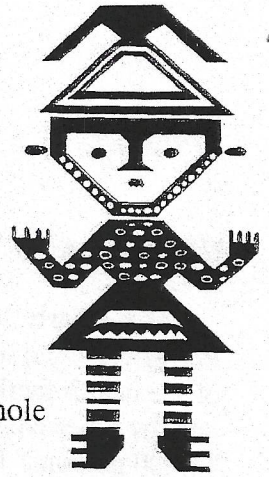


PERU-THE GEM OF THE ANDES

FCE study - Oregon State Conference – October 3, 2007
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*Please be advised that this handout corresponds with the DVD presented at the State Conference, which should be available at the state level. It is impossible to cover a whole country in an hour presentation or on a few pages. The study group presenters are expected to do some delving into the topic on their own.

FACTS ABOUT PERU

Location: Western South America, bordering the South Pacific Ocean, between Chile and Bolivia

Area comparative: slightly smaller than Alaska

Borders: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador

Climate: varies from tropical in the east to dry desert in the west; temperate to frigid in the Andes

Elevation extremes: lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 ft; highest 22,205 ft

Natural resources: copper, silver, gold, petroleum, timber, fish, iron ore, coal, phosphate, potash, hydropower, and natural gas

Natural hazards: earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, landslides, mild volcanic activity

Current issues: deforestation (some the result of illegal logging); overgrazing of the slopes of the Andes leading to soil erosion; desertification; air pollution in larger cities and coastal waters of municipal and mining wastes

Geography note: shares control of world's highest navigable lake (Titicaca) with Bolivia and is the ultimate source of the Amazon River

Ethnic Groups: Amerindian (native Indian) 45%, Mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white) 37%, white 15%, Black, Japanese, Chinese, and other 3%

Capital: Lima

Administrative: 25 regions and 1 province

Independence: July 28, 1821 (from Spain)

Legal system: based on civil law system

Suffrage: 18 years of age; compulsory til the age of 70; members of the military may not vote

Executive branch: President (elected by popular vote for 5 years, may be elected a second term, 1st VP, 2nd VP (pres is both chief of state and head of government; there is a prime minister who does not exercise executive power; cabinet

Legislative branch: Congress of the Republic of Peru (popular vote for 5 years)

Judicial branch: Supreme Court of Justice (appointed)

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

In the early 1990s, Peru was hit by a cholera epidemic, which highlighted longstanding health care problems. Peru is very vulnerable to disease and the uneven distribution of resources to combat it. The most and best of the health facilities were concentrated in metropolitan Lima. Lima had a doctor for every 400 persons, and the other coastal areas had a ratio of one doctor for every 2,000, the highlands had a doctor for every 12,000 persons. The same level of difference applied with respect to hospital beds, nurses, and all other medical specialties.

In the early 1990s, over 25 % of urban residences and over 90% of rural residences lacked basic potable water and sewerage. Thus, the population has been inevitably exposed to wide variety of waterborne diseases. The leading causes of death by infectious diseases have been respiratory infections, gastroenteritis, common colds, malaria, tuberculosis, influenza, measles, chicken pox and whooping cough. 40% of the deaths were children under 4 years old.

Peru's infant mortality rate to children under 5 years is twice the rate of Colombia and four times the rate of Chile. The lack of general well-being is suggested by the growing dependence on foreign food since 1975 through direct imports. The United States has been by far the largest provider of food assistance to Peru through its multiple programs administered under the Food for Peace. The aid has been administered by CARE (Cooperative for American Relief), church-related private voluntary organizations, or by direct sale to the Peruvian government for urban market resale.

ECONOMY

Peru has a totally inadequate social security system augmented by corrupt government practices. The cholera and other health and social issues in Peru are implemented by the country's steadily worsening environmental conditions. This is highlighted by uncontrolled dumping of industrial, automotive, and domestic wastes that creates a gaseous atmosphere. The loss of irrigated coastal farmland to urban sprawl, erosion of highland farms, and the clear-cutting of Amazonian forest all have conspired to have never been coherently or effectively utilized to construct a balance and progressive society. The irony of Peru's condition was captured long ago in the characterization of the nation as being a 'pauper sitting on a throne of gold'. How to put the gold in the pauper's pockets without destroying the chair on which to sit is a puzzle that Peruvians and their international supporters have yet to solve. The country has accumulated a deep external debt.

