"Pre-Columbian" refers to the time before Europeans travelled to the Americas. South America was home to various indigenous peoples that existed long before colonization.

**Pre-Columbian Cultures**

- **Chimú**
  Chimú culture shared many traditions with Moche culture. Found in Northern Peru, it was known for its pottery and ceramics.

- **Chavín**
  The Chavín people created one of the first examples of complex society. They were located in the Andes Mountains in central Peru.

- **Moche**
  Moche inhabitants were descendants of the Chavín. Located in Northern Peru, they were known for their religious sacrifice ceremonies.

- **Nazca**
  Nazca peoples were located on the Southern coast of Peru. They were known for their aqueduct system, called *puquios*, for transporting.

- **Tairona**
  The Tairona were located on the Columbian coast. There are several indigenous groups today that are believed to be descendants.

- **Taino**
  Located in areas of Puerto Rico, the West Indies, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Cuba, the Taino were one of the first groups that Christopher Columbus encountered.

**Pre-Columbian Artifacts**

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MADE BY JESS GALARZA ’22
Beans were very important in Pre-Columbian cultures. The peoples worshiped deities (gods and goddesses) of the crops to invite fertile land and good harvests. They would create ceramic representations of these deities to place in their fields. Here we can see representations of corn, also known as maize.

Activity

The "three sisters" or the three main agricultural crops of corn, squash, and beans were very important in Pre-Columbian cultures. The peoples worshiped deities (gods and goddesses) of the crops to invite fertile land and good harvests. They would create ceramic representations of these deities to place in their fields. Here we can see representations of corn, also known as maize.

What is so important to you that you cannot live without?

Draw a representation of it.

Carved Stone Decoration

The Taíno religion revolved around gods, spirits or ancestors called cemis.

This is a stone decoration which portrays the dog deity named Opíyel Guobiran, who guides spirits to the after-life.