

Art Activity

Pop-Up: Architecture, Animals, & Landscape of the Andes

Grade Level: All

VMFA Collection: Pre-Columbian Art

Culture/Region: The Andes

Subject Area: Fine Arts, Visual Arts

Activity Type: Hands-On Activity

Create your own pop-up landscape inspired by the architecture, animals, and landscape of the Andes!



The Andes is the longest series of mountains in the world; spanning over 5,500 miles it is the main mountain system in South America. The Andes extend through Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina and part of Venezuela. Much of the Andean region is prone to earthquakes

Architecture

While many Native Andean cultures have thrived in the environment, the Andean region has a high risk of geologic hazards such as tsunamis, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and floods. Many buildings and structures, some highlighted below, have withstood five centuries in this volatile zone. Native Andean cultures such as Chavin, Moche, Nazca, and Inca created art and architecture that reflected their religious and political beliefs and social structures. We can learn about these cultures by exploring the works of art and architecture that they made.



Machu Picchu (c. 1450 AD) is a World Heritage Site located between the Huayna Picchu and Machu Picchu mountains in Peru. Building on the site began around 1450 CE. Over the span of two Incan rulers, it became one of the most important religious, political, and cultural centers of the Incan Empire. Consisting of almost 200 structures that were constructed with enormous stone blocks joined together without mortar, it is one of Peru's most famous ruins.

Fortress of Sacsayhuaman (c. 1100 AD) is a fortress-temple complex located in the former Incan capital of Cuzco in Peru. It is the largest structure built by the Inca and stood on the highest point of a steep-sided hill overlooking the city. A marvel of Incan engineering, the massive stones are so precisely fitted together, that a piece of paper would not fit between them.





Coricancha Temple of the Sun (c. 1438 AD) is one of four temples located in the center of Cuzco, dedicated to religious ceremonies honoring the Incan Sun God *Inti*. It is said that the interior and exterior walls were covered with sheets of gold thought to be the sweat of the sun. Also housed inside its walls were astronomical observation towers and burials of deceased Incan rulers. Upon Spanish conquest, the temple was destroyed and the Santo Domingo Church was built on top of the foundation.

Pinkuylluna Ruins (C. 1438-1472 AD) - one of two ancient ruins located on the side of the Pinkuylluna mountain in the town of Ollantaytambo, Peru (known as the *Living Inca City*). It was used by the Incas to store grains.



Tiwanaku Gate of the Sun (c. 500-900 AD)- also known as the "Calendar Gate" located in Tiahuanaco (Tiwanaku), western Bolivia, this ancient ruin was carved from a single block of stone. The structure is almost ten feet high and features a bas relief of a deity known by some as the *Weeping God* - with a staff in each hand surrounded by 48 impressions of human and bird-like figures. It appears to have served as an astronomical calendar, marking the sun's movements throughout the year.

Landscape

The Andes consists of vastly different landscapes - iconic waterways, high plateaus with incredible views, rainforests, and the world's driest desert (Atacama Desert in Northern Chile). The Andes Mountains is one of the highest mountain ranges in the world (following the Himalaya Mountains) with a climate that changes drastically throughout the region. For example, in northern areas like Colombia it is rainy and warm, yet in southern areas like Peru and Bolivia it is warm and dry. The climate shifts dramatically throughout Chile and Ecuador where a rainforest exists only a few miles away from the frosted-peak of Cotopaxi.

Animals

The diverse and expansive landscape of the Andes is home to many different animals; 75% of the Andean wildlife is native to the environment. The mountains serve as the home for a collection of unique animals including more than 600 species of mammals, 1700 species of birds, 400 species of fish and 600 species of reptiles. Due to increased land development and human encroachment, many of these animals are close to being endangered.



Andean Condor - Native to the Andes, it is the largest flying bird in the world with a wingspan of over ten feet.



Viscacha are rodents native to South America with soft, dense fur that resemble rabbits or chinchillas. They can live 13,000-16,000 feet in altitude above ground on rocky cliffs.



The Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey is an endangered Peruvian primate species that lives in steep mountains and dense forests of the Andes approximately 4,900 to 8,800 feet above ground. Destruction of this species' natural habitat by humans has caused it to be placed on the endangered list--only estimated population of 250 remains.



The Andean Spectacled Bear is the only bear species and largest land mammal native to South America. They are nocturnal omnivores with a range of habitats from rainforests to mountains to grasslands. It is hard to find them in their natural habitat since they are shy and avoid humans.



The Mountain Tapir is a native Andean mammal with thick woolly fur and great agility, which allows them to climb steep slopes and glaciers. Known as a seed disperser for the Andes mountains, large amounts of plant and fruit seeds remain intact in their dung, naturally "planting" seeds throughout the landscape. The population of Mountain Tapir has been decreasing, and there are currently less than about 2,500 remaining.



The **Llama** is a South American relative of the camel, but the llama does not have a hump. The llama is strong and serves as a pack animal - they can carry about 70 pounds. Llama hides are used for leather and their wool woven into rugs and fabrics. The Andes Mountains are believed to be home to more than seven million llamas.