Peru's economy reflects its varied geography – an arid coastal region, the Andes further inland, and tropics bordering Colombia and Brazil. Abundant mineral resources are found in the mountains and excellent fishing grounds on the coast.

Occupations include agriculture, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, transport, and various services. Unemployment is very high at 60%. Consequently there is much begging and crime.

EDUCATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Schooling in Peru is regarded as the key to personal advancement. A village school and teacher is considered by the poor as the most important first step to 'progress' out of poverty and disrespect, if not for themselves, for their children. Because of the historical ethnic and racial discrimination against native peoples, the village school became the instrument and method by which one could learn Spanish, the most important step toward reducing one's 'visibility' as an identifiable object of denigration. School policies encouraged the discarding of native American clothing and language.

Frequently school plays and skits burlesqued native peoples' practices, such as coca chewing coca, fiestas, or equated indigenous culture with drunkenness and, often, stupidity and poverty. There has been an overwhelming drive to change personal, family, and community conditions by means of education which began at least 150 years ago. Because of the importance invested in education, the role of the teacher is respected, especially at the district level, where teachers readily occupy leadership positions. For many years teachers were prohibited from holding public office on the theory that they would, like priests, exercise an unusual level of influence in their districts. The teacher is sought out to solve personal and village problems, settle disputes, and act as spokesperson for the community. Higher education is hence greatly respected. The school system is a three level in 11 years. Education is free from 6 years to 15 years.

The school calendar is filled with observances and ceremonies honoring national heroes and martyrs. Flag bearers spend dozens of hours preparing for the celebration of national holidays.

Insects are more of an irritation than a serious problem. (this slide happens to show one of the hundred beautiful species of beetles) On the coast, in the jungle, and to a lesser extent in the mountains, the common fly is a definite pest, and can even carry typhoid. Even in expensive restaurants it is difficult to regulate hygiene in the kitchens. A more obvious problem is the mosquito, which in the lowland jungles can carry malaria. Repellents are of limited value. A good layer of clothing is the best defense.

This **dog** is very well-bodied for most of the dogs you see in Peru. They are not treated as loving pets as in our country and no one really cares about spay and neutering. It is rumored that they are eaten.

Llamas are an important domestic animal in the Andes and coastal regions of Peru and Chile. They are believed to be a wild relative of the camel and have been used widely in the country for transportation and carrying various crops, etc. Llamas were used for sacrifices in religious ceremonies in the Inca era. They are still very much used for wool and meat as well. Llama treks are very popular with tourists, as they are sure footed and mostly even tempered.

Vultures are large carrion-eating birds. Thus, they have a very messy diet and look bald so that the head can get to the business at hand. Long talons for gripping are also helpful.

From these slides you can get to see the diversity of this country and living conditions.

This slide is of the Nazca desert and the practice of setting the dead clothed out on the land. From a plane, you can see these skeletons all over the desert. It is thought that this culture began 1000 to 1300 years ago.

PRE-INCAS

The first great conquest of Andean space began some 10,000 years ago when the descendants of the original migrants who crossed the land bridge over what is now the Bering Straits between the Asian and American continents reached northern South America. Over the next several thousand years, hunter-gatherers fanned out from their bridgehead at Panama to populate the whole of South America. By about 2500 B.C., small villages inhabited by farmers and fishermen began to spring up in the fertile river valleys of the north coast of Peru.

These ancient Peruvians lived in simple adobe houses, cultivated potatoes and beans, fished in the nearby sea, and grew and wove cotton for their clothing. The catalyst for the development of more advanced civilizations that followed was the introduction of a staple annual crop – maize (corn), and the development of irrigation, both dating from around the thirteenth century B.C. The stabilization of the food supply and ensuing surplus formed the foundation for the development of the great civilizations that rose and fell across the Andes for more than a thousand years prior to the arrival of the Europeans.

