

# Laguna Culebrillas

*Book compiled and written by Emma Bass, Russell Kam,  
Taina Quiñones, and Aunika Yasui*

*Created as part of Worcester Polytechnic  
Institute's Interactive Qualifying Project*

*Cuenca, Ecuador Project Site | 2023*



**WPI**

Level 1



## About the Story

The *Laguna Culebrillas* was provided by Cañarejo Doctor Wilson González, PRIMOK students, and books in the library of *Museo Pumapungo*.

Dr. González is retired history teacher from Colegio San José de Calasanz de Cañar. He currently works as a lawyer.

*Museo Pumapungo* is dedicated to preserving the art and culture of the Indigenous peoples of Ecuador.



In the town of El Tambo in Cañar there is a **lake** called *Laguna Culebrillas*. This **lake** is **sacred** to the Cañaris.



The Cañaris are **brave warriors** and their **neighbors** respect them.

The Incas come to Cañar and see how beautiful it is.

<b>Greedy</b> (Codicioso)	El deseo de poseer muchas riquezas
<b>Worry</b> (Preocupado)	Sentir inquietud por algo
<b>Descendents</b> (Descendientes)	Personas que descienden de otras personas
<b>Bury</b> (Enterrar)	Poner bajo tierra
<b>Treasure</b> (Tesoro)	Dinero, joyas, oro, y otras cosas de valor
<b>Protect</b> (Proteger)	Hacer que una persona o cosa no reciba daño
<b>Flood</b> (Inundar Algo)	Inundar algo con mucha agua
<b>Powerful</b> (Poderoso)	Algo o alguien que tiene autoridad y es muy influyente
<b>Fishing</b> (Pescar)	Atrapar peces en aguas naturales
<b>Locals</b> (Lugareños)	Gente que ha nacido en un lugar o población pequeña
<b>Glows</b> (Brilla)	Emitir luz brillante

# Vocabulary

<b>Lake</b> (Lago)	Depósito natural de agua
<b>Sacred</b> (Sagrado)	Relacionado con la divinidad
<b>Brave</b> (Valiente)	Una persona que no tiene miedo
<b>Warrior</b> (Luchador)	Persona que lucha
<b>Neighbor</b> (Vecino)	Persona que vive cerca de su barrio
<b>Alliance</b> (Alianza)	Unión entre personas o estados
<b>Build</b> (Construir)	Hacer una construcción de arquitectura
<b>Monuments</b> (Monumentos)	Construcción que tiene gran valor histórico
<b>Together</b> (Juntos)	Estar con otras personas o en la proximidad de otros
<b>Spaniards</b> (Españoles)	Personas de España quien invadieron a las Américas
<b>Cruel</b> (Cruel)	Persona que no siente compasión



The Incas create an **alliance** with the Cañaris and **build** many **monuments together**.



## Comprehension Questions

1. Where is *Laguna Culebrillas*?
2. Who makes an **alliance** with the Cañaris?
3. What do the Cañaris and Incas build **together**?
4. What do the Cañaris **bury** under the lake?
5. What is the name of the snake?

## Discussion Questions

1. Did you learn something new today?
2. What was something interesting you learned in this story?
3. Have you heard a different version of this story?

One day, the Cañaris and Incas learn about the **Spaniards**. The Cañaris and Incas learn that the Spaniards are **cruel** and **greedy**, so they are **worried**.



You can visit *Laguna Culebrillas* today. Many people go **fishing** at the **lake**. But, the **locals** say that at night the gold under the **lake glows**.




The Cañaris believe they are **descendants** of snakes, so they make a river shaped like a snake.



When they are done making the river, they **bury** their **treasures** to **protect** them.

Then, the Cañaris **flood** the river to create a **lake**.

A vibrant illustration of a large green snake with a blue mouth, coiled over a pile of gold coins. The snake's scales are detailed with a grid-like pattern. The background is a mix of blue and green wavy patterns, suggesting an underwater or treasure-filled environment. The gold coins are scattered around the snake, some in small stacks. The overall style is colorful and artistic.

After they bury their gold, a powerful snake arrives to protect it. The snake is named *Leoquina*.

The Spaniards never find the gold. The Cañaris believe that *Leoquina* eats anyone that tries to find the gold.