

The Americas: A Separate World**Section 3****Early Civilizations of the Andes****Terms and Names**

Chavín First influential culture in South America, which flourished from around 900 B.C. to 200 B.C.

Nazca Culture that flourished along the southern coast of Peru from around 200 B.C. to A.D. 600

Moche Culture that flourished along the northern coast of Peru from around A.D. 100 to A.D. 700

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the first Mesoamerican civilizations.

In this section, you will read about the civilizations of the Andes.

As You Read

Use a chart to record important information about early Andean civilizations.

SOCIETIES ARISE IN THE ANDES

(Pages 246–249)

What geographic factors made it unlikely for a civilization to arise?

Other interesting civilizations arose in the Americas far to the south of the Olmec and Zapotec peoples. These civilizations grew in a very harsh environment—the Andes in South America. This mountain range has many peaks that are more than 20,000 feet high.

Toward the northern part of South America, along these mountains, lies the modern country of Peru. In this area, the mountains are steep and very rocky. Ice and snow cover the tops of the mountains during the entire year. Travel is hard.

The climate changes quickly from being hot during the day to bitter cold at night. The soil is poor.

It was in the mountains of this difficult land that a new civilization arose. That culture is called Chavín. It takes its name

from a major ruin, Chavín de Huántar in the Andes. At this site, researchers have found pyramids, open spaces, and large mounds made of earth. The Chavín culture was at its height from 900 B.C. to 200 B.C. It is considered the first influential civilization in South America.

Scientists have found objects that suggest that the Chavín culture helped shape other cultures to the north and south of this site. At these other sites are the art styles and symbols of religion found at Chavín. Scientists think that the main site was not the center of a political empire but was the chief site of a spiritual or religious movement. People from other areas may have made trips to the main site to pay their respects. The Chavín culture, like the Olmec in Mexico, may have been a “mother culture,” one that gave the first form to the ideas and styles of the area.

Section 3, *continued*

1. What theories do scientists have about the Chavín culture?

OTHER ANDEAN CIVILIZATIONS FLOURISH (Pages 247–249)

What other Andean civilizations developed?

Two other important cultures arose in Peru. The **Nazca** culture developed along the coast of the Pacific Ocean in the south of Peru. It lasted from 200 B.C. to A.D. 600. The Nazca people built large and complex systems to bring water to their farmlands. They made beautiful cloth and pottery.

The Nazca are most famous for the Nazca Lines. They are huge pictures scraped on the surface of a rocky plain. The drawings include a monkey, a spider, some birds, and other creatures. The pictures are so large that they can be seen and appreciated only from high in the air. Some experts think that the Nazca drew these pictures for their gods to see.

The other culture of early Peru arose along the Pacific Coast but far to the north. This was the **Moche** culture. It

lasted from A.D. 100 to A.D. 700. The Moche tapped into rivers that flowed down from the mountains. They built ditches to bring water to their fields. They raised corn, beans, potatoes, squash, and peanuts. They also fished, caught wild ducks and pigs, and hunted deer.

Archaeologists have found some tombs of the Moche people. They show that the culture had great wealth. They have found objects made of gold, silver, and jewels. The Moche people made beautiful pottery that showed scenes of everyday life. So, even though they never had a written language, it is possible to learn much about how they lived.

Eventually, the Moche culture also fell. As with the other peoples of the Americas, the reason for this fall is not known. For the next hundred years, other cultures would rise and fall in the Americas. But most of them remained separate from one another.

2. Name three characteristics of the Moche people.

Section 3, *continued*

As you read this section, fill in the chart to compare three early civilizations that developed in the Andes.

Civilization	Environment	When Flourished	Aspects of Culture
1. Chavín			
2. Nazca			
3. Moche			