Pre-Columbian Empires of South America

Moche
- Successor to Chavin
- Classical Era civilization
  o Developed around 2nd century B.C.E.
  o Peru
- Harsh climate
  o Needed irrigation
  ▪ Corn, beans, pepper, squash, cotton
- High culture
  o Architecture
  ▪ Pyramids
  o Jewelry
  o Pottery
  ▪ With painted depictions of Moche life
  o Burial process
- Trade
  o Traded up and down Pacific coast of South America and Mesoamerica
- Downfall
  o 7th – 8th Century C.E.
  o El Nino
  ▪ Rain
  ▪ Drought
  ▪ Earthquakes
  ▪ Human sacrifices to appease gods

Aymara
- Developed in Lake Titicaca area
  o Modern day Bolivia
  o 100 C.E. – 1100 C.E.
- Architecture
  o Made of stone
  o Plazas
  o Palaces
  o Temples
- Capital of Tiwanaku
  o Maybe as many as 40,000 inhabitants
- Agriculture
  o Raised field system
  ▪ Potatoes
  o Llamas

Nazca
- Peruvian Highlands
- 200 B.C.E. – 600 C.E.
- Technology
  o Pottery
  o textiles
- Most famous for geometric shapes constructed
  o Unclear on purpose
Inca
- Migrated to area
  o Settled around Lake Titicaca
  o Mid 13th Century
- Pachacuti
  o r. 1438-1471
  o Military Expansion
    ▪ Highlands first then coastal lowlands
    ▪ 4000 km long empire
      • Santiago to Quito
    ▪ Limited by Amazon
- Government
  o Incan elite
    ▪ Took main governmental role
      • Used Quipu to keep track of information
        o Small cords with knots to help them remember information
  o Conquered
    ▪ Incorporated into military
    ▪ Leaders sometimes forced to live in Incan capital
    ▪ Loyal Incans sent to colonize conquered lands
      • Allowed choice land
    ▪ Forced resettlement in event of rebellion
  o Cuzco
    ▪ Capital
      • Administrative, Religious, ceremonial center
        o 100,000 – 300,000 people
      • Home of governmental elites and high priests
  o Centralized
    ▪ Road system
      • Communication
      • One through mountains, one along coast
        o 10,000 miles or more
      • Runners
    ▪ Spread culture
      o Language and religion
- Religion
  o Natural based religion
    ▪ Inti – Sun god
    ▪ Primary deity
      • Stars, moon, planets, rain etc...
  o Vuracocha
    ▪ Creator of the world
  o Gods honored with sacrifices
    ▪ Llamas and Guinea pigs
  o Sin
    ▪ Violation of natural order
      • Punishment in afterlife
      • Would bring divine punishment
- Society
  o Trade
    ▪ Not much on small scale
• Barter system
  • Did not allow for the rise of merchant class
  • Large scale
    • Regulated by government
    • Traded agricultural production and crafts
  o Ruling elites
    • Divine Chieftain
      • Owned all land, livestock, and property
        o Divided land among people
      • Mummified
        o Deified
        o Used in ceremonies after death
- Aristocrats
  o Access to fine foods and clothes
  o Signified by elongated earlobes
  o Hereditary
- Priests
  o Came from aristocratic families
  o Ascetic lives
    • Celibate
    • Removal from worldly goods
  o Oversaw religious ceremonies
    • Educated
- Peasants
  o Lived in ayllu
    • Small rural communities
    • Consisted of a couple families
    • Communal
      • Shared tools, land, animals, work
    • Worked land of aristocrats
      • Supported priests and aristocrats
      • Excess went to storehouses
        o In case of famine and for those unable to work
    • Agriculture based
      • Potatoes
      • Llamas
      • Step system in Mountains
  o Workers
    • Men did heavy labor
      • Irrigation canals
      • Roads
    • Women produced crafts
      • Textiles
      • Pottery, jewelry