

18 BOLIVIA AND PERU a) Life around Lake Titicaca

- 18A In the Altiplano of South America, between Bolivia and Peru, is found one of the largest and most beautiful lakes in the world, Lake Titicaca. 3,205 square miles divided between Bolivia and Peru, largest fresh-water lake in South America and highest in World (12,500 feet above sea level; maximum depth 900 feet). From pre-Inca times it has been center of Indian life. In the middle of the lake is an island, the legendary birthplace of the first Inca.
- 18B The Indians of this region are forced to make their boats of the local balsa reed because wood is rare and must be brought to this region from the lower altitudes. The balsa boats are interesting in shape. They can be used for a few weeks only before becoming water logged. It is then necessary to dry them on the shore.
- 18C The men of this region wear caps with earlaps as protection against the cold even when wearing a hat.
- 18D The sails of the balsa boats are also made of the reed. These boats are one of the beautiful sights on Lake Titicaca.
- 18E One of the sources of food in the region is the fish caught in the lake. Every evening the children come to watch the boats come in with their catch.
- 18F This is well worth doing, as frequently the entire boat is filled with the small silver fish.
- 18G Landscapes such as this with snow-capped mountains are common in the region.

- 18H The earth is not especially fertile and the Indians must work long and hard cultivating the food for their needs.
- 18I This region of Peru is called the "Puno". It is the great highland area in which the Incas settled, and is the home of the so-called "Irish potato". The mountain rises abruptly from the plain and even on the steep badly eroded incline, one finds patches of terraced lands used for farming.
- 18J This woman, a direct descendant of the Incas, represents the type found in the highlands. Notice the exquisite weaving on the shawl worn around her shoulders and the detail of the design. The hat is typical of the region and is worn turned up on sunny days but turned down on rainy days when it serves as an umbrella.