to master the science of irrigation. Where else in the world is irrigation practiced? Have you ever seen an irrigated field? How is irrigation done?

• It has been estimated that the Pyramid of the Sun contains more than 50 million adobe bricks. How do you think the Moche were able to accomplish such a feat? What does that tell you about the way in which their society was organized? Does the fact that some Moche burials were done with a level of luxury that far surpassed other Moche burials indicate to you that the Moche lords had unusual power?

•One of the largest problems faced by archaeologists today is the activities of looters who find archaeological sites before the archaeologists do and remove the treasures. Since these treasures are eventually sold, what harm do looters do? What are some ways that looting can be discouraged?

•Archaeologists were able to learn about what Moche customs may have been by observing a ritual combat among Andean villagers in 1995. How do you think this custom was preserved for such a long time? In what way can anthropologists learn about vanished societies from observing contemporary peoples?

Internet Resources

http://museolarco.perucultural.org.pe/english/mochica.htm – A wonderful Web site (in English) from the Rafael Larco Herrera Archaeological Museum.

http://www.anthroarcheart.org/moche.htm – Site containing color photos of the Moche pyramids of Peru.

http://web.mae.u-paris10.fr/recherche/aamoche.htm – In French, a good site on the "Project international Moche."

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/research/huancaco/ – Excellent site entitled "The Huancaco Project" that explains archaeological research at the Moche capital in Peru.

http://musee-pointe-a-calliere.qc.ca/an/presse/perouimg.html – A page entitled "Images of Mochica artifacts from Peru."

http://www.rcp.net.pe/SIPAN/ – For those who know some Spanish, a valuable site on the "Tumbas Reales de Sipan." For those who don't, some excellent pictures.

http://www.v-j-enterprises.com/sipan.html – A page entitled "The Mochicas & the Lord of Sipan."

http://www.kah-bonn.de/ausstellungen/sipan/0e.htm – Some fine pictures from a German exhibition of ancient Peruvian art, with an illustration showing a reconstructed view of the pyramids.

http://webf0164.ntx.net/huacasol.com/page40.htm – A very good site on the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon.

http://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~frogel/Peru98/0Peru98_home.html - From Ohio State University, another good site on Peru's pyramids.

http://www.chs.edu.sg/~tanwy/huaca.htm – From the College of Health Sciences in Roanoke, Virginia, a page on "Human Sacrifices at the Huaca de la Luna."

Other Resources

For students:

Alva, Walter. "The Moche of Ancient Peru. New Tomb of Royal Splendor," National Geographic Magazine, 177, 6 (1990), pp. 2-15.

Boehm, David A. Peru in Pictures. Lerner, 1997.

Falconer, Kieran. Peru (Cultures of the World). Benchmark, 1996.

King, David C. Peru : Lost Cities, Found Hopes (Exploring Cultures of the World). Benchmark, 1997.

For adults:

Bawden, Garth. The Moche. Blackwell Publishers, 1996.

Bonavia, Duccio. Mural Painting in Ancient Peru. Indiana University Press, 1985.

Bruhns, Karen Olson. Ancient South America (Cambridge World Archaeology). Cambridge Univ. Press, 1994.

Davies, Nigel. The Ancient Kingdoms of Peru. Penguin, 1998.

Donnan, Christopher B. and Mackey, Carol J. Ancient Burial Patterns of the Moche Valley, Peru. University of Texas Press, 1978.

Donnan Christopher B. Moche Art and Iconography. UCLA Latin American Center, University of California, 1976.

Kirkpatrick, Sidney D. Lords of Sipan : a Tale of Pre-Inca tombs, Archaeology, and Crime. Morrow, c1992.

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WORLD ALMANAC VIDEO

PRESENTS

MUMMIES AND PYRAMIDS: EGYPT AND BEYOND

Pyramids and mummies—for nearly everyone, the words evoke images of ancient Egypt. And yet those intriguing cultural artifacts are by no means unique to the Land of the Pharaohs. As Mummies and Pyramids: Egypt and Beyond vividly demonstrates, mummies and pyramids are to be found in the Americas. Indeed, the oldest mummies in the world—and some of the most sophisticated anywhere—come not from the Nile Valley but from the Atacama Desert in Chile. As archaeologists have begun uncovering the mysteries of the New World pyramids and mummies, they have brought to light heretofore underappreciated or misunderstood cultures—societies whose creations and customs inspire awe, shock, and wonder.

THE PYRAMID OF DOOM: AN ANCIENT MURDER MYSTERY

Today the Pyramid of the Moon stands mute and impressive in the desert of northern Peru. But when the civilization that built it was at its height, this colossal edifice was the site of such grisly rites that the archaeologists who study it today are often plagued by nightmares. This episode explores what went on there, who the people were who lived there, and what could have been the purpose of their blood-soaked rituals. Did ecological catastrophe inspire a culture of death?

Darkness and Light

The fascinating Moche culture of ancient Peru exhibits a startling mixture of wealth, ingenuity, and beautiful art with grisly rituals that nowadays cause people to shudder. The Moche were master irrigators and fishers of the sea who created a vibrant civilization in one of the driest areas of the globe. They also raised monumental pyramids that are some of the most impressive monuments to survive from pre-Columbian America. Yet these people also practiced a form of ritual human sacrifice that has left its grisly evidence in the form of decapitated skeletons and bodies missing fingers and arms. Much of what we know about the Moche has only been very recently discovered, and, remarkably, archaeologists have been not only able to identify the mysterious figures painted on Moche ceramics, but they have also actually discovered what they believe are the tombs of these very dignitaries.

