



Nasca Geoglyphs  
Nasca River Valley, Peru



Human Head Jar  
Nasca 600/700 AD  
Museo Nacional Bruning de Lambayeque, Peru



Double Spout and Bridge Pottery Vessel with a  
Bird Deity  
Nasca culture (200 BC - AD 600)  
British Museum

## GLOSSARY

### **Nasca**

A people who lived in and around the Nasca river valley in the south coast of Peru.

Context-Nasca pottery and textiles are vividly colored and very expressive although not the realistic style, as the Moche. The Nasca are best known for the gigantic lines and line drawings created in the desert.

### **Geoglyphs**

A man-made or nature-made landform. Term used today to describe a drawing on the earth's surface.

Context- The Nasca are also known for their *geoglyphs* or "Nasca Lines", geometric forms and giant drawings of birds, animals and other natural forms etched in the desert of southern Peru.

### **Iconography**

Pictorial illustration of a subject. The collected representations illustrating a subject. A set of specified or traditional symbolic forms associated with the subject or theme of a stylized work of art.

Context- Reiche hypothesized that the lines served a religious and social function, and that they were iconography intended as reminders to the gods, to insure that the needs of the Nasca people were not forgotten.

### **Polychrome**

Having many or various colors; polychromatic. Made or decorated in many or various colors. An object or a work composed of or decorated in many colors. Context-Thanks to the dry climate many polychrome pottery were saved.

### **Globular**

Having the shape of a globe or globule; spherical.

Context-This globular jar depicts a fantastic bird.