The Incas, of course, were only the most recent of these highly developed native American cultures to evolve in the Andes. The Kingdom of Chavin emerged in the northern highlands and prospered for some 500 years between 950 B.C. and 450 B.C. This was a massive religious cult; there is still a great temple there oriented to the cardinal points of the solstice, where the people were the center of the world. A concept of God and his elite tied to a geographical location at the center of the cosmos – the idea of spatial mysticism – was fundamental to Inca and pre-Inca beliefs.

About 1000 AD the Mochica occupied the coast; they built an impressive irrigation system that transformed barren desert into fertile and abundant fields capable of sustaining a population of over 50,000. Without benefit of the wheel, the plough, or a developed writing system, they achieved a remarkable level of civilization, as evidenced in their ceramic pottery, lofty pyramids, and clever metalwork. In 1987, archeologists unearthed extraordinary artifacts from tomb of a great Mochica lord, including finely crafted gold and silver ornaments, large gilded copper figurines, and wonderfully decorated ceramic pottery. In the ensuing centuries, through war, the large communities came and went.

INCAS

The Incas of Cusco originally represented one of these small and relatively minor ethnic groups. Gradually, as early as the thirteenth century, they began to expand and incorporate their neighbors. Inca expansion was slow until about the middle of the fifteenth century, when the pace of conquest began to accelerate, particularly under the rule of a great emperor Pachacuti (historian equate him with Alexander or Napoleon who combine a mania for conquest with ability to impose his will on every facet of government). Inca rule also exhibited an unusual measure of flexibility and paternalism. Grazing land was held in common. Since self-sufficiency was the ideal of this Andean society, they achieved the ability to produce a wide variety of crops – such as maize, potatoes, and grain at different altitudes for household consumption. Heads of households had the right to ask relatives, allies, or neighbors for help in cultivating his land. In return, he was obligated to offer them food and chichi (a fermented corn alcoholic beverage), and help them with their own crops when asked. This concept of ‘reciprocal exchange existed at every level of the Andean social organization. The central god and religion of the empire was the God of the Sun. The Inca people also maintained the royal family and bureaucracy. They had a very highly intricate record keeping system. By the late fifteenth century and early sixteenth century, the Inca Empire had reached its maximum size. By the time the Spaniards arrived in 1532, the Inca empire extended North to Colombia and South to Chile.

Some five years before the Spanish invasion, this vast empire was rocked by a colossal civil war that, combined with diseases imported by the Spaniards weakened the Incas ability to confront the European invader.

MACHU PICCHU – One of the manmade wonders of the world

Among the most impressive features of the Inca civilization were the temples, palaces, public works, strategically placed fortresses such as Machu Picchu, and remarkable bridges (some 328 ft in length), irrigation canals and aqueducts. Bronze (copper and tin) was widely used for tools and ornaments. The supreme Inca god was creator and ruler of all living things. Inca ceremonies and rituals were numerous and frequently elaborate, and were primarily concerned with agricultural and health matters, particularly the growing and harvesting of food crops and cures for illnesses. At the most important ceremonies, live animals were sacrificed; human sacrifices were also used. For all its greatness, the Inca Empire existed barely a century.

The ruins of Machu Picchu were discovered in 1911 by Yale archeologist Hiram Bingham. While the Inca people used this Andean mountain top (9060 ft) erecting many hundreds of stone structures, legends and myths indicate that Machu Picchu (meaning 'old peak') was revered as a sacred place from a far earlier time. Invisible from below and completely self-contained, the site was surrounded by agricultural terraces sufficient to fee the population, and watered by natural springs. The site has palaces, baths, temples, storage rooms and 150 houses carved from gray granite. Many of the stones weigh 50 tons. The skeletal remains of ten females to one male had led to the assumption that the site may have been a sanctuary for the training of priestesses and/or brides for the Inca nobility.

