

Lesson 1: Topographic Map Analysis The Vertical Archipelago

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Look at the topographic (physical) map of the Andes Mountains provided by your teacher. The area of the Inca Empire (called *Tawantinsuyu*) stretched from modern-day Colombia to Chile.

Part 1: Map Observation

1. Describe the three main physical "zones" you see on the map. (Hint: Look at the coast, the middle, and the far east).
 - Zone 1 (West):

 - Zone 2 (Center): _____
 - Zone 3 (East):

2. Find the "navel" (capital) of the empire, Cusco. Now find Lake Titicaca (the mythical birthplace). Describe their location in relation to the main mountain range.

Part 2: Cause and Effect Analysis

This extreme geography created huge challenges. Explain the major problem(s) the Inca would face for each category below.

- **Farming:** (Problem: Where do you plant crops on a steep slope?)

- **Communication:** (Problem: How do you send a message 2,000 miles with no horses?)

- **Transporting Goods:** (Problem: How do you move an army or tons of food over a 15,000 ft. pass?) _____

Part 3: Synthesis

Based *only* on the map, list two inventions or systems you think the Inca would *need* to invent to hold their empire together.

1. _____
2. _____