



NICK & AYA TRAVEL TO

PERU

AT A GLANCE!

TEACHER CLASSROOM UNIT
GRADES 1-4



QUICK FACTS



Continent:
South America



Capital City:
Lima



Language:
Spanish, Quechua, Aymara



Currency:
Peruvian Sol (PEN)



Population:
More than 34 million people

FUN FACT!

Peru has more than 55
different Indigenous groups!



IMPORTANT PLACES TO KNOW



Lima

The capital city on the Pacific coast.
Known for its history, food,
and beautiful views.



Machu Picchu

An ancient Inca city high in
the Andes mountains.
A UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Amazon Rainforest

A lush jungle with incredible
plants, animals, and rivers.



Lake Titicaca

The highest navigable lake
in the world, shared with
Bolivia.



Rainbow Mountain

A stunning mountain with
natural rainbow colors.



Nazca Desert

Home to the mysterious Nazca
Lines, giant drawings in the sand.



BEFORE READING

Ask students:

- 1 Where is Peru located?
- 2 What animals might live there?
- 3 Why do people visit Machu Picchu?
- 4 What do you know about the Amazon Rainforest?
- 5 What mountains have you seen before?



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- ☒ Locate Peru on a map
- ☒ Learn about Peru's geography
- ☒ Discover wildlife and nature
- ☒ Explore cultures and traditions
- ☒ Compare Peru with their own community



TEACHER TIP

As students read the book, have them keep track of:



Animals
they discover



New places
they learn about



Cultural traditions
they find interesting

PEOPLE & CULTURES ACROSS PERU

Geography Shapes Culture



1 Coastal Peru (Lima Region)

Spanish Influence



Spanish explorers arrived in Peru more than 500 years ago. They brought the Spanish language, which is spoken throughout most of the country today.

Many buildings in Lima still show beautiful Spanish colonial architecture. Peruvian food also combines Spanish traditions with local ingredients.

FUN FACT!

Lima is often called the gastronomic capital of South America.



2 Andes Mountains (Cusco Region)

The Quechua People



Many Quechua families live throughout the Andes Mountains. They continue traditions that have been passed down for hundreds of years.

Many people still speak the Quechua language, care for alpacas and llamas, weave colorful textiles, and farm on mountain terraces.

FUN FACT!

Quechua was the main language of the Inca Empire and is still spoken by millions of people today.



3 Sacred Valley (Cusco Region)

The Inca Civilization



More than 500 years ago, the Inca built one of the greatest civilizations in the Americas.

They constructed stone cities, bridges, and thousands of kilometers of roads across the Andes. Their farming terraces helped grow food high in the mountains.

FUN FACT!

Many Inca stone walls were built without mortar and still stand today.



4 Lake Titicaca (Puno Region)

The Uros People



The Uros people built floating islands using thick layers of totora reeds that grow in Lake Titicaca.

Families continue to repair their islands, build reed boats, and welcome visitors who want to learn about their unique way of life.



5 Amazon Rainforest (Loreto Region)

Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon



Many Indigenous communities live throughout Peru's Amazon Rainforest. They have learned how to use rainforest plants, fish the rivers, and travel by canoe for generations.



MATCH THE REGION TO ITS CULTURE

Draw a line to match each region with the people or culture connected to it.

- 1 Lima Region
- 2 Cusco Region
- 3 Sacred Valley
- 4 Puno Region
- 5 Loreto Region

- Spanish Influence 
- Quechua People 
- Inca Civilization 
- Uros People 
- Amazon Indigenous Peoples 



WILDLIFE & NATURE ACROSS PERU

From Sea Level to the Amazon

Although Peru is not as long as Argentina, it changes quickly because of its mountains. As Nick and Aya travel from the Pacific coast, over the Andes Mountains, and into the Amazon Rainforest, they discover completely different plants, animals, and climates.



ELEVATION METER



0 m
Sea Level
Pacific Coast



1,500 m
Cloud Forest



3,400 m
Cusco
(Andes)



4,800 m
High Andes



200 m
Amazon Basin

1 Pacific Coast (Lima Region)



Humboldt Penguin Cactus Anchovy

Peru's Pacific coast is one of the driest places in South America. Cold ocean waters bring many fish, making the coast home to sea lions, pelicans, penguins, and other seabirds.

2 Andes Mountains (Cusco Region)



Condor Ichu Grass Potato Plant

The Andes are the longest mountain range in the world. Cool temperatures and high elevations help llamas, alpacas, and vicuñas thrive. Farmers have grown potatoes here for thousands of years.

FUN FACT!

More than 4,000 varieties of potatoes come from Peru.



3 Cloud Forest



Spectacled Bear Cock-of-the-rock (Andean) Orchid

Warm air rises up the mountains and forms cool, misty cloud forests. These forests are home to colorful birds, rare bears, and thousands of beautiful plants.

4 Amazon Rainforest (Loreto Region)



Giant Water Lily Pink River Dolphin Poison Dart Frog

Peru's Amazon Rainforest is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth. Thousands of plants and animals live beneath its tall trees and along its winding rivers.

5 Lake Titicaca (Puno Region)



Giant Titicaca Frog Flamingo Reed Plant (Totora)

Lake Titicaca is the world's highest navigable lake. Many birds, fish, and unique animals depend on its cool, fresh waters.



Llamas carry supplies across the mountains.



Peru is home to more than 4,000 varieties of potatoes.



Peru has dozens of colorful types of corn.



Alpaca wool helps people stay warm high in the Andes.

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST!

Look at the ecosystems above.

Why don't llamas live in the Amazon Rainforest?

- ☒ Too many trees
- ☐ Too much snow
- ☐ Not enough mountains
- ☐ Not enough water



From the Pacific Ocean to the Andes Mountains and the Amazon Rainforest, Peru is full of amazing places to explore!