

# Lesson 2 Ancient Andean Civilizations

## MAIN IDEAS

**Culture** The art of the Chavín, which featured religious images, influenced other cultures.

**Culture** The Nazca civilization left behind beautiful art and mysterious images.

**Science and Technology** The Moche created a complex system of agriculture that supported important city structures.

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## The Chavín Civilization

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What was the Chavín civilization?

### Ancient Culture in Peru

- **Chavín** culture built Chavín de Huantar temple in Peruvian Andes
  - culture flourished between 900 and 200 B.C.

### The Chavín Ruins

- Archaeologists think Chavín civilization was united by religion
- Little is known about Chavín politics, economy

### Religion and Art

- Chavín de Huantar may have been holy city, led by ruler-priests
  - society's farmers may have built city to fulfill religious duty
  - religious followers may have come to center for festivals
- Chavín culture, art spread across northern, central Peru
  - art style seen in stone carvings, black and red pottery
  - the Chavín embroidered images into woven cloth called **textiles**

### REVIEW QUESTION

How did the Chavín influence other cultures?

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# The Nazca Civilization

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How did the Nazca adapt to their harsh environment?

## Nazca Culture

- Other cultures rose in Peru after the Chavín's decline
- **Nazca** culture on southern coast prospered from 200 B.C. to A.D. 600

## Irrigation and Agriculture

- Nazca had farm-based economy
  - area received less than an inch of rainfall each year
  - built network of underground canals to water crops

## Art

- Nazca known for their pottery, textiles
  - painted bowls, pitchers with people, animals, mythical creatures
- Wove alpaca wool into decorated ponchos, shirts, headbands

## The Nazca Lines

- Nazca Lines may be religious drawings created for mountain, sky gods
  - may mark water flow or form giant astronomical calendar, map
  - may show routes of **aquifers**—underground water sources

## REVIEW QUESTION

What is the Nazca culture known for?

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# The Moche Civilization

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What does Moche art tell us about their civilization?

## Moche Culture

- **Moche** culture arose in Peru's hot, dry northern coast, A.D. 100-700
  - named for Moche—city believed to be capital of civilization

## Agriculture

- Moche used advanced farming techniques
  - channeled rivers from Andes into irrigation systems
  - grew corn, beans, squash, avocados, chile peppers, peanuts
- Hunted, fished, gathered snails and plants, ate ducks, llamas

## City Structures

- Moche were good engineers, architects
  - Temple of the Sun pyramid, Temple of the Moon in city of Moche
- Temples may have been political centers from which nobles ruled
  - lower classes of farmers, laborers probably paid taxes
  - taxes covered repair of temples, city structures

## Art

- Leaders, wealthy wore gold, silver, turquoise jewelry made by Moche
  - also wore textiles with pictures of people, plants, animals
- Images on pottery tell us about Moche daily life
  - include doctors with patients, women weaving, musicians
- Moche religious beliefs, Moche civilization decline still a mystery

## REVIEW QUESTION

How have archaeologists learned about the Moche civilization?

## Lesson Summary

- Chavín religion spread to a large area along Peru's coast.
- The Nazca developed irrigation systems and etched mysterious lines on the ground.
- The Moche civilization built large cities where artists crafted beautiful jewelry and pottery.

## Why It Matters Now . . .

The farming methods used by the ancient Andean civilizations can help people today bring water to their dry fields and develop crops that grow well there.