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.

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?
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?
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.