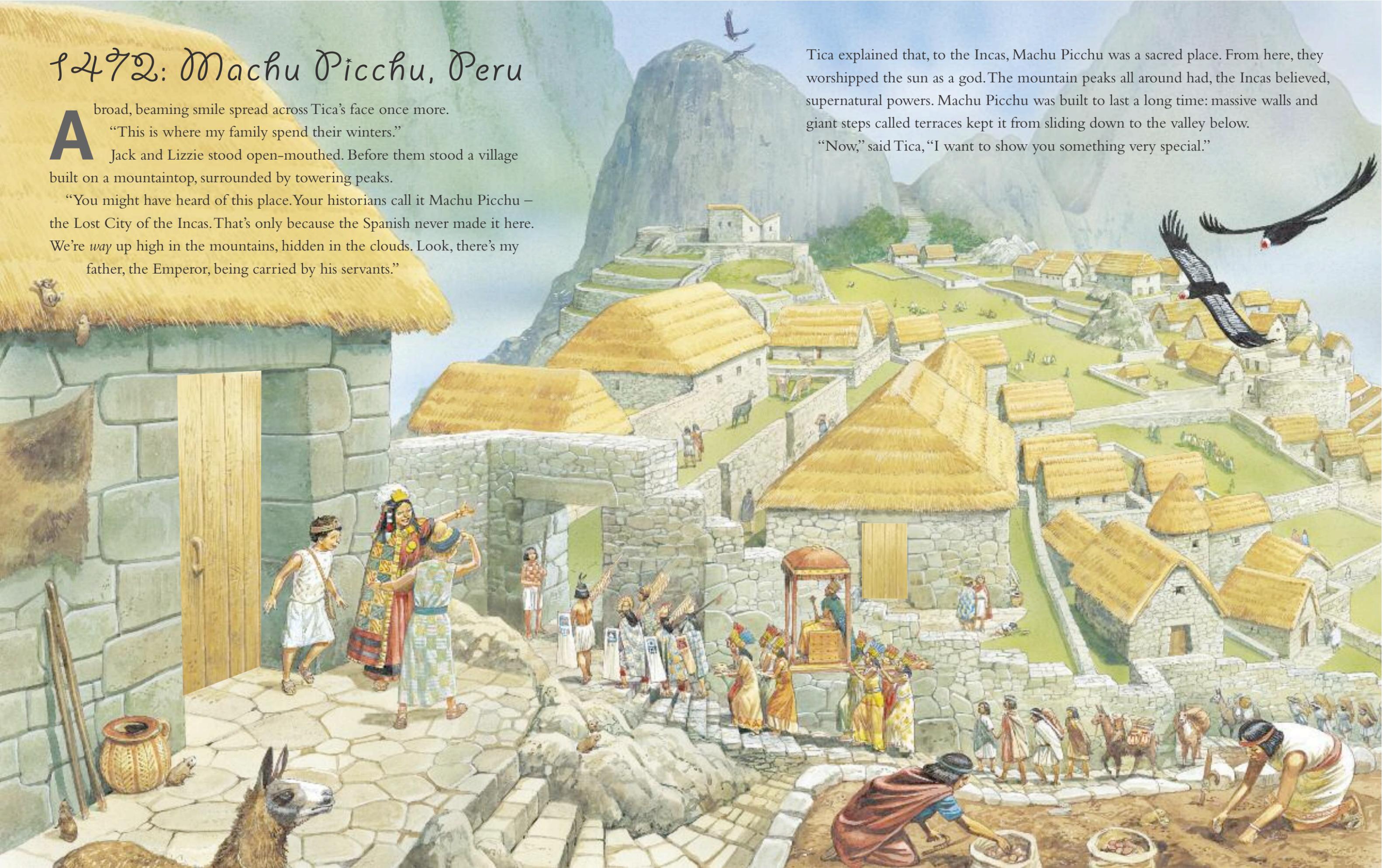
"This is where my family spend their winters."

Jack and Lizzie stood open-mouthed. Before them stood a village built on a mountaintop, surrounded by towering peaks.

"You might have heard of this place. Your historians call it Machu Picchu – the Lost City of the Incas. That's only because the Spanish never made it here. We're *way* up high in the mountains, hidden in the clouds. Look, there's my father, the Emperor, being carried by his servants."

