

Andes Evidence Trail

Combine source evidence to explain a world region.

S.WG.a "selecting and synthesizing evidence from information sources including, but not limited to artifacts, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs, diagrams, and geospatial technologies, including maps..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read the passage and source table, underline each kind of source, circle what it reveals, and number three details that work together to explain the Sacred Valley. Your marks should show how different evidence types build a regional conclusion.

Reading the Sacred Valley

- ① Geographers study regions by combining clues, not by trusting one source. Consider the Andes, a long mountain region along western South America. In Peru's Sacred Valley, Inca stone terraces are artifacts that show people shaped steep slopes for farming. A nineteenth-century travel diary is a primary source. It describes narrow paths and irrigated fields, but its author saw only part of the region.

SOURCE NOTES FROM THE SACRED VALLEY

Source type	Source note	Useful insight
Artifact	A stone terrace wall holds soil on a steep slope.	People changed slopes to create farm space.
Primary source	A visitor recorded narrow paths and irrigated fields.	Travel and farming depended on paths and water.
Secondary source	A historian describes Inca terrace farming.	Terraces were part of a larger farming system.
GIS and GPS	Layers and location readings place many sites near the Urubamba River.	Water and valley location affected settlement patterns.

- ② A secondary source, such as a historian's book based on several records, can add context. Geospatial evidence adds another view. A GIS can layer elevation, rivers, and settlements. GPS readings give exact locations during fieldwork. The table points to a pattern: settlements and farms are near water in valleys, while high, steep land is less suitable for large fields.
- ③ To reach a conclusion, compare sources and ask what each can and cannot prove. Terrace walls provide physical evidence of past land use, yet they do not reveal every farmer's decision. The visitor's diary gives one person's view, while GIS data can show regional patterns. Together, the evidence supports a conclusion: the Sacred Valley's terrain and water shaped farming and travel.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 How does the terrace wall provide different evidence from the visitor's diary? Include one limit of either source.

- 2 What information can GIS and GPS provide that the visitor's diary cannot provide?

- 3 What pattern about land and water is supported by the source table and the second paragraph?

- 4 Use two different source types to support the conclusion that terrain and water shaped farming and travel in the Sacred Valley.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Plan an investigation of this question: How did people choose travel routes in the Sacred Valley?
Complete the table with three different source types, the evidence you would seek, what it could show, and one limit.

SOURCE TYPE	EVIDENCE TO SEEK	WHAT IT COULD SHOW	ONE LIMIT

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read the passage and source table, underline each kind of source, circle what it reveals, and number three details that work together to explain the Sacred Valley. Your marks should show how different evidence types build a regional conclusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the terrace wall provide different evidence from the visitor's diary? Include one limit of either source.	The terrace wall is physical evidence that people shaped steep slopes for farming, but it cannot explain every farmer's decision. The diary describes paths and irrigated fields, but it gives one visitor's view of only part of the region.
2	What information can GIS and GPS provide that the visitor's diary cannot provide?	GIS can layer elevation, rivers, and settlements to show regional patterns. GPS can give exact locations during fieldwork, while the diary gives one person's observations.
3	What pattern about land and water is supported by the source table and the second paragraph?	Settlements and farms tended to be near water in valleys. High, steep land was less suitable for large fields.
4	Use two different source types to support the conclusion that terrain and water shaped farming and travel in the Sacred Valley.	Terrace walls show that people adapted steep slopes for farming. The diary describes narrow paths and irrigated fields, and GIS and GPS evidence places many sites near the river. Together, these sources show that slopes, paths, and water affected farming and travel.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

SOURCE TYPE	EVIDENCE TO SEEK	WHAT IT COULD SHOW	ONE LIMIT
Artifact	Remains of stone paths or bridges	Where people built routes across steep land or rivers	It may not show who used a route or why
Primary source	A traveler's diary describing a journey	Which paths people used and what obstacles they noticed	One traveler saw only a limited area
GIS and GPS	Elevation, river, and path-location data	Whether routes followed valleys or avoided steep slopes	The data show locations, not people's reasons for choosing them