



AI unearths ancient Nazca drawings in Peru desert.

Description

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A 22-metre-long drawing illustrating a killer whale with a knife

Masato Sakai

An incredible discovery has been made in the Peruvian desert with the aid of artificial intelligence - hundreds of ancient drawings that depict decapitated human heads and domesticated llamas. These intricate creations have been linked to the Nazca culture, pioneers of etching geoglyphs into the ground some 2000 years ago.

Unlike the Nazca lines showcasing massive geometric patterns or giant animal depictions, the newly unearthed images are notably smaller and older. They predominantly feature humanoid figures and domesticated animals, some suggestive of human sacrifice, such as portrayals of decapitated heads and killer whales brandishing weapons.

According to Masato Sakai from Yamagata University, "On some pottery from the Nazca period, there are scenes depicting orcas with knives cutting off human heads," shedding light on the ritualistic practices of the ancient civilization.

Sakai's team utilized AI technology to scour aerial photographs and identify potential geoglyph sites, significantly expediting the screening process by filtering out low-probability areas. This innovative approach led to the uncovering of 303 figurative geoglyphs, shedding new light on the Nazca culture and their artistic expressions.

Renowned scholars like Karsten Lambers and Marcus Freitag laud the AI's role in mapping the Nazca region's geoglyphs, emphasizing the importance of swift action to safeguard these ancient artifacts from modern development threats.

With nearly 1000 AI-identified candidates awaiting further exploration, the tantalizing prospect of unearthing more hidden geoglyphs beckons, promising to enrich our understanding of this enigmatic civilization further.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Intricate** /'ɪn.trɪ.kət/ (adjective): Very detailed or complex.
2. **Decapitated** /dɪ'kæp.ɪ.teɪ.tɪd/ (adjective): Beheaded; having had the head removed.
3. **Etching** /'etʃ.ɪŋ/ (noun): A print created from a design cut into a surface.
4. **Geoglyphs** /'dʒi:.əg.lɪf/ (noun): Large designs or motifs produced on the ground.
5. **Ritualistic** /ˌrɪtʃ.u'æl.ɪ.stɪk/ (adjective): Relating to rituals; ceremonial.
6. **Expediting** /'ɛk.spə.daɪ.tɪŋ/ (verb): Making an action or process happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Which ancient culture has been linked to the recently discovered drawings in the Peruvian desert?
Option: Maya culture
Option: Nazca culture
Option: Aztec culture
Option: Inca culture
2. What type of images are predominantly featured in the newly unearthed drawings?
Option: Geometric patterns
Option: Giant animals
Option: Humanoid figures and domesticated animals
Option: Nature landscapes
3. What kind of sacrifices are suggested in some of the drawings?
Option: Animal sacrifices
Option: Voluntary sacrifices
Option: Plant offerings
Option: Human sacrifices
4. How many figurative geoglyphs were uncovered with the help of AI technology?
Option: 100
Option: 303
Option: 500
Option: 700
5. Who emphasized the importance of safeguarding the ancient artifacts from modern development threats?
Option: Masato Sakai
Option: Karsten Lambers
Option: Marcus Freitag
Option: Yamagata University
6. How many AI-identified candidates are awaiting further exploration?
Option: 500
Option: 750



Option: 1000

Option: 1200

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Nazca culture 2. Humanoid figures and domesticated animals 3. Human sacrifices 4. 303
5. Karsten Lambers 6. 1000

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term refers to the state of being content or fulfilled?

Option: Impact

Option: Satisfaction

Option: Oversight

Option: Retrieve

2. What is the term for laws created by a governing body?

Option: Sustained

Option: Regulations

Option: Legislation

Option: Inertia

3. Which term describes the act of passing judgment or disapproval?

Option: Correlated

Option: Decapitated

Option: Criticism

Option: Expediting

4. Which term refers to providing encouragement or backing?

Option: Polarizing

Option: Safeguards

Option: Supportive

Option: Regulatory

5. What is a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person?

Option: Intricate

Option: Anecdote

Option: Engagements



Option: Increment

6. Which term relates to the physical senses or perception?

- Option: Impact
- Option: Sensory
- Option: Geoglyphs
- Option: Ritualistic

7. What are the rules or directives made and maintained by an authority?

- Option: Retrieve
- Option: Regulatory
- Option: Contraversial
- Option: Regulations

8. Which term describes the tendency of an object to resist changes in its state of motion?

- Option: Safeguards
- Option: Inertia
- Option: Incendiary
- Option: Adaptation

9. Which term refers to formal agreements to get married?

- Option: Controversial
- Option: Engagements
- Option: Substantial
- Option: Intricate

10. Which term means to cut off the head of someone or something?

- Option: Impact
- Option: Substantial
- Option: Decapitated
- Option: Polarizing

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The new policy had a significant _____ on the company's profits.

12. _____ plays a crucial role in shaping the legal framework of a nation.

13. The company hired a _____ consultant to ensure compliance with industry standards.



14. The company recorded a _____ increase in sales last quarter.
15. The political speech was deemed too _____ and was met with strong opposition.
16. The team's _____ effort throughout the season led them to victory.
17. The _____ design of the building showcased the architect's talent.
18. The IT team managed to _____ the lost data from the corrupted hard drive.
19. The artist's latest exhibit sparked _____ discussions about art and culture.
20. The couple announced their _____ amidst great celebrations.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The ancient Nazca Lines in Peru are famous for their massive carved into the desert floor.
22. The tribal dance was a ceremony performed to honor their ancestors.
23. According to Newton's First Law of Motion an object at rest tends to stay at rest due to .
24. The politician's speech was highly causing a sharp divide among the audience.
25. The manager suggested the shipping process to meet the deadline.
26. Fire alarms and sprinkler systems are important to protect buildings from fire damage.
27. Employees can receive a salary based on their performance.
28. The committee provides to ensure that the project follows regulations and standards.
29. The pharmaceutical industry is subject to strict guidelines to maintain safety.
30. The policy change had a profound on the environment.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Satisfaction 2. Legislation 3. Criticism 4. Supportive 5. Anecdote 6. Sensory 7. Regulations 8. Inertia 9. Engagements 10. Decapitated

Gap-Fill: 11. impact 12. Legislation 13. Regulatory 14. substantial 15. incendiary 16. sustained 17. intricate 18. retrieve



19. controversial 20. engagement

Matching sentence: 1. Geoglyphs 2. Ritualistic 3. Inertia 4. Polarizing 5. Expediting 6. Safeguards 7. Increment
8. Oversight 9. Regulatory 10. Impact

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

Date Created

2024/09/24

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