

Unit 12 Reading

Do Not Forget Our Earliest Cultures

<Letter to the Editor>

To the Editor:

In an otherwise excellent article on early cultures of South America (“South America’s Ancient Diversity,” April 22), author Rigoberto Ruiz-Nunez ignores the lasting significance of the Aymara people. Although the Aymara Empire collapsed over 1,000 years ago, the Aymara are not an **irrelevant** footnote in the history books today. Their empire once spanned the south-central Andes Mountains, and today, an estimated two million of their descendents live in Bolivia and another 500,000 in Peru. The Aymara have made an **indelible** mark on this region.

Saying that the Aymara suffered during colonization is a **platitude** that explains nothing. Millions of Aymara were **callously** worked to death in Spanish silver mines. The Aymara were forced to **abjure** their traditional religion and culture, although some practices continued in a **clandestine** way. For almost 500 years, Bolivian leaders showed no **compunction** about the mistreatment of the Aymara. Not until 1952 did Bolivia adopt a more **indulgent** policy, granting the Aymara the same civil rights as other Bolivians.

How did the Aymara survive such adversity? For one thing, there has always been a **tacit** agreement among the Aymara to help members of their community. In times of crisis, the Aymara work together—an arrangement that strengthens the group. In addition, centuries of high-altitude living gave the Aymara extraordinary lung capacity. They could live at elevations that left the colonizers faint—a further challenge to any attempts to **quell** rebellions in Aymara communities.

High in the Andes today, many Aymara continue their **inveterate** traditions, including their reliance on potato farming—they were among the first to cultivate this food—and llama and alpaca herding. Others have settled into modern society with **tangible** results. An Aymara political party sends members to the Bolivian Congress, and Aymara TV shows and music groups are popular. The tourist trade provides a ready market for sought-after Aymara woolen goods and weavings. So more than a millennium after the fall of their **august** empire, the Aymara remain a vibrant people, carrying on age-old traditions while exploring modern possibilities.

To the Editor:

Your recent article about the diverse peoples who populated early South America gave short shrift to an important ancient culture. The Moche people inhabited the river valleys and coastal plain of northern Peru between AD 100 and AD 800. You rightly note that archaeologists are **elated** by recent discoveries in the region: The sophisticated Moche built pyramids, temples, and irrigation canals and produced extraordinary ceramics and murals. Yet the article offers no **trenchant** explanation for why the Moche “disappeared.”

Scholars have long **ruminated** on the causes of the Moche collapse. Evidence from glacial ice cores shows that the area experienced 30 years of flooding followed by 30 years of drought. This weather event, from AD 536–594, could have disrupted the Moche food supply.

Furthermore, Moche leaders were charged with ensuring stable weather through religious practices, and their failure to do so may have destabilized the people’s faith in their leadership. Although the Moche had no known enemies, a few of their later settlements did have fortifications. What was the purpose of these defenses? Perhaps food shortages led to bitter infighting among the Moche. Such **acrid** conflicts could have led to the death of thousands and hastened the civilization’s decline. The full story of the Moche collapse may never be known. However, I hope articles such as yours will inspire some of your readers to study this and other ancient civilizations.