COCA

Peru is the world's single source of coca leaves, providing about 2/3 of the total cocaine produced in the world. The Incas used coca for religious and medicinal purposes. The production of coca now has ties to organized crime, guerilla insurgency movements as well as the increase in drug addiction. Due to the severe economic hardship of the nation, many of Peru's rural peasant farmers have turned to the most profitable cash crop in the Andes, coca production. Most of Peru's harvested coca leaves are shipped to Bolivia and Colombia for further refinement into cocaine. The cocaine is smuggled to the US for sale on the street. Cocaine began to attract addicts when it was introduced as a stimulant and cure-all during the latter part of the nineteenth century. A Corsican named Mariani introduced cocaine to the West; it was considered to be a type of 'miracle elixir'. Then an American John Pemberton of Georgia, began to develop the famous American soft-drink Coca-Cola. Very shortly after this, the Coca Cola product had a 'decocainized' extract of the coca leaf as one of its flavoring compounds. The famous psychologist Sigmund Freud was known to use cocaine to ease his discomfort from fatigue and depression and offered it to colleagues that had nervous disorders.

RELIGION

Like many Latin American nations, Peru's predominant religion is Roman Catholicism, which after 460 years (since the Spanish invasion) has remained a powerful influence in both state affairs and daily activities. In communities that maintain strong native cultural traditions, Roman Catholicism is intricately mixed with facets of Inca beliefs and practices. Native populations hold firm notions about spirits and forces found in natural settings, such as the great snow peaks where "lords of sacred places" dwell. Many places are seen as inherently dangerous, emanating airs or essences that can cause illness, and are approached with care. The Spaniards, in converting the people to Catholicism, followed a deliberate strategy of syncretism that was used throughout the Americas. This process sought to substitute Christian saints for local deities, often using existing temple sites as the location of churches. Many of the biblical lessons and stories were conveyed through dramatic reenactments of those events at fiestas that permitted people to memorize the tales and participate in the telling. Thousands of Andean fiestas are based on such foundations. Since about 1970, Protestantism has been winning converts in Peru at a relatively rapid rate among the urban poor and certain Indian populations. Roman Catholic are 92%; Protestantism, including Mormonism, is 4.5%, most all others include Anglican, Methodist and Bahai.

SUMMARY AND EPILOG

Peru is a complexity of ancient and modern cultures, populations, conflicts, questions and dilemmas. The land itself offers great challenges. It is the eighteenth largest nation in the world. Peru's principal natural features are its desert coast; the forty great snow-covered peaks of over 19,000 ft in altitude, and the mountain ranges they anchor. Although there is great diversity in native fauna, relatively few animals lent themselves to the process of domestication in prehistoric times. In its recent past Peru has alternated between democracy and military dictatorship. It is deeply divided politically and economically. A small elite of Spanish descent controls most of the wealth and political power, while indigenous Peruvians are largely excluded from both and make up many of the millions who live in poverty.

Peru's history is very colorful, as well as the wonderful people who inhabit it. Do try to put it on your list of places to visit, you will never forget it.

Presenter: you will need a DVD player with a remote that has a TV screen to show. Be able to pause and play from where you are standing. Have fun!

SLIDE PRESENTATION (DVD)

Peru – gem of the Andes

This DVD with the handout, was formatted for an hour presentation at the State Conference; so modify any way you would like for the time you have. The slides correspond with the handout headings.

Slides:

- 1 flower and Peruvian music
- 2,3,4, world map, and maps of Peru- point out various landmarks, other countries, etc.
- 5-10 facts abut Peru
- 11-15 insects, dog, llamas and vulture

- 16-30 health and well-being, economy, education, language and literacy
- 31 skeleton on the desert, ritual to leave dead in sitting position on the Nazca Desert
- 32-51 see artifact sheet "A"
- 52-64 Pre-Incas, Incas, Machu Picchu
- 65 coca
- 66-91 briefly go through slides showing Machu Picchu (all 8 seconds unless you pause the control to talk more)
- 92 -95 religion
- 96 Flower and Peruvian music (lasts 1 minute) summary and epilog

ARTIFACT SLIDES

A

Peru – gem of the Andes

32 Gold faces (in 1532 the Spanish started ransacking the Inca Empire for gold, silver, and gems. They even diverted a river to undermine a pyramid.

face and necklace - haunting eyes of lapis lazuli and silver, a gold head seized by police has a twin, reportedly offered on the black market for \$60,000. Sheer-gold ornaments have been assembled as a necklace.

