

CHAPTER

6

SECTION 2

Section Summary

ANDEAN CULTURES OF SOUTH AMERICA

The first cultures of South America developed in the Andean region. The earliest was the **Chavín** culture, named for the ruins at Chavín de Huantar in Peru. Around 900 B.C., the people built a huge temple complex. Chavín's arts and religion influenced later peoples of Peru. Later, between A.D. 100 and 700, the **Moche** people lived along the north coast of Peru. They improved farming techniques, built roads, and used relay runners to carry messages. They also used **adobe** to build the largest adobe structure in the Americas. Skilled artisans worked in textiles, gold, woodcarving, and ceramics.

The **Nazca** people lived between 500 B.C. and A.D. 500. They are known for the geoglyphs they etched in the desert of southern Peru. East of the Nazca, the city of **Huari** controlled mountains and coastal areas in Peru. To the south, **Tiahuanaco** became a powerful city on Lake Titicaca. The two cities may have been connected through trade or religion because their artistic styles are similar.

The most powerful of the Andean peoples were the Inca. Their civilization began in the 1100s, but greatly expanded its power after 1438. That is when **Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui**, a skilled warrior and leader, declared himself **Sapa Inca**, or emperor. Eventually, the Inca empire controlled 2,500 miles along the Andes, from Ecuador to Chile. The Inca built a network of roads of about 14,000 miles, winding through deserts and over mountains. The roads allowed news and armies to travel quickly throughout the empire. All roads led through the capital **Cuzco**. Various culture groups from all over the empire lived in this city.

The emperor had absolute power and was also the religious leader. Inca rulers ran an efficient government. Nobles ruled provinces, and local officials handled everyday business. Officials kept records on colored, knotted strings called **quipu**. Everyone had to speak the Inca language and follow the Inca religion. Each village, or **ayllu**, had a leader who assigned jobs and organized work for the government. Farmers created terraces to farm the steep hillsides. They spent part of the year farming for their village and part working land for the emperor.

The Inca worshipped many gods, but the chief god was **Inti**, the sun god. Religious festivals occurred each month to celebrate the forces of nature that were important to the Inca.

Review Questions

1. Which group was the most powerful Andean civilization?

2. What was the responsibility of the village leader?

READING CHECK

What three peoples lived in South America before the Inca?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *network* mean in the underlined sentence? *Network* is a compound word. Use the meanings of the two words that make up *network* to help you figure out its meaning.

READING SKILL

Contrast How did the Inca civilization change after 1438?
