



## Section

# 2

# Land and People of Peru and Ecuador

### Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

Peru and Ecuador share similar landscapes, climates, and history.

### Terms to Know

- navigable
- foothills
- empire

### Reading Strategy

Create two ovals like these. Under each heading, list facts about Peru and Ecuador in the outer parts of the ovals. Where the ovals overlap, write facts that apply to both countries.

Peru

Ecuador



## Exploring Our World

They built thousands of miles of roads. They built a city on mountain peaks and were expert bridge builders. The Inca accomplished these feats in western South America during the 1400s and 1500s. The ruins of their ancient city of Machu Picchu (MAH•choo PEEK•choo), built nearly 8,000 feet (2,438 m) high in the Andes, were not even known to modern people until 1911.



**P**eru and **E**cuador lie along the Pacific coast of South America, west of Brazil and south of Colombia. The Andes form the spine of these countries. *Peru*—a Native American word that means “land of abundance”—is rich in mineral resources.

### Peru

Dry deserts, the snowcapped Andes, and hot, humid rain forests greet you in Peru. Most of Peru’s farms and cities lie on a narrow coastal strip of plains and deserts. The cold **Peru Current** in the Pacific Ocean keeps temperatures here fairly mild even though the area is very near the Equator. Find the Peru Current on the map on page 57.

The Andes, with their highland valleys and plateaus, sweep through the center of Peru. On Peru’s border with Bolivia, you can see **Lake Titicaca** (TEE•tee•KAH•kah), the highest navigable lake in the world. **Navigable** means that a body of water is wide and deep enough to



allow ships to travel in it. East of the Andes you descend to the foothills and flat plains of the **Amazon Basin**. **Foothills** are the low hills at the base of a mountain range. Rainfall is plentiful here, and thick, hot rain forests cover almost all of the plains area.

**Mining, Fishing, and Farming** Peru's economy relies on a variety of natural resources. The Andes contain many minerals, including copper, silver, gold, and iron ore. Peru's biggest export is copper. The second-largest export—fish—comes from the Peru Current.

About one-third of Peru's people farm the land. Some grow sugarcane, cotton, and coffee for export. Like Colombia, Peru grows coca leaves. Most people, however, work on subsistence farms, where they grow only enough food to meet their family's needs. Some of these farms are terraced, or stair-stepped, up the mountainsides of the Andes. The chief crops are rice, plantains (a kind of banana), and corn. Native Americans in the Andes were the first people ever to grow potatoes. Today potatoes are Peru's main food crop, and farmers grow hundreds of varieties in different colors and shapes. Refer back to page 228 to see how the potato was part of the Columbian Exchange.

**From Empire to Republic** During the 1400s, a Native American people called the Inca had a powerful civilization in the area that is now Peru. Their **empire**, or group of lands under one ruler, stretched more than 2,500 miles (4,023 km) along the Andes.

The Incan emperor developed courts, military posts, trade inspections, work rules, and a complex system of record keeping. Work crews built irrigation systems, roads, and suspension bridges that linked the regions of the empire to Cuzco, the capital city of the Inca. You can still see the remains of magnificent fortresses and buildings erected centuries ago by skilled Incan builders. The photograph on page 266 shows the ruins of one of the Inca's most famous cities—Machu Picchu.

In the early 1500s, Spaniards arrived in Peru. They desired the gold and silver found here. The Spaniards defeated the Inca and made Peru a Spanish territory. Peru gained its freedom from Spain in the 1820s. After independence, Peru fought wars with neighboring Chile and Ecuador over land.

Peru is now a republic with an elected president. In recent years, the country's economy has grown very rapidly. Many of Peru's people, however, still live in poverty and cannot find steady jobs.

**Peru's Culture** Peru's 27.1 million people live mostly along the Pacific coast. **Lima** (LEE•mah), with more than 7 million people, is the capital and largest city. In recent years, many people from the countryside have moved to Lima in search of work. Because of this sudden rise in population, the city has become overcrowded, noisy, and polluted.

About half of Peru's people are Native American. In fact, Peru has one of the largest Native American populations in the Western Hemisphere. Many live in the Andean highlands or eastern rain forests where they follow a traditional way of life. Most of them blend the Catholic faith, Peru's main religion, with beliefs of their ancestors.



### The Quipu

The Inca did not have a written language. To keep records, they used a system of knotted strings called the quipu. The strings were of various lengths and colors, and each knot meant a different item or number. Men in charge of the quipu used the knots to record all the taxes brought each year to the Inca. They recorded the number of men who went to war and how many were born and died every year. In short, it might be said that they recorded on their quipu everything that could be counted.





# EXPLORING CULTURE

## Sports


Sports have been played in Peru for centuries. Ancient vases show the Inca playing early forms of badminton and basketball. Today soccer, called *fútbol*, is the national sport of Peru. Boys and girls learn the sport at a young age, and every village has a local soccer team. Peruvians also enjoy baseball and basketball. In addition, volleyball has become very popular since 1988. That was the year the women's volleyball team from Peru won an Olympic medal.

**Looking Closer** How is the game shown here similar to and different from an American soccer game?



Peruvians also include many people of mixed or European ancestry. People of Asian heritage form a small but important part of the population. Although a minority, Peruvians of European ancestry (mainly Spanish) control most of Peru's wealth and political power.

Spanish is Peru's official language, but about 70 Native American languages also are spoken. You can hear Quechua (KEH•chuh•wuh), the ancient language of the Inca, in many Native American villages. Another sound you may hear is the flutelike tones of the panpipe. An ancient instrument, panpipes are made from different lengths of bamboo stalks tied together.