Unit 12 Examples

1. Toward the end of Shakespeare's last play, *The Tempest*, the magician Prospero **abjures** his powers over nature.
2. The **acrid** stench of a fire lingers in the air long after the flames have been extinguished.
3. The **august** visages of four of America's great presidents are carved on the face of Mount Rushmore.
4. Protesters accused the mayor of **callous** indifference to the plight of the homeless.
5. During the early stages of the American Revolution, **clandestine** colonial printing presses churned out quantities of anti-British propaganda.
6. In some religious writings **compunction** is used as a synonym for contrition to express profound regret for one's sins.
7. A large number of wooden structures quite literally added fuel to the **conflagration** that swept through San Francisco in 1906.
8. **Elated** fans lined the city's streets to cheer the World Series champions.
9. The brutal crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis left an **indelible** stain on the history of the twentieth century.
10. A heightened sense of compassion has induced the federal government to adopt a more **indulgent** policy toward illegal aliens.
11. It has been claimed that many writers and artists have an **inveterate** hostility to criticism.
12. When you take notes, it's best to record only the main ideas and eliminate all **irrelevant** details.
13. Most **nocturnal** creatures have keen eyesight and acute hearing.
14. The sentiments expressed in most greeting cards seldom rise above the level of timeworn **platitudes**.
15. The English poet John Dryden believed that music has the power either to arouse or to **quell** strong emotions.
16. Although some volcanoes are believed to be truly extinct, many are merely **quiescent**.
17. In old age many people sadly **ruminate** on mistakes made and opportunities missed.

18. The neighbors had a **tacit** understanding that they would help each other in an emergency.
19. After months of intensive negotiation, diplomats reported that they had made **tangible** progress toward reaching a settlement of the bitter dispute.
20. Scholars consider the **trenchant** satires of Jonathan Swift to be the greatest works of their kind in the English language.

Unit 12 Choosing the Right Word

1. Alexander the Great's meteoric career of world conquest made an **indelible** impression on the thoughts and institutions of antiquity.
2. Taking third place in the hundred-meter dash in the intramural track meet left me satisfied but scarcely **elated**.
3. Although there was no **tangible** reason for my alarm, I could not shake off the feeling that something terrible was about to happen.
4. His invariably **acrid** remarks on the state of the world soon earned him the nickname of "Old Sourpuss."
5. How will you write your novel if you spend most of your time **ruminating** about the title?
6. An insightful writer usually has no need to rely on hollow generalities or threadbare **platitudes**.
7. I've noticed that many professional football players become **irrelevant** only a few years after their retirement.
8. As part of the settlement, the company must henceforth **abjure** unsubstantiated claims for its product.
9. We hoped that the strange noises outside the tent were merely the foraging sounds of small **nocturnal** creatures like possums and raccoons.
10. Like so many **inveterate** pack rats, she has found that great self-discipline is needed to break the cluttering habit.
11. Because their misconduct was clearly deliberate, we have no feelings of **compunction** in sentencing them to ten days of detention.
12. The major powers intervened to prevent the brushfire war from engulfing the entire region in a full-scale **conflagration**.
13. The deep-seated resentment of the populace, which had long been **quiescent**, suddenly blossomed into open rebellion.
14. Millions of Americans were thrilled as they witnessed on TV the simple but **august** ceremony of the presidential inauguration.

15. We may criticize Americans for many things, but they are never **callous** when appeals for help come from distressed people.
16. We should seek not to **quell** the idealism and enthusiasm of youth but, rather, to direct those impulses into useful channels.
17. Your **ruminations** on the meaning of life will just be a waste of time unless they lead to some plans for rational behavior.
18. The old **platitude** “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks,” is based on the principle that old dogs and people do not learn as well as the young.
19. After listening to the senator’s **trenchant** analysis, I have a clearer idea of what is involved and where I should stand on the issue.
20. Just before going to sleep, we set traps to discourage the **nocturnal** raids of the raccoons on our food supply.
21. Since my parents offered no objections, I felt that I had their **tacit** consent to go ahead with my plans for a summer trip to California.
22. Though the anecdote was amusing, it was totally **irrelevant** to the matter we were discussing at the moment.
23. The judge has a reputation for being generally **indulgent**, but not when confronting an individual convicted of reckless driving.
24. In these days of presidential primaries, candidates can no longer be chosen at **clandestine** meetings of a few powerful politicians.
25. In a large city, it is difficult to avoid the **acrid** smoke emitted from cars.

