

4.2

The World of the Incas

As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Examine the early cultures of the Andes.**
- **Understand how Inca emperors extended and maintained their empire.**
- **Describe the major developments of Inca civilization.**

Culture of the Andes

People began to settle coast of Peru & Chile to establish fishing villages

Eventually moving inland into the highlands to begin agriculture in the mountains

The llama & Alpaca was domesticated & potatoes were grown

Large ceremonial centers were build & pottery & weaving skills were valued

First People

The **Chavin-** first people in the region who build a huge temple complex, influencing later cultures

The **Moche** people developed fertilizing procedures, roads, canals, & relay runners to deliver messages

Adobe- Mixture of clay & plant fibers that becomes hard as it dries, used for building construction

The Moche people used textiles, gold, wood carving, & ceramics to mimic people & animals

Other Cultures

The **Nazca** people etched giant geoglyphs in the desert of animals for religious meaning

Geoglyphs- large earth carvings made by clearing stone or soil

Huari- Nazca city that controlled Peru's mountains & coastal areas

Tiahuanaco- formed on Lake Titicaca ruling over Argentina, Chile, & Peru

Powerful Inca Empire

The Inca civilization appears in the 1100s forming its first dynasty

1438 **Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui**- skilled warrior & leader of the Inca people bringing the culture to greatness

Proclaimed himself **Sapa Inca**- Emperor

He begins a mass expansion of conquest from his small kingdom in **Cuzco**, making it the capital

Inca Government

Sapa Inca held absolute power claiming to be the son of the sun & served as the religious leader

Gold was considered the “sweat of the sun” served as his symbol & the wife was queen or Coya

Inca people had no personal property & engaged in trade and bartering.

Periodically, the Sapa Inca would collect young men as laborers to complete big projects

Government & Language

Nobles ruled with chieftains of tribes they conquered & officials carried out laws & organized labor

Quipu- Collection of colored strings knotted in different ways to represent various numbers

Yupanas- system of stone grids representing various math values

Quechua was the language they spoke & they enforced their religion on conquered people

Roads & Capitals

The Inca would build 14,000 miles of roads through the mountains & deserts

Bridges were invented to cover deep gorges, steps were cut into steep stones, tunnels dug through hillsides

Runner Relays would travel messages swiftly to the capital among guard outposts

All the roads lead to Cuzco towards the Temple of the Sun

Inca Life

Ayllu- Leaders of each Inca village, they assigned jobs & sometimes arranged marriages at certain ages

Incas used **terraced farming-** cutting out flat strips of land on hillsides using stone supports

Farming was split for food for the community & for the emperor & temples to store

Incas were skilled metalworkers who would **alloy** or blend metals together

Medicine & Ritual

Incas would be some of the first people to work on the human skull & use a plant to knock people unconscious

Inca people would also use medicine to mummify the dead, much like Egypt

Every month had its own festival that were celebrated through dance, sports, & games

Inti- The Sun god, had “chosen women” to become powerful priestesses

****Compare 3 Civilizations**

They all had well organized governments to run their civilizations along with complex religions

Each society broke people down into social classes & put people into job specializations

Each society built magnificent architecture, art, & public works

All civilizations were inspired by those that came before them