 **Reading Check** Who built a huge empire centered in Peru?

## Ecuador


Ecuador is one of the smallest countries in South America. Can you guess how it got its name? *Ecuador* is the Spanish word for "Equator," which runs right through Ecuador. West of Ecuador and also on the Equator are the **Galápagos Islands**. Owned by Ecuador since 1832, these scattered islands are known for their rich plant and animal life. Turn to page 270 to learn more about the unusual Galápagos Islands.

Ecuador's land and climate are similar to Peru's. Swamps and fertile plains stretch along Ecuador's Pacific coast. The Peru Current in the Pacific Ocean keeps coastal temperatures mild. The Andes run through the center of the country. The higher you climb up these mountains, the colder the climate gets. In contrast, hot, humid rain forests cover the lowlands of eastern Ecuador. Few people live in the rain forests.

**An Agricultural Economy** Agriculture is Ecuador's most important economic activity. Because of the mild climate, bananas, cacao, coffee,

rice, sugarcane, and other export crops grow plentifully in the coastal lowlands. Farther inland, farms in the Andean highlands grow coffee, beans, corn, potatoes, and wheat. The eastern lowlands yield petroleum, Ecuador's major mineral export.

**Ecuador's People** Mestizos and Native Americans each make up about 40 percent of Ecuador's population. Spanish is the official language, but many Native Americans speak their traditional languages. About half of Ecuador's 12.6 million people live along the coast. The port of **Guayaquil** (GWY•ah•KEEL) is the most populous city. The other half of the population live in the valleys and plateaus of the Andes. **Quito** (KEE•toh), Ecuador's capital, lies more than 9,000 feet (2,743 m) above sea level. From the heart of Quito, you can see several snowcapped volcanoes. The city's historic center has Spanish colonial churches and old whitewashed houses with red-tiled roofs. These houses are built around central courtyards. You will not find flashing neon signs here because the construction of modern buildings has been strictly controlled since 1978. In that year, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared the "old town" section of Quito a protected world cultural heritage site. Quito does have a "new town" section, though, in the north. This area has modern offices, embassies, and shopping centers.

 **Reading Check** Why are Ecuador's eastern lowlands important economically?

## Section 2 Assessment

### Defining Terms

1. **Define** navigable, foothills, empire.

### Recalling Facts

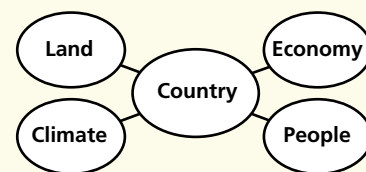
2. **History** Who were the first people to grow potatoes?
3. **Culture** What has been the result of Lima's sudden population growth?
4. **Economics** What is Ecuador's major mineral export?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing Information** Why is Peru's name, which means "land of abundance," appropriate? Why is it also inappropriate?
6. **Analyzing Cause and Effect** What effect does the Peru Current have on the coastal areas of Peru?

### Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create two diagrams like this one, one for Peru and one for Ecuador. Under each heading, list facts about the countries.



### Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Turn to the political map on page 255. What Andean capital city lies closest to the Equator?



# Making Connections

ART

SCIENCE

CULTURE

TECHNOLOGY

## The Galápagos Islands

The Galápagos Islands are located in the eastern Pacific Ocean about 600 miles (966 km) west of mainland Ecuador. Since 1959 about 95 percent of the islands has been maintained as a national park.

### History of Exploration

From the first documented visit to the Galápagos Islands in 1535, people have commented on the islands' unusual wildlife. Sailors, including pirates and whalers, stopped on the islands to collect water and to trap the huge *galápagos*, or tortoises, found on the islands. Sailors valued the tortoises as a source of fresh meat because the giant tortoises could live on ships for months without food or water.

### Charles Darwin

The most famous visitor to the Galápagos Islands was Charles Darwin, a scientist from England. He was studying animals all over the

world. In 1835 Darwin spent five weeks visiting four of the biggest islands in the Galápagos. He carefully studied the volcanic landscape and the plant and animal life that he saw. He took notes on the differences between animals such as finches, mockingbirds, and iguanas from island to island. Darwin believed that these differences showed how populations of the same species change to fit their environment.

### A Fragile Environment

Today the Galápagos Islands are still prized for their amazing variety of animal and plant life. Many of the species found here exist nowhere else on the earth. For instance, the Marine iguana that lives here is the only seagoing lizard in the world.

Unfortunately, years of contact between the islands and humans have had serious effects. Three of the 14 types of tortoises are extinct, and others are seriously threatened. Populations of goats, pigs, dogs, rats, and some types of plants, brought by visitors, have grown so large that they threaten the survival of native plants and animals. Demand for exotic marine life, including sharks and sea cucumbers, has led to overfishing. The government of Ecuador, along with environmentalists worldwide, is now working to protect the islands.



▲ Giant Galápagos tortoise

## Making the Connection

1. Why did sailors long ago stop at the islands?
2. What did Darwin observe about the islands?
3. **Drawing Conclusions** Why are environmentalists and the government of Ecuador working to protect the Galápagos Islands?



## Guided Reading Activity 2

### Land and People of Peru and Ecuador

**DIRECTIONS: Answering Questions** Reading the section and answering the questions below will help you learn more about the countries of Peru and Ecuador. Refer to your textbook to write answers to the questions.

1. What are the major land areas of Peru?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the major exports of Peru?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What are the chief crops of the subsistence farmers?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What Native American empire flourished in Peru in the 1400s?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What types of people make up Peru's population?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did Ecuador get its name?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the most important economic activity in Ecuador, and what is produced?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Where do most of the people of Ecuador live?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the cultural background of most of the people of Ecuador?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What is Ecuador's capital and what is its elevation?

\_\_\_\_\_