Unit 12 Synonyms

1. an **inferno** that destroyed thousands of acres: **conflagration**
2. when nature is at its most **dormant**: **quiescent**
3. just one **tired expression** after another: **platitude**
4. tried to **suppress** their fears: **quell**
5. saw the actor's **unforgettable** performance: **indelible**
6. a creature who **sleeps during the day**: **nocturnal**
7. **delighted** by the day's events: **elated**
8. **lenient** grandparents spoiling grandkids: **indulgent**
9. **palpable** signs of long neglect: **tangible**
10. willingly **recanted** their old beliefs: **abjured**

Unit 12 Antonyms

1. a **lively** seaport: **quiescent**
2. the city's **daylight** bustle: **nocturnal**
3. a reputation for being **kind**: **callous**
4. red flag warning about a **flood**: **conflagration**
5. a pleasant and **fleeting** memory: **indelible**

Unit 12 Completing the Sentence

1. The years of close association with outstanding teachers had left a(n) **indelible** mark on the students' characters.
2. The debate was decided in our favor when Carole's **trenchant** rebuttal tore the other side's arguments to pieces.
3. How can we possibly accept the testimony of someone who is known to be a(n) **inveterate** liar?
4. According to legend, Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over an oil lamp and started the **conflagration** that consumed four square miles of Chicago in 1871.
5. The fumes released by the volcano were so **acrid** that they caused great discomfort among people in the nearby villages.
6. Some people are so completely wrapped up in their own concerns that they often seem to be **callous** about the feelings of others.
7. There was no **tangible** evidence of his sincerity, but somehow we were confident that he would do all he could to help us.
8. The documents showed that, years before, the companies had made a(n) **clandestine** agreement to divide the market.
9. Though we were angry with each other, we had a(n) **tacit** agreement to act politely in front of our parents.
10. Abraham Lincoln's plan for reconstruction simply had the former rebels **abjure** allegiance to the Confederacy and swear loyalty to the Union.
11. I tried to **quell** my feeling of panic by assuring myself that there is simply no such thing as a ghost.
12. I have no patience with a(n) **indulgent** parent who gives in to every whim and demand of an undisciplined child.
13. The audience seemed to be stirred by the speaker's remarks, but in my opinion they were no more than a series of **platitudes**.
14. Who wouldn't be **elated** at winning a huge prize on a television quiz show?

15. In the presence of such a(n) **august** assemblage of spiritual leaders representing all the major beliefs, I felt very humble.
16. The streets seemed safe and familiar during the day, but now we had to face unknown **nocturnal** dangers.
17. I stretched out under the old maple tree in the backyard and began to **ruminate** on the strange events of the day.
18. Your statement may be correct, but since it has no bearing on the point now under discussion, I must reject it as **irrelevant**.
19. Their behavior was so rude and offensive that I had no **compunction** about telling them to leave the house.
20. Although the disease had been **quiescent** for several years, the doctors warned her that its symptoms could appear again at any time.

Unit 12 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

1. “When I got back to my breakfast in the Boar’s coffee-room, I found Mr. Pumblechook conversing with the landlord. Mr. Pumblechook (not improved in appearance by his late **nocturnal** adventure) was waiting for me....”

A nocturnal adventure takes place

- ① **during the night** ② before dusk ③ during the day ④ after breakfast

2. ““And couldn’t Uncle Pumblechook, being always considerate and thoughtful for us—though you may not think it, Joseph,’ in a tone of the deepest reproach, as if he were the most **callous** of nephews...”

A callous person is NOT

- ① cruel ② careful ③ **caring** ④ thoughtfulness

3. “It revived my utmost indignation to find that she was still pursued by this fellow, and I felt **inveterate** against him. I told her so, and told her that I would spend any money or take any pains to drive him out of that country.”

An inveterate feeling toward someone is

- ① inexplicable ② undecided ③ protective ④ **entrenched**

4. “‘There’s one thing you may be sure of, Pip,’ said Joe, after some **rumination**, ‘namely, that lies is lies. Howsever they come, they didn’t ought to come...’”

