

MEET THE MOCHE

2.2.1. The number and size of key states and empires grew dramatically by imposing political unity on areas where previously there had been competing states. ■ *Andean South America- Moche*

MOCHE HIGHLIGHTS

FOUNDED: 100 CE	RELIGION: POLYTHEISTIC
FOUNDER: ????????	NEIGHBORS: Nazca (Lines) to the South
CAPITAL: SIPAN	MAJOR CAMEO: Raiders of the Lost Ark
LANGUAGE: MOCHIKA	CLAIM TO FAME: Pyramids, Mummies, Pottery
(d.1920)	

The Moche were a pre-Incan society in Western Peru. They lasted from 100 CE to 750 CE. The Moche were a farming people with advanced irrigation, temples, pottery, and pyramids. They are best remembered by their ceramic art which can be found in large numbers in museums worldwide.

It is unknown if the Moche were a large Empire or more of a collection of city-states connected by a common language/religion (like Greece). They were also connected by canals which aided in their production of corn, beans, squash, and avocado. They also domesticated llamas and guinea pigs. They had no writing but may have used a pre-Incan Quipu system. Much of what we know of them comes from their ceramic pottery.

They appear to have been quite violent with sacrifices of prisoners of war to their gods (primarily the god known as the “Decapitator” who was represented by a large spider).