Tica explained that, to the Incas, Machu Picchu was a sacred place. From here, they worshipped the sun as a god. The mountain peaks all around had, the Incas believed, supernatural powers. Machu Picchu was built to last a long time: massive walls and giant steps called terraces kept it from sliding down to the valley below.

"Now," said Tica, "I want to show you something very special."



It was a goldsmith's workshop. The children watched as some Inca men and women skilfully worked the gold into different shapes, including little statues of people and animals, called figurines. Hanging up was an impressive looking plate which Tica told them was a map. A map made of gold: *how cool was that?*

"We call gold 'sweat of the sun'. Inca craftworkers make things out of all metals – silver, bronze, copper – but gold is the most special. When they stole our gold, the Spanish melted nearly all of it down into bars. So, all these beautiful things – gone forever."

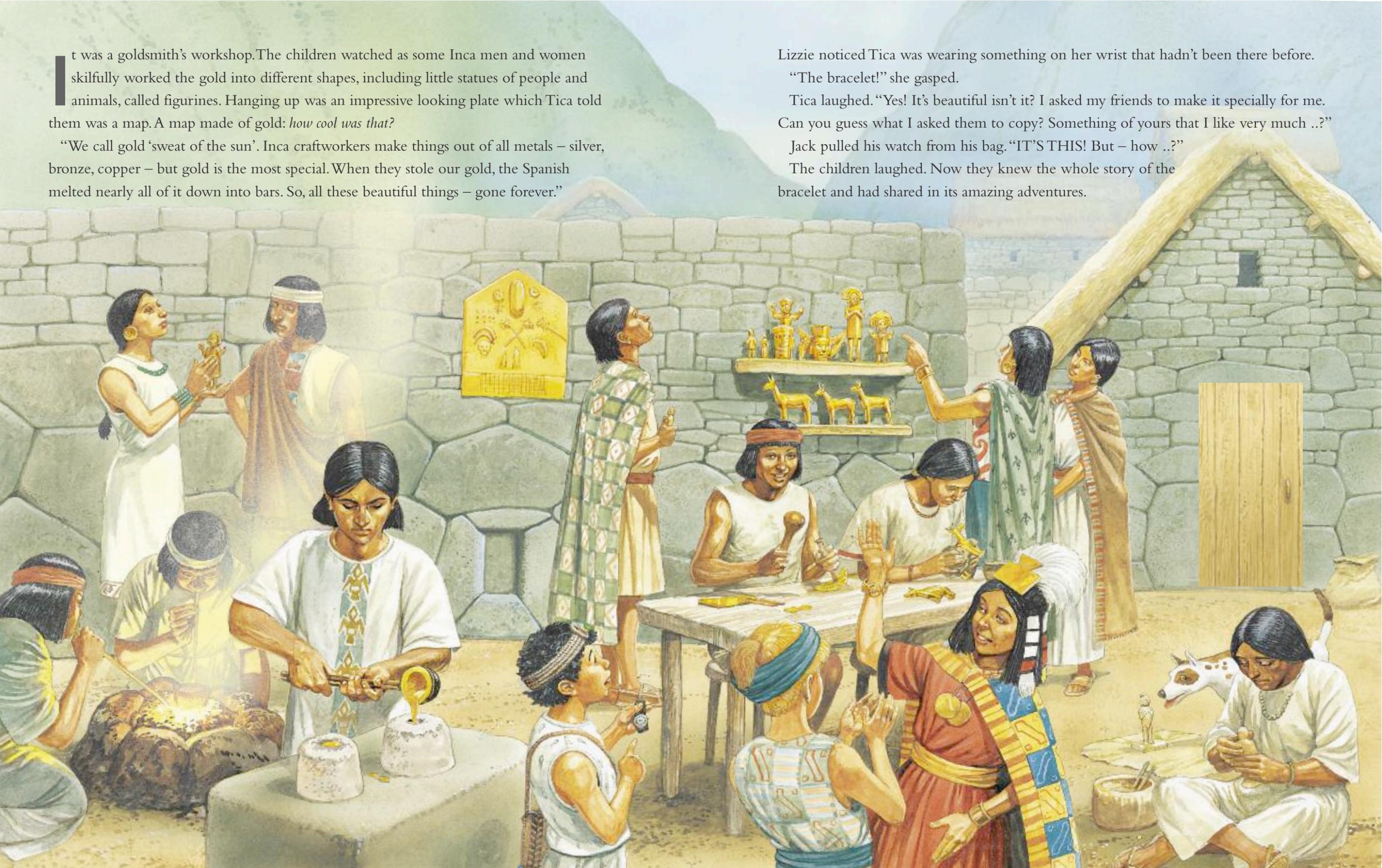
Lizzie noticed Tica was wearing something on her wrist that hadn't been there before.

