INTRODUCTION
Peru has three distinct geographic regions: la costa, la sierra y la selva: coast, highland and jungle. The Pacific Ocean coastline is dominated by desert landscapes, to the high Andes Mountains to the eastern rainforests. This culture box features items that tell stories of Peru’s past and present and aims to provide resources to approach Peru in a multidisciplinary way.

THIS BOX INCLUDES:
1. Llamas
2. Miniature Quechua Man
3. Miniature Quechua Woman
4. Andean Panpipe
5. Coin Purse & Soles
6. Wool Purse
7. Gourd Bowls
8. Copper Plate
9. Textile
10. Doll
11. Chullo
12. Spin Drum
13. Chajchas
14. Woven Cloth Magnet
LLAMAS

DESCRIPTION

A visitor to the Peruvian Andes would encounter the wild vicuña and the guanaco, from which alpacas and llamas were domesticated hundreds of years ago.

Llamas are domestic animals that are used by peoples of the Andes Mountains. People have used llamas as a means of transporting goods and typically are saddled with loads of 50-75 pounds and with this load can travel up to 20 miles in one day.

Alpacas are much smaller and much woolier than llamas. Their hair is used for making a number of knitted and woven products and much of the hand-made clothing in South American markets are made with alpaca fur.
MINIATURE QUECHUA MAN & WOMAN

DESCRIPTION

Quechua peoples of the Central Andes are direct descendants of the Incas. The Inca Empire had an expansive governing structure and existed for a century before the arrival of the Spanish in the early 1500s. After the Spanish captured Atahualpa (the Inca king), the Inca Empire suffered. Today, most of the Quechua people in Peru still live in the Andean highlands.

The term Quechua refers more to the language than the people. Quechua was the language of the Inca and is still spoken by millions of people in Peru today. Unlike many other indigenous languages, Quechua is the official language of Peru.
ANDEAN PAN PIPES

DESCRIPTION

These panpipe instruments, called zampoñas, are a series of hollow reeds found near lakes in the Andes Mountains. The reeds are cut into different lengths and bound together to create a variety of notes. Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, wind and percussion instruments were the dominant musical sound. Musical instruments, such as the zampoña, were an integral part of life and ritual processions in ancient Andean cultures.
COIN PURSE & SOLES

DESCRIPTION
The sol (plural: soles) is the currency of Peru. Many of the coins depict the Coat of arms of Peru, and other symbols of Pre-Columbian Peru. The sol was the name of currency from the 19th century to 1985, and was reinstated in 1991. The Peruvian Inti was the national currency for six years 1985-91.

The coins are held in a colorful woven coin purse.
WOOL PURSE

DESCRIPTION

This is a woven bag made of alpaca wool. Alpacas are domesticated animals that are shorn once a year for their wool. The fleece is usually used for weaving or sold at the market. Pre-Inca civilizations in Peru enjoyed fine garments made of woven alpaca fleece and their wealth was measured by the amount of alpaca wool they owned.
GOURD BOWLS

DESCRIPTION

Gourds are large fruits with hard skins that may be dried, hollowed and carved. For more than 4000 years, Peru has been home to gourd artists. In the Andean Mountains, it is common to record celebrations, oral traditions, and stories onto gourds. They are typically carved by hand and therefore no two are alike.
COPPER PLATE

DESCRIPTION

This is copper decorative plate that could be hung on the wall or displayed in a home. The center of the plate depicts a llama, as noted by the saddle on the back of the llama.

Llamas have been used by people in Peru for thousands of years for transporting goods, as they are able to carry over $\frac{1}{4}$ of their weight.
The national animal of Peru is the vicuna (Spanish: *vicuña*) and is found depicted on many items of clothing and decorations.

Vicuna are shy and easily startled animals that can run up to 30 miles per hour. They are about five feet tall and usually weigh less than 150 pounds. They live high in the Andes Mountains and have a very large heart in order to survive the high altitudes. Their coat is very fine, warm and fragile, and is very expensive. The vicuna is a protected animal.
This doll is typical of a girl from the Cuzco region of Peru. She is holding a potato, one of the staple foods of Peru. People grow potatoes in the mountains, producing over 3,000 different varieties!

Her sandals, a popular style called *hojotas*, are made from recycled tires. Her colorful clothing is typical of women in the Andean region. The skirt (or *pollera*) is traditionally woven and colored with natural dye. Women often wear their skirts 3 or 4 layers thick (what do they mean?) - sometimes even more for special occasions! Her braided hair carries cultural significance as well - two braids means she is married, one or many mean she is single.
Chullo

DESCRIPTION

The chullo is a style of hat that originates in the Andean Altiplano region of Peru. It is also used in other Andean regions of South America. Historically, this style of hat is made using alpaca wool, but now may be made of other materials. The design often features images of the region, such as the llamas found on this one. The long ear coverings were developed so people can stay warm in this cold climate.
Spin Drum

DESCRIPTION

This style of drum is found in various parts of the world including areas of Africa, Asia, and South America. In Peru, it is typical of the Andean region as a noisemaker used for loud celebrations. It is played by spinning the rod so the beads alternately hit against each side of the drum. This one features a painted scene of a llama, mountains, and church - typical of the Andean region of Peru.
Chajchas

DESCRIPTION

This instrument is know as chajchas or sometimes called uñas, which means "toenails" in Spanish since it is often made from llama, goat, or sheep hooves. They may also be made from dried seeds such as this one.

The chajchas is used in Andean rituals and ceremonies, and can be heard in folk music of the region. To play it, people often wear it around their wrist or ankle.
Woven Cloth Magnet

DESCRIPTION

This magnet shows an example of colorful Andean woven fabric. The tradition of spinning, dying and weaving dates back thousands of years in Andean indigenous culture. Thread is historically spun from the wool of alpaca or vicuña, both members of the camelid family, more commonly known as llamas. The fabric made from these materials is warm, breathable, and durable - perfect for the mountain climate of the Andes. Dyes for the thread are traditionally made from local plants and insects.