A rumination is a(n)

- ① hesitation ② relaxation ③ **deliberation** ④ investigation

1. “...[H]e took us into another room with a dinner-table for thirty, and in the grate a scorched leaf of a copy-book under a bushel of coal-dust. Having looked at this extinct **conflagration** and shaken his head, he took my order....”

The conflagration referred to in this passage is

- ① a dinner table ② **a burned book** ③ a messy area ④ the grate of a fireplace

Unit 12 Reading

Do Not Forget Our Earliest Cultures

<Letter to the Editor>

To the Editor:

In an otherwise excellent article on early cultures of South America (“South America’s Ancient Diversity,” April 22), author Rigoberto Ruiz-Nunez ignores the lasting significance of the Aymara people. Although the Aymara Empire collapsed over 1,000 years ago, the Aymara are not an _____ footnote in the history books today. Their empire once spanned the south-central Andes Mountains, and today, an estimated two million of their descendents live in Bolivia and another 500,000 in Peru. The Aymara have made an _____ mark on this region.

Saying that the Aymara suffered during colonization is a _____ that explains nothing. Millions of Aymara were _____ worked to death in Spanish silver mines. The Aymara were forced to _____ their traditional religion and culture, although some practices continued in a _____ way. For almost 500 years, Bolivian leaders showed no _____ about the mistreatment of the Aymara. Not until 1952 did Bolivia adopt a more _____ policy, granting the Aymara the same civil rights as other Bolivians.

How did the Aymara survive such adversity? For one thing, there has always been a _____ agreement among the Aymara to help members of their community. In times of crisis, the Aymara work together—an arrangement that strengthens the group. In addition, centuries of high-altitude living gave the Aymara extraordinary lung capacity. They could live at elevations that left the colonizers faint—a further challenge to any attempts to _____ rebellions in Aymara communities.

High in the Andes today, many Aymara continue their _____ traditions, including their reliance on potato farming—they were among the first to cultivate this food—and llama and alpaca herding. Others have settled into modern society with _____ results. An Aymara political party sends members to the Bolivian Congress, and Aymara TV shows and music groups are popular. The tourist trade provides a ready market for sought-after Aymara woolen goods and weavings. So more than a millennium after the fall of their _____ empire, the Aymara remain a vibrant people, carrying on age-old traditions while exploring modern possibilities.

To the Editor:

Your recent article about the diverse peoples who populated early South America gave short shrift to an important ancient culture. The Moche people inhabited the river valleys and coastal plain of northern Peru between AD 100 and AD 800. You rightly note that archaeologists are _____ by recent discoveries in the region: The sophisticated Moche built pyramids, temples, and irrigation canals and produced extraordinary ceramics and murals. Yet the article offers no _____ explanation for why the Moche “disappeared.”

Scholars have long _____ on the causes of the Moche collapse. Evidence from glacial ice cores shows that the area experienced 30 years of flooding followed by 30 years of drought. This weather event, from AD 536–594, could have disrupted the Moche food supply.

Furthermore, Moche leaders were charged with ensuring stable weather through religious practices, and their failure to do so may have destabilized the people’s faith in their leadership. Although the Moche had no known enemies, a few of their later settlements did have fortifications. What was the purpose of these defenses? Perhaps food shortages led to bitter infighting among the Moche. Such _____ conflicts could have led to the death of thousands and hastened the civilization’s decline. The full story of the Moche collapse may never be known. However, I hope articles such as yours will inspire some of your readers to study this and other ancient civilizations.

