

## **REGIONAL PRESENTATION OF ANDEAN COUNTRIES: PERU, BOLIVIA, ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA**

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### Description of Regional Presentation:

Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Colombia are characterized by a multicultural, multiethnic, and multilingual reality. All of them converge in manifestations that express the development of science and mathematics, based on local rationalities and worldviews. These characteristics make possible several and particular understandings of the natural world and of the human being. The vast territory of the Andes has been the cradle of great civilizations, as old as those of the old world, with a permanent cultural development until the Spanish invasion. At that time, there was a cultural collapse, in which the Andean culture had the worst part; most of its tangible and intangible cultural heritage was wiped out. As a result of this destruction, the identity of the native Andean peoples has long been marginalized. The great scientific and technological development that is expressed in monumental architectural constructions, irrigation canals, metallurgical, agricultural, genetic development, domestication of plants and animals, as well as their ability to identify with the natural environment was made invisible. Science and mathematics developed with astonishing effectiveness and efficiency. Much Andean-Amazon sociocultural knowledge has been lost, or has been made invisible by the official culture, a situation that has been tried to overcome through governmental educational policies that recognize, revalue, and claim such legacy.