"The bracelet!" she gasped.

Tica laughed. "Yes! It's beautiful isn't it? I asked my friends to make it specially for me. Can you guess what I asked them to copy? Something of yours that I like very much ..?"

Jack pulled his watch from his bag. "IT'S THIS! But – how ..?"

The children laughed. Now they knew the whole story of the bracelet and had shared in its amazing adventures.



Back to today

It was sad leaving Tica behind, but she was now back in her own time, and so Lizzie and Jack had to get back to theirs. A door in the massive stone walls of a Macchu Picchu building showed them the way.

Now they were back inside the galleon museum from where they had set out all that time ago. They hurried down the corridor.

“Hey, look that old pirate,” giggled Jack, as they passed a scary waxwork figure. “He doesn’t seem quite as frightening as the real thing, does he?”

They broke into a run, worrying whether their parents would still be there ...



They found them in the same room where they had come across the bracelet showcase.

“Oh, thank goodness you’re still here,” Lizzie said, breathlessly. “We thought you’d be worried where we’d got to.”

Their parents looked at each other, blankly.

“Well, you were both standing looking at this thing just a second ago,” said their dad.

Lizzie realised their great journey back through hundreds of years had all taken place within the blink of an eye. Jack was jumping up and down in excitement.

“We met an Inca princess and she told us she knew all about this bracelet ... she took us under water, and showed us pirates and Spanish soldiers and Inca emperors and ...”

His mum and dad laughed, and suggested they all went to find a nice café.



THE STORY OF THE SPANISH MAIN

1. COLUMBUS SAILS FOR THE INDIES

In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain with a fleet of three ships under his command: *Niña*, *Pinta* and his flagship, *Santa Maria* (left). He was in search of a sea route to Asia. He believed, as many navigators did in those days, that the world was round. That meant the Far East could be reached more easily by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean than by taking the long and hazardous route eastwards around Africa.

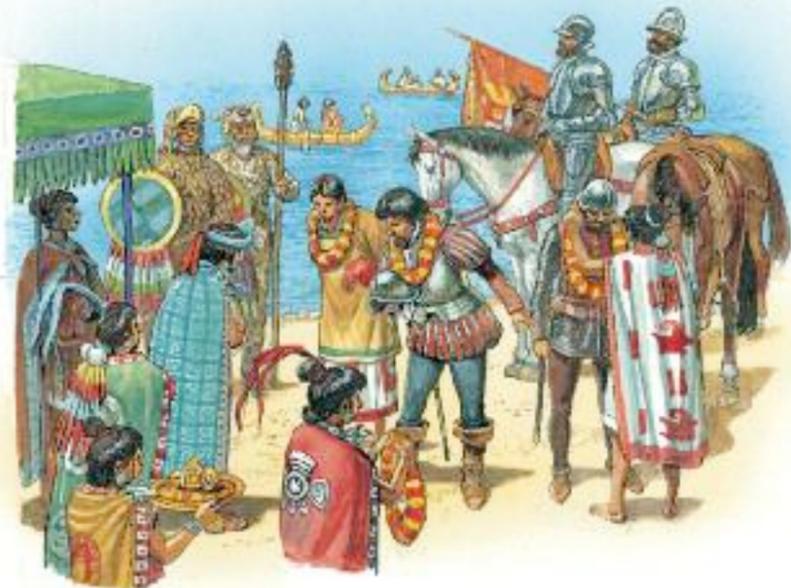
When he arrived in the Caribbean, Columbus was surprised to find he wasn't in China. No one in Europe knew the Americas even existed. Setting foot on a Caribbean island, Columbus had, in fact, accidentally landed in the Americas.

Amerigo Vespucci's later exploration of the east coast of South America confirmed that the lands Columbus had discovered were part of a new continent. It was named "America" after Vespucci's first name.

2. THE CONQUISTADORES ARRIVE

The Spanish crown now encouraged further expeditions to explore and conquer new lands. The first campaigns were led by the *conquistadores*, soldiers and adventurers in search of riches and fame. Hernán Cortés was eager to find the fabulous Aztec Empire. Leading a small band of soldiers, he sailed to Mexico and marched to the capital. Here he met the Aztec Emperor, Moctezuma (right). The Spanish army defeated the Aztecs in 1521. Several years later, Francisco Pizarro conquered another ancient American people, the Inca Empire.