Unit 12 Examples

1. Toward the end of Shakespeare's last play, *The Tempest*, the magician Prospero _____ his powers over nature.
2. The _____ stench of a fire lingers in the air long after the flames have been extinguished.
3. The _____ visages of four of America's great presidents are carved on the face of Mount Rushmore.
4. Protesters accused the mayor of _____ indifference to the plight of the homeless.
5. During the early stages of the American Revolution, _____ colonial printing presses churned out quantities of anti-British propaganda.
6. In some religious writings _____ is used as a synonym for contrition to express profound regret for one's sins.
7. A large number of wooden structures quite literally added fuel to the _____ that swept through San Francisco in 1906.
8. _____ fans lined the city's streets to cheer the World Series champions.
9. The brutal crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis left an _____ stain on the history of the twentieth century.
10. A heightened sense of compassion has induced the federal government to adopt a more _____ policy toward illegal aliens.
11. It has been claimed that many writers and artists have an _____ hostility to criticism.
12. When you take notes, it's best to record only the main ideas and eliminate all _____ details.
13. Most _____ creatures have keen eyesight and acute hearing.
14. The sentiments expressed in most greeting cards seldom rise above the level of timeworn _____.
15. The English poet John Dryden believed that music has the power either to arouse or to _____ strong emotions.
16. Although some volcanoes are believed to be truly extinct, many are merely _____.

17. In old age many people sadly _____ on mistakes made and opportunities missed.
18. The neighbors had a _____ understanding that they would help each other in an emergency.
19. After months of intensive negotiation, diplomats reported that they had made _____ progress toward reaching a settlement of the bitter dispute.
20. Scholars consider the _____ satires of Jonathan Swift to be the greatest works of their kind in the English language.

Unit 12 Choosing the Right Word

1. Alexander the Great's meteoric career of world conquest made an _____ impression on the thoughts and institutions of antiquity.
2. Taking third place in the hundred-meter dash in the intramural track meet left me satisfied but scarcely _____.
3. Although there was no _____ reason for my alarm, I could not shake off the feeling that something terrible was about to happen.
4. His invariably _____ remarks on the state of the world soon earned him the nickname of "Old Sourpuss."
5. How will you write your novel if you spend most of your time _____ about the title?
6. An insightful writer usually has no need to rely on hollow generalities or threadbare _____.
7. I've noticed that many professional football players become _____ only a few years after their retirement.
8. As part of the settlement, the company must henceforth _____ unsubstantiated claims for its product.
9. We hoped that the strange noises outside the tent were merely the foraging sounds of small _____ creatures like possums and raccoons.
10. Like so many _____ pack rats, she has found that great self-discipline is needed to break the cluttering habit.
11. Because their misconduct was clearly deliberate, we have no feelings of _____ in sentencing them to ten days of detention.
12. The major powers intervened to prevent the brushfire war from engulfing the entire region in a full-scale _____.
13. The deep-seated resentment of the populace, which had long been _____, suddenly blossomed into open rebellion.
14. Millions of Americans were thrilled as they witnessed on TV the simple but _____ ceremony of the presidential inauguration.

15. We may criticize Americans for many things, but they are never _____ when appeals for help come from distressed people.
16. We should seek not to _____ the idealism and enthusiasm of youth but, rather, to direct those impulses into useful channels.
17. Your _____ on the meaning of life will just be a waste of time unless they lead to some plans for rational behavior.
18. The old _____ "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," is based on the principle that old dogs and people do not learn as well as the young.
19. After listening to the senator's _____ analysis, I have a clearer idea of what is involved and where I should stand on the issue.
20. Just before going to sleep, we set traps to discourage the _____ raids of the raccoons on our food supply.
21. Since my parents offered no objections, I felt that I had their _____ consent to go ahead with my plans for a summer trip to California.
22. Though the anecdote was amusing, it was totally _____ to the matter we were discussing at the moment.
23. The judge has a reputation for being generally _____, but not when confronting an individual convicted of reckless driving.
24. In these days of presidential primaries, candidates can no longer be chosen at _____ meetings of a few powerful politicians.
25. In a large city, it is difficult to avoid the _____ smoke emitted from cars.

