

Al unearths ancient Nazca drawings in Peru desert.

Description









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 Al'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 Al-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** /'ɛtʃ.ɪŋ/ (noun): A print created from a design cut into a surface.
- 4. **Geoglyphs** /'dzi:.əq.lɪf/ (noun): Large designs or motifs produced on the ground.
- 5. **Ritualistic** /,rɪtʃ.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 Al 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 Al-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 pe Option: Impact Option: Sensory Option: Geoglyphs Option: Ritualistic	rception?
7. What are the rules or directives made and main	tained by an authority?
Option: Retrieve Option: Regulatory Option: Contraversial Option: Regulations	realined by an additioney.
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	married?
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 some	one 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

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