INCA
The Peruvian Ensemble

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE
South American music is often referred to as Andean music because the Andes Mountains of South America are the homeland of the Inca people who created what is now the most popular music throughout the area. Some of the instruments associated with this music are:
Charango - a tiny 10-stringed guitar made of an armadillo shell which has a sweet sound.
Spanish Guitar - a guitar made of wood with six gut strings.
Zampoña - know as a “pan pipe”, it is a series of bamboo reeds, each tuned to a specific note, and tied together. They are played in pairs.
Quena - made of wood, it is the Andean version of the flute.
Tarka - wooden flute from the Lake Titicaca area, with a wild and earthy sound.
Bombo leguero - a percussion instrument made of a hollowed tree trunk with a cured animal skin drum-head.
Cajón - crafted by Afro Peruvians, it is a wooden box with a sound hole in the back. Players sit on top and play with their hands.
Chac-chas - rattles made up of dozens of goat hooves which are tied to a strip of cloth worn around the waist.

THINK ABOUT IT
What words would you use to describe the music of Peru? What feelings did it bring to you? Why?

Identify the different movements that were performed in the dances such as a step, hop, jump and bounce.

DIG DEEPER
To learn more about Andean music, check out The Music Center’s Artsource Curriculum: “Arco Iris”
https://www.musiccenter.org/education/Teacher-Resources/Artsource-Curriculum/Available-ArtSource-Units/Arco-Iris/

TRY THIS CHALLENGE
Make a list of things that distinguishes the music of the Incas from other types of music you know of or listen to. For example, think of the instruments that play the music; the language of the songs; the dance steps; rhythms; melodies; etc. Analyze the things you listed and compare them with other musical styles.