Vocabulary

adobe – A building material made from a mixture of mud and straw and dried in the sun. The Moche used adobe bricks to construct their pyramids.

backflap – A crescent-shaped decorative garment worn by the Moche that hung from the waist.

Bird Priest – One of the three main figures in Moche art.

conquistador – Name given to a leader of the Spanish forces that conquered Mexico and Peru in the 16th century.

El Brujo – "The sorcerer." Moche pyramid 25 miles from the Huaca de la Luna that contains spectacular and informative murals depicting Moche warriors and prisoners.

El Niño – Weather phenomenon in which unusually warm surface water appears along the western coast of South America, resulting in abnormally heavy rainfall, especially in dry areas.

Huaca de la Luna – "Pyramid of the Moon." Sacrificial site built by the Moche people of ancient Peru and probably their most important religious site.

Huaca del Sol – "Pyramid of the Sun." Paired with the Huaca de la Luna, another sacrificial site built by the Moche. The largest pre-Columbian building in South America.

irrigation – The process of supplying land with water by artificial means. The Moche were masters of the art.

Lord of Sipan – Name given to the occupant of the rich tomb discovered near the Peruvian village of Sipan in 1987.

Moche – Also known as Mochica and previously called the Early Chimu, a civilization that flourished on the coast of northern Peru c. 100-800 A.D.

osteologist – An expert in the study of bones.

Pre-Columbian – The name given to the period before the arrival of Columbus and the Spanish in the Americas in 1492.

Priestess – One of the three main figures in Moche art.

"Sacrifice Scene" – The major theme in Moche pottery, it shows the sacrifice of prisoners by certain exalted beings who offer blood to a god. Once thought to be a mythological scene, recent discoveries have shown that the scene was real.

Warrior Priest – One of the three main figures in Moche art..

Important People

Alva, Walter – Peruvian archaeologist with the Bruning Archaeological Museum and excavator of the tomb of the Lord of Sipan.

Bourget, Steve – Archaeologist from the University of East Anglia who studies the society of the Moche in Peru.

Calderon Larco, Andres – Director of the Rafael Larco Herrera Museum in Lima, the capital of Peru, that contains one of the finest collections of Moche art.

Castillo, Luis Jaime – Peruvian archaeologist who helped excavate the site at San Jose de Moro.

Donnan, Christopher B. – Archaeologist with the University of California, Los Angeles, who studies the Moche civilization. Worked with Luis Castillo on the site at San Jose de Moro.

Uceda, Santiago – Director of excavations at the Huaca de la Luna.

Verano, John – Osteologist (see Vocabulary) from Tulane University who worked with Steve Bourget on analyzing the Moche sacrificial victims.

Winkelman, Michael – Archaeologist from Arizona State University who studies the Moche.

Important Places

Cerro Blanco – "White Hill." Mountain near the Huaca de la Luna and Huaca del Sol.

Chiclayo – Peruvian city near the tomb of the so-called Lord of Sipan.

Moche – A town on the coastal plain of northwest Peru. Its name is

given to the people now called the Moche, although we don't know what they called themselves.

San Jose de Moro -– Peruvian village about 30 miles south of Sipan that yielded the tomb of an important Moche woman.

Sipan -– Peruvian village that gave its name to the rich tomb discovered nearby in 1987.

Trujillo – City in Peru near the site of the Huaca del Sol and the Huaca de la Luna (see Vocabulary).

Important Dates

100 A.D. – Emergence of the pyramid-building Moche civilization in Peru.

300 – Approximate date of the tomb belonging to the so-called Lord of Sipan.

500 – The Moche population reaches an estimated 100,000 or more; the Moche construct the biggest mud-brick pyramids ever built in South America.

600-601 – The north coast of Peru is hit by a huge El Niño (see Vocabulary) that severely affects Moche civilization.

800 – Decline of the Moche civilization.

1532 – The Spanish arrive in Peru.

February 16, 1987 – Tomb raiders loot a site near Chiclayo, Peru, uncovering the richest burial ever discovered in the Americas.

1990 – Steve Bourget (see Important People) discovers a sacrificial site on the Cerro Blanco (see Important Places).

1995 – Bourget begins excavations at a plaza at the Huaca de la Luna that yields the bodies of sacrificial victims. Anthropologists from the Catholic University of Peru make a videotape of Peruvian villagers fighting an ancient form of ritual combat, an event that throws light on the rituals of the Moche.

1999 – Santiago Uceda discovers nine more skeletons at Plaza Three A at the Huaca de la Luna, remains that reveal evidence of cannibalism.

Things to Think About

•What can you learn about the weather phenomenon called "El Niño"? Why would it have had such a great effect on an ancient civilization like the Moche? Has El Niño occurred in recent times?

•Why do you think the Moche felt it necessary to practice human sacrifice? What other religious or social customs can you think of that were once practiced but are rare or nonexistent today?

• One of the keys to the success of Moche civilization was their ability