Unit 12 Synonyms

1. an **inferno** that destroyed thousands of acres: _____
2. when nature is at its most **dormant**: _____
3. just one **tired expression** after another: _____
4. tried to **suppress** their fears: _____
5. saw the actor's **unforgettable** performance: _____
6. a creature who **sleeps during the day**: _____
7. **delighted** by the day's events: _____
8. **lenient** grandparents spoiling grandkids: _____
9. **palpable** signs of long neglect: _____
10. willingly **recanted** their old beliefs: _____

Unit 12 Antonyms

1. a **lively** seaport: _____
2. the city's **daylight** bustle: _____
3. a reputation for being **kind**: _____
4. red flag warning about a **flood**: _____
5. a pleasant and **fleeting** memory: _____

Unit 12 Completing the Sentence

1. The years of close association with outstanding teachers had left a(n) _____ mark on the students' characters.
2. The debate was decided in our favor when Carole's _____ rebuttal tore the other side's arguments to pieces.
3. How can we possibly accept the testimony of someone who is known to be a(n) _____ liar?
4. According to legend, Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over an oil lamp and started the _____ that consumed four square miles of Chicago in 1871.
5. The fumes released by the volcano were so _____ that they caused great discomfort among people in the nearby villages.
6. Some people are so completely wrapped up in their own concerns that they often seem to be _____ about the feelings of others.
7. There was no _____ evidence of his sincerity, but somehow we were confident that he would do all he could to help us.
8. The documents showed that, years before, the companies had made a(n) _____ agreement to divide the market.
9. Though we were angry with each other, we had a(n) _____ agreement to act politely in front of our parents.
10. Abraham Lincoln's plan for reconstruction simply had the former rebels _____ allegiance to the Confederacy and swear loyalty to the Union.
11. I tried to _____ my feeling of panic by assuring myself that there is simply no such thing as a ghost.
12. I have no patience with a(n) _____ parent who gives in to every whim and demand of an undisciplined child.
13. The audience seemed to be stirred by the speaker's remarks, but in my opinion they were no more than a series of _____.
14. Who wouldn't be _____ at winning a huge prize on a television quiz show?

15. In the presence of such a(n) _____ assemblage of spiritual leaders representing all the major beliefs, I felt very humble.
16. The streets seemed safe and familiar during the day, but now we had to face unknown _____ dangers.
17. I stretched out under the old maple tree in the backyard and began to _____ on the strange events of the day.
18. Your statement may be correct, but since it has no bearing on the point now under discussion, I must reject it as _____.
19. Their behavior was so rude and offensive that I had no _____ about telling them to leave the house.
20. Although the disease had been _____ for several years, the doctors warned her that its symptoms could appear again at any time.

Unit 12 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

1. “When I got back to my breakfast in the Boar’s coffee-room, I found Mr. Pumblechook conversing with the landlord. Mr. Pumblechook (not improved in appearance by his late **nocturnal** adventure) was waiting for me...”

A nocturnal adventure takes place

- ① during the night ② before dusk ③ during the day ④ after breakfast

2. ““And couldn’t Uncle Pumblechook, being always considerate and thoughtful for us—though you may not think it, Joseph,’ in a tone of the deepest reproach, as if he were the most **callous** of nephews...”

A callous person is NOT

- ① cruel ② careful ③ caring ④ thoughtfulness

3. “It revived my utmost indignation to find that she was still pursued by this fellow, and I felt **inveterate** against him. I told her so, and told her that I would spend any money or take any pains to drive him out of that country.”

An inveterate feeling toward someone is

- ① inexplicable ② undecided ③ protective ④ entrenched

4. “‘There’s one thing you may be sure of, Pip,’ said Joe, after some **rumination**, ‘namely, that lies is lies. Howsoever they come, they didn’t ought to come...’”

A rumination is a(n)

- ① hesitation ② relaxation ③ deliberation ④ investigation

5. “...[H]e took us into another room with a dinner-table for thirty, and in the grate a scorched leaf of a copy-book under a bushel of coal-dust. Having looked at this extinct **conflagration** and shaken his head, he took my order....”

The conflagration referred to in this passage is

- ① a dinner table ② a burned book ③ a messy area ④ the grate of a fireplace