Everyone loves Llamas, who can resist their cute fuzziness? Let's talk about where Llamas come from, Peru is a country in western South America. It is a land of arid coasts, high Andes Mountains, and Amazon rainforest. More than three times the size of the U.S. state of California, Peru is as big as Spain, France, and the United Kingdom combined. Peru is the third largest country in South America after Brazil and Argentina and the fourth in Latin America (which includes Mexico). It is also the fifth most populous Latin American country. The capital and largest city is Lima.

Peru is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on its long western coast. It is bordered by Ecuador and Columbia to the north, Brazil to the east, Bolivia to the southeast, and Chile to the south. Tourists and archaeologists flock from around the world to Lake Titicaca and ancient Inca sites such as Machu Picchu, Cajamarca and Cuzco. Peru’s pre-Incan ruins are also famous, from the massive adobe walls of Chan Chan on the northern coast to the Nazca Lines on the southern coastal plain.

Another amazing thing about Peru are the textiles (woven cloth). Peruvian textiles are ancient and beautiful, going back to 1,000 BC. Much of the same styles, patterns, colors and methods are used by artisans today. In our project you will try to imitate some of the vibrant patterns and colors used in Peruvian textiles.
Watch this breathtaking video by National Geographic, *Journey Through Peru’s Incredible Sights in 6 Minutes.*

**Peruvian Llama Portrait**


**You will need:**

- 2 Pieces of white paper (If you would like to use paints, use a heavier paper such as: construction paper, sketch paper or watercolor paper.
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pencil

Choose a medium for color: crayons, pastels, color pencils, watercolors, acrylic paint

On one sheet of white paper, create your textile pattern. You can use lines, shapes, or even objects in your pattern. Sketch your pattern in light pencil first. When that’s finished, decide what colors you would like to use and what medium (what materials) you would like to use. You might want to try a resistance painting, drawing with crayon and then going over it with watercolor. The crayon repels the watercolor creating an interesting and fun effect.

On your other sheet of white paper, draw a llama in light pencil. You can draw just the neck and head of the llama or the full body. Try to make your llama big, make it fill up half or more of the page. You are going to add the llama to your textile drawing, so you want your llama to stand out and not be swallowed up by the textile pattern. When you are done with your llama sketch, you can color it in however you like. After you color in your llama, cut it out and glue it to your textile pattern. If your textile was painted, make sure it’s completely dry before gluing down your llama. Enjoy your Peruvian Llama portrait!

Here is a Llama Drawing Tutorial by Art projects for kids, to help you draw your llama:
Peru is one of the many Spanish speaking countries we celebrate during Hispanic Heritage month. Here are some books you might like to check out, to learn more about Peru:

**Late Lunch with Llamas**
by Mary Pope Osborne

**Llamas and the Andes**
A Non-fiction Companion to Magic Treehouse #34

**Where Is Machu Picchu?**
by Meagan Stine

**Hector and Hummingbird**
by Nicholas John Frith

**Peru**
by Lisa Owings