Spain claimed much of Central and South America as its own. The *conquistadores* had found gold, silver and other treasures there. To transport them back to Spain, cargo ships were sent to ports founded by Spain on the Caribbean coast – the Spanish Main.



The Jolly Roger

3. PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Carrying such valuable cargo, the Spanish treasure ships were a tempting target. Privateers (short for "private men-of-war") were seamen who captured vessels on behalf of another country. The privateer captain and the king shared the spoils. Britain, France and the Netherlands, all hostile to Spain, hired privateers to steal and plunder the Spanish ships. The privateers joined forces with local raiders, called buccaneers, to attack Spanish ships. Buccaneers were fortune-hunters from Jamaica, Tortuga and Hispaniola. Their name came from the French *boucanier*,

meaning "wild pig hunter".

Soon after the treasure ships began to transport gold and silver back from ports on the Spanish Main, the "Golden Age of Piracy" in the Caribbean Sea began.

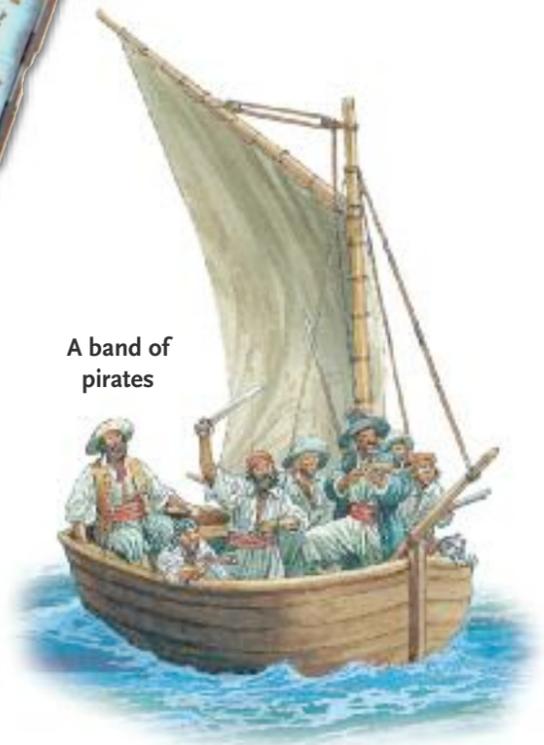


Pirate ships would often take a galleon by surprise, swapping a friendly flag for the Jolly Roger only moments before their attack. The pirate ship would draw alongside the galleon, using a grappling iron to hold the ships together. The pirates leapt aboard, brandishing cutlasses (short-bladed swords), pistols, axes and daggers. Faced with such a threatening force, the captain might surrender his ship without a shot being fired. The victorious pirates would then make off with their plunder: their opponents' possessions, arms, supplies and, of course, their precious cargo of treasure.

