

# Pre-Columbian Empires of South America

## Moche

- Successor to Chavín
- Classical Era civilization
  - o Developed around 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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



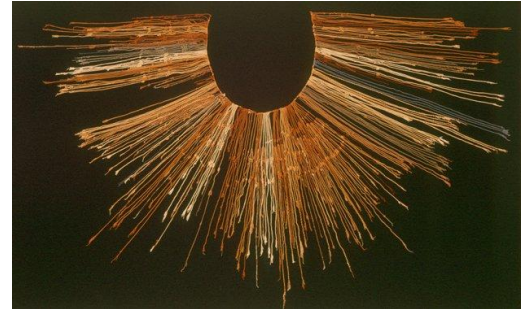
## Nazca

- 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 13<sup>th</sup> Century
- Pachacuti
  - o r. 1438-1471
  - o Military Expansion
    - Highlands first then costal 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
- Ruling elites
  - Divine Chieftain
    - Owned all land, livestock, and property
      - Divided land among people
    - Mummified
      - Deified
      - Used in ceremonies after death
- Aristocrats
  - Access to fine foods and clothes
  - Signified by elongated earlobes
  - Hereditary
- Priests
  - Came from aristocratic families
  - Ascetic lives
    - Celibate
    - Removal from worldly goods
  - Oversaw religious ceremonies
    - Educated
- Peasants
  - 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
        - In case of famine and for those unable to work
    - Agriculture based
      - Potatoes
      - Llamas
      - Step system in Mountains
  - Workers
    - Men did heavy labor
      - Irrigation canals
      - Roads
    - Women produced crafts
      - Textiles
      - Pottery, jewelry

