

SECTION
5

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Geography has influenced the economies and people's ways of life in Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Geography has also influenced the economies of the nations in the Southern Cone.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

gaucho Argentinian cowboy

Southern Cone South American nations located in the cone-shaped southernmost part of South America

estancia (eh•STAHN•syah) large farm or ranch in Argentina

Mercosur association of several South American countries to promote trade among the countries

REVIEW

José de San Martín leader for independence in southern South America

gross domestic product (GDP) the total value of all the goods and services produced in a country in a year

Pampas grassy plains in south-central South America

landlocked surrounded by land with no access to sea



Visual Vocabulary
Southern Cone

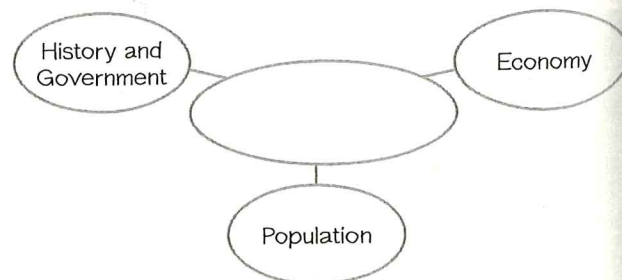
▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the web diagram shown at right for each country in the section. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to organize details about the nation's history and government, economy, and population.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4

FIND MAIN IDEAS



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com

The Southern Cone

Connecting to Your World

Cowboys played an important role in cattle ranching in the American West in the 1800s. In Argentina, **gauchos**, or cowboys, also play an important role in cattle ranching. As in the United States, the life and culture of gauchos is the subject of many Argentinian stories and movies. But the gaucho is just one aspect of the culture of Argentina and its neighbors.



Argentinian gaucho



Argentina and Chile

▼ **KEY QUESTION** How do Argentina's plains and Chile's mountains affect their economies?

Together with Paraguay and Uruguay, Argentina and Chile form part of South America's **Southern Cone**, the cone-shaped southernmost area of South America. The largest of the four countries is Argentina, a country of plains, plateaus, mountains, forests, and a long coastline. The Andes Mountains make up much of Chile, the world's longest and narrowest country. Argentina is bordered by Paraguay on the north and Uruguay on the east.

Patagonia Sheep farmers round up their sheep. How would you describe the land on which this sheep ranch is located?



Michelle Bachelet

Michelle Bachelet won more than 53 percent of the votes. She promised to bring more jobs to Chile and to work for social justice.

History and Government The Spanish who first arrived in Argentina expected to find gold and silver. In fact, *Argentina* comes from the Latin word *argentum*, which means “silver.” *Chile* likely comes from the Native American word meaning “where the land ends.” In the 1500s, the Spanish came looking for gold and silver in both regions. Later, **José de San Martín** of Argentina helped both countries gain independence from Spain by 1818.

Like other South American nations, Argentina was controlled by dictators into the 20th century. Chile’s government, on the other hand, was more stable. Presidents were often elected because they promised social reforms. In 1973, however, General Augusto Pinochet took control of Chile’s government and ruled as a military dictator until 1990. Today, Argentina and Chile are republics. In 2006, Chile elected its first female president, Michelle Bachelet.

Economy In both Argentina and Chile, service industries make up most of the nations’ **gross domestic product (GDP)** and employ more than half of the nations’ workers. Most of Argentina’s manufacturing occurs in factories in and around Buenos Aires. The **Pampas** and Patagonia are important to Argentina’s agriculture. Beef cattle and grain and fruits, such as wheat and grapes, are raised on large ranches and farms, called **estancias** (eh•STAHN-syahs), on the Pampas. Thousands of sheep graze in Patagonia. Petroleum from Patagonia is Argentina’s main mineral. Fishing along Argentina’s long coastline is also an important part of Argentina’s economy.

CONNECT to Math

The GDP is an important indicator of the strength of a nation’s economy. A strong GDP indicates a healthy economy and usually influences a nation’s stock market in a positive way.



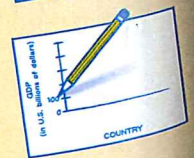
Activity

Make a GDP Bar Graph

Materials

- Gross domestic product figures for Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay
- Graph paper

1. Research the latest GDP figures for Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
2. Make a graph. Label the horizontal axis “Country.” Label the vertical axis “GDP in U.S. billions of dollars.” Label the axis by 100s, starting from 0.
3. Draw a bar for each country to represent the GDP figure for that country.



Because only about three percent of Chile's land can be farmed, Chile developed copper mining in its mountains and fishing industries along its coast. Today, Chile is the world's leading copper producer. Both Argentina and Chile are part of **Mercosur**, an association of several South American countries, to promote trade among the countries.

People and Culture Argentina and Chile have large urban populations, particularly in the major cities of Buenos Aires and Santiago. Like other South American cities, these cities are surrounded by squatter settlements.

About 85 percent of Argentina's population is of European ancestry. Although gauchos still work on Argentina's ranches today, they are also celebrated, much like American cowboys, in Argentinian poetry, literature, painting, and music. The tango, a dance that combines European and African influences, is Argentina's national dance.

Chile's population, unlike Argentina's, is mostly *mestizo*. Many Chileans have left difficult conditions in rural areas for opportunities in the cities. Chile has produced many famous