33 Gold necklace – gold and lapis peanut necklace 1000AD

34 Tomb of a high-status person termed a warrior-priest

35 Called the ‘decapitator,’ a grim deity hold a knife called a tumi in its left hand and a profiled human head in its right

36 Royal mausoleum – the warrior-priest lay surrounded by men and women – and even his faithful dog- who had served him well in life. Twelve feet down, archeologists found the skeleton of a man about 20 years old with a gilded copper helmet and copper shield, who they felt was probably the guardian of the tomb.

37 Point out jewelry, turquoise, beads shells, bones, in this tomb

38 Pottery – red clay figurine jars probably mirrors characters from pre-Inca and Inca society such as a warrior with club and shield, a drummer, and a prisoner with a rope around his neck – the last a very common theme.

39 Shield – designed to shield a warrior’s backside, backflap probably worn to enhance the ruler’s power.

40 Gold mask – covered the warrior-priest’s lower skull from cheeks to chin for protection.

41 Rattle – an elegant gold rattle depicting the beating of a prisoner was found in a skeleton’s right hand, probably a ruler.

42 Another gold mask

9

43 Mural on rock – This artistic depiction shows that a primary purpose of warfare was to capture enemy warriors. Once they were taken prisoner, their weapons and clothing were removed and hung from the war clubs of their captors. With ropes around their necks, the prisoners were paraded, formally presented in courtly scenes and ultimately sacrificed. The killing of captured warriors occurred at a special ceremony in which their throats were cut and their blood presented in tall goblets to elegantly dressed royalty.

45 Statues – A collection of twenty clothed and 16 unclothed statues were found.

46 Mummy – this is a small child. She still smells of charred flesh from a lightning strike on a mountain at 22,000 ft. Sometimes sacrifices were just sat on the mountain. Her organs are undamaged. 24 artifacts found by the body; for the Incas, there was a lot of symbolism in the way they arranged offerings. The artifacts were: statues, pottery, food bags, and a coca bag made with feathers

47 Teen mummy– Faces of the dead can hold grimaces of pain, but this teenage girl wears a placid expression. Before death this girl was probably unconscious from a combination of altitude and cocaine – to send them into the next world undistressed. Children died expecting immortality. With their organs and blood frozen in place their DNA has survived unscathed, and may point scientists to their present-day relatives. Notice the hair and braids.

48 to 64 More slides, go through them fairly quickly so audience can see more of the same.

66-75 more excavation and art

PERU – GEM OF THE ANDES
 FCE study presented by Pat Wallin, Dist. Dir. VI
 Oregon State Conference October 3, 2007

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- PERU – related subjects taken from the CIA files of public internet including their bibliography:
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 - Peru – The Amazonian Tropics
 - Peru – Colonial Period, 1550-1824
 - Peru – Country Profile
 - Peru – Crime and Punishment
 - Peru – Culture Class, and Hierarchy in Society
 - Peru, Coca Trade, and Environment;
 - Peru – Demographic Collapse
 - Peru – Economy
 - Peru – Education, Language, and Literacy (courtesy of Karen R. Sagstetter)
 - Peru – Environment and Population
 - Geography of Peru
 - Peru – The Incas
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 - Mountain Llama Peru, travel to Perus.com
 - Peru – Health and Well-being
 - Peru – High Altitude Adaptations
 - Peru – Human Settlement
 - Peru – Narcotics Trafficking
 - Peru – Natural Disasters and Their Impact
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 - Peru – Society
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PERU – GEM OF THE ANDES

(I will do this quiz at the first of the presentation, but it very well could be done at the end; small candy bars will be handed out to the correct answers)

QUIZ

1. Is anyone here of Peruvian descent
2. Has anyone been to Peru
3. What continent is Peru on
4. What religion predominates in Peru
5. What famous river originates in Peru
6. What very famous Indian civilization was on a mountain top in Peru
7. What is the famous large mountain range running North and South
8. Who invaded Peru in the 1500's and changed it forever
9. What is the capital of Peru
10. What is the population of Peru