

# INDIGENOUS CULTURES IN THE AMERICAS



KAYAPO NATIVES IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON



# THE AMERICAS

# THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIGENOUS CULTURES

- Imagine our world without chocolate or chewing gum, syringes, rubber balls, or copper tubing. Native peoples invented precursors to all these and made huge strides in medicine and agriculture.
- Could you live without: Tomatoes, Corn, Vanilla, Potatoes, Peanuts and Chocolate?
- How about: Freeze-Drying, Dental Care & Syringes?

# AMAZON NATIVES



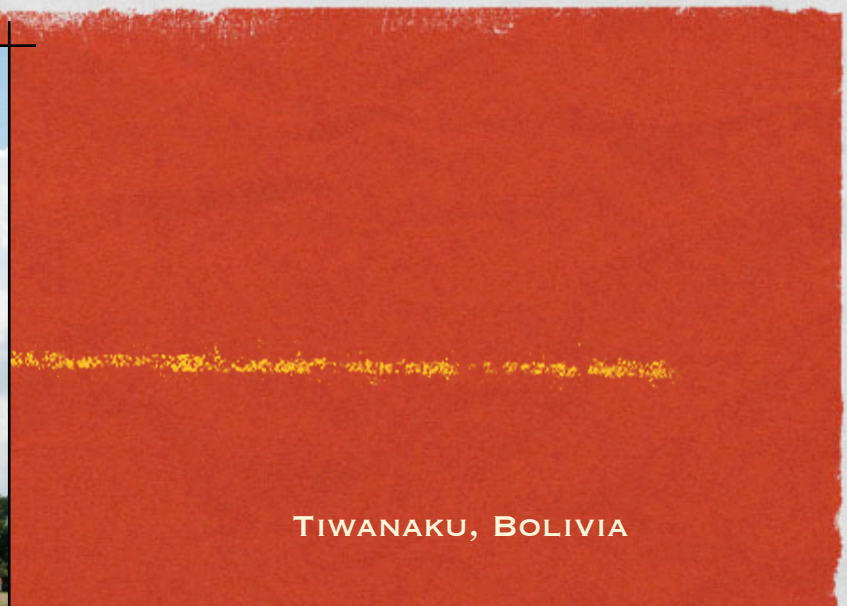
CHOCÓ HEALING SONG

# AMAZONIAN TRADITIONS

- Along the Amazon region, numerous Indigenous tribes have preserved their cultural traditions with virtual purity
- Instruments include drums, percussion and flutes, with fairly simple forms
- Music in these tribes retained its functionality in society, with little or no outside influence affecting it. Music tied to magic, ritual and healing



CHICHEN ITZA, MEXICO




TIWANAKU, BOLIVIA



# MUSIC AND RITUAL

- Indigenous cultures value music and musicians
- Music was and is associated with magic, healing and the mystical forces of the universe
- Instruments include drums, flutes, rattles and whistles
- Prior to the conquest there were no stringed instruments in the Americas



TIME LIFE'S  
LOST  
CIVILIZATIONS

The image shows a title card for a television series. The text is embossed on a textured, light brown surface, possibly a book cover or a stone tablet. The words "TIME LIFE'S" are in a smaller, sans-serif font at the top. Below them, "LOST" and "CIVILIZATIONS" are in a larger, stylized font. A graphic of a flame, rendered in shades of red and orange, is positioned to the right of the word "LOST". The entire title card is set against a dark red, textured background.

THE ANCIENT MAYAN CIVILIZATION





AYMARA MUSICIANS WITH SIKU  
(PANFLUTE) AND CAJA (DRUM)

KALLAWAYA HEALING RITUAL



THE INCAS

# ANCIENT CULTURES OF MÉXICO

- AMONG THE INDIGENOUS GROUPS WERE THE OLMECS AND THE AZTECS
- AZTEC RULE LASTED NEARLY THREE CENTURIES, AND THE NÁHUATL LANGUAGE IS STILL SPOKEN TODAY IN VARIOUS AREAS OF MEXICO
- AZTEC CULTURE VALUED MUSIC AND MUSICIANS, AND FORMED MUSIC SCHOOLS CALLED CUICALLI
- ALL SOCIAL ACTIVITY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MUSIC, AND INSTRUMENTS WERE CONSIDERED SACRED



ANCIENT  
VOICES

# AZTEC INSTRUMENTS



ATECOCOLÍ



HUÉHUETL



OCARINA



TEPONATZLI



THROUGH THE  
CENTURIES, REMNANTS  
OF THESE ANCIENT  
CULTURES HAVE ECHOED  
DOWN TO US, SHAPING  
THE MUSIC, DANCE AND  
TRADITIONS OF THE  
AMERICAS