Gold and silver bars and coins



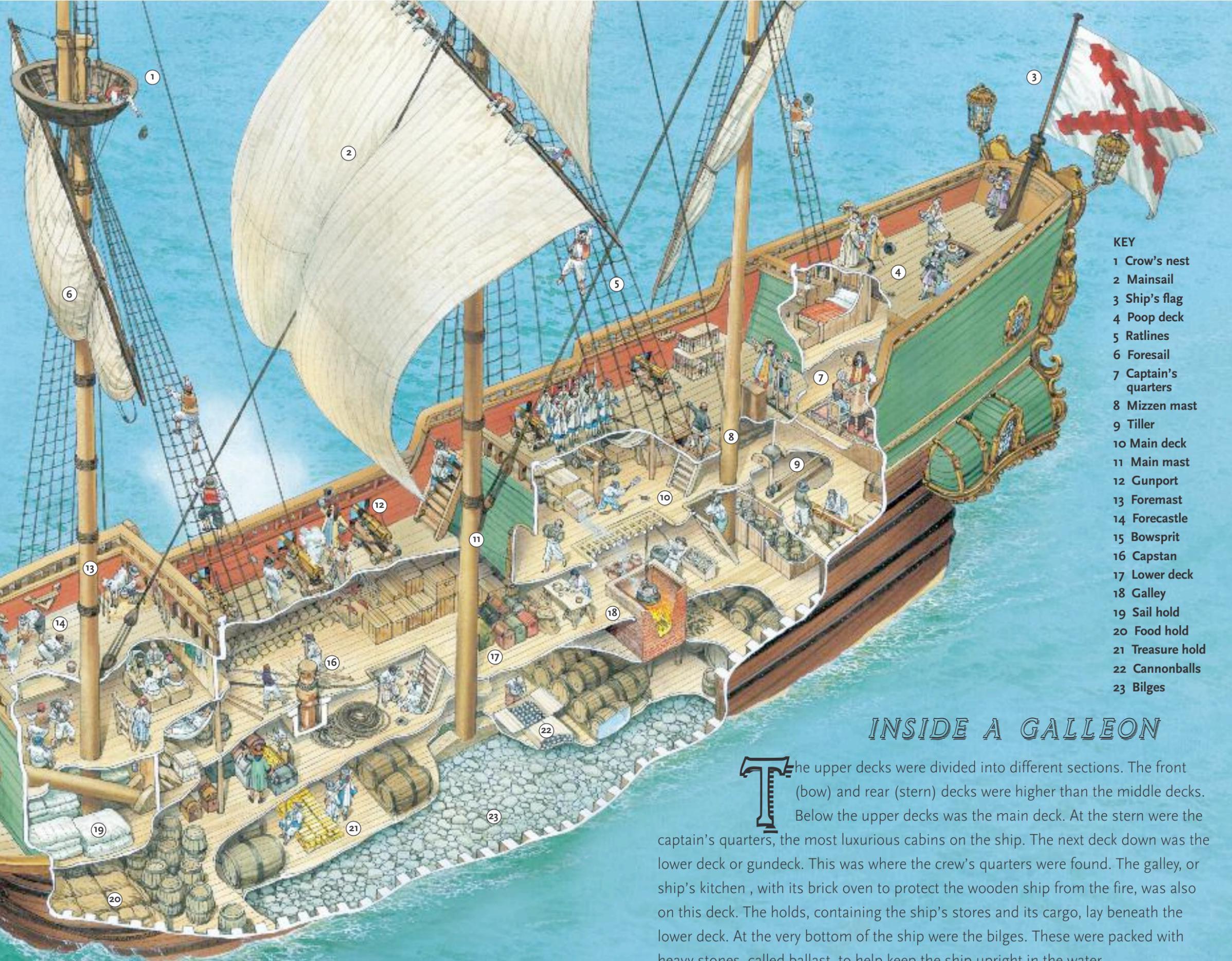
A band of pirates



THE SPANISH TREASURE SHIPS

The galleon was originally built as a warship to escort the fleet of treasure ships sailing between Spain and the Americas. From about 1600, all treasure from the Americas was transported in galleons.

A galleon was a huge ocean-going ship, over 35 metres long and 10 metres wide. It had up to 30 cannons on each side. Despite its great size, a galleon was vulnerable to pirate attacks because it was slow to steer. The crew of more than 200 men relied on the ship's weaponry to defend themselves. During battle, at least 60 men were needed to fire the cannons. The remainder of the crew manned the smaller guns, sailed the ship, repaired damage and tended the wounded.



KEY

- 1 Crow's nest
- 2 Mainsail
- 3 Ship's flag
- 4 Poop deck
- 5 Ratlines
- 6 Foresail
- 7 Captain's quarters
- 8 Mizzen mast
- 9 Tiller
- 10 Main deck
- 11 Main mast
- 12 Gunport
- 13 Foremast
- 14 Forecastle
- 15 Bowsprit
- 16 Capstan
- 17 Lower deck
- 18 Galley
- 19 Sail hold
- 20 Food hold
- 21 Treasure hold
- 22 Cannonballs
- 23 Bilges

INSIDE A GALLEON

The upper decks were divided into different sections. The front (bow) and rear (stern) decks were higher than the middle decks. Below the upper decks was the main deck. At the stern were the captain's quarters, the most luxurious cabins on the ship. The next deck down was the lower deck or gundeck. This was where the crew's quarters were found. The galley, or ship's kitchen, with its brick oven to protect the wooden ship from the fire, was also on this deck. The holds, containing the ship's stores and its cargo, lay beneath the lower deck. At the very bottom of the ship were the bilges. These were packed with heavy stones, called ballast, to help keep the ship upright in the water.