Exploring More!

What was the Incan Empire?...it was a vast empire that flourished in the Andean region of South America from the early 12th century A.D., up until its conquest by Spanish invaders seeking riches in the 1530s. At its peak, the Inca Empire was the largest nation on Earth, unified by a universal language, religion, and road system spanned nearly 14,000 miles through the Andes mountains. The Inca are best known for their architecture, which was created without the use of modern tools, or the wheel, due to the rocky landscape. What remains from the Inca civilization is limited; many of their structures were either destroyed by conquerors searching for treasure or they sustained damage from natural disasters such as earthquakes.

Now it's your turn to create your own pop-up landscape inspired by the architecture, animals, and landscape of the Andes!

Materials

- (3) Sheets of 8.5" x 11" printer paper for templates
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Andes Architecture & Animal template found on event web-page (follow link [here](#) to print template)
- Andes pop-up base template found on event web-page (follow link [here](#) to print template)
- Glue
- **Optional:** Printable cardstock or construction paper for a more sturdy design template

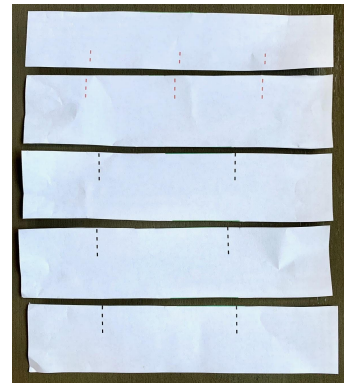
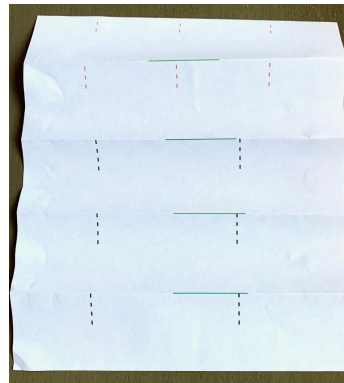
Creating your Andes Architecture Pop-up:

1. Print the three activity templates provided on VMFA's Family Day event page. These templates are the pop-up base template and two architecture & animal templates.
2. Using crayons or colored pencils, color the different objects on the architecture & animal templates.

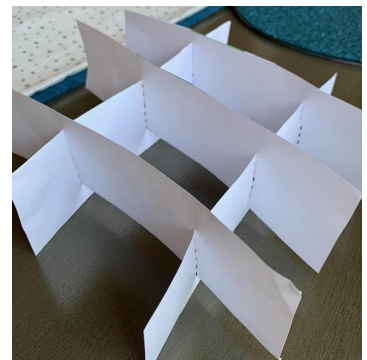
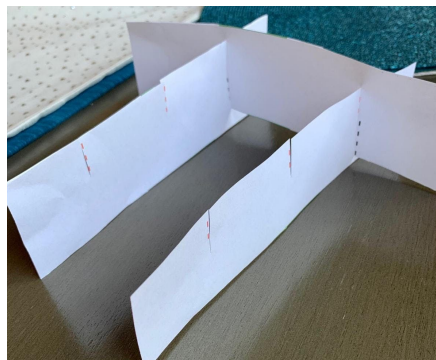


3. Cut out each item from the architecture and animal templates, following the bold lines.
4. To create the foundation, print out the base template (this template can be found on the Family Day event web-page).

5. Fold and cut along the green lines - you should have 5 strips of paper.

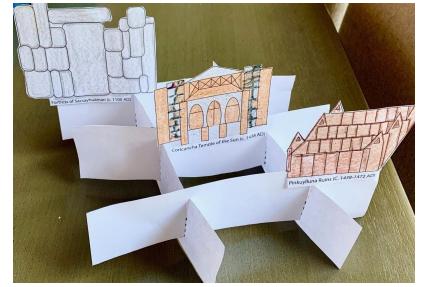


6. Cut along the dotted lines on each strip of paper. Be careful not to cut all the way to the end of the paper strip. **Optional:** color the five strips using crayons or colored pencils.



7. Interlock the paper slits on all five strips to create your project base. The strips with three slits will fit into the paper strips with two slits. See images on the right for reference.

8. Use a few dots of glue to attach your colored architectural & animal template pieces onto the top of the pop-up foundation. Construct your landscape using foreground, middle ground, and background.
9. Try overlapping the animal templates onto the landscape to give the illusion of depth or, to make it look three-dimensional.
10. Step back and marvel at your Andean-inspired pop-up!



Be Inspired by Works of Art at VMFA!



Vessel in the Form of a Temple with a Priest Figure

ca. 1200–1400

Unidentified Chancay Artist

Chancay Culture, Central Coast, Peru, Andean, South America

Terracotta with polychrome slips

Pre-Columbian Art

80.87



Double-Chambered Vessel with Two Figures

ca. 1400–1538, late intermediate period

Unidentified Inca Artist

Peruvian (Incan), Peru

Ceramic, blackware

Pre-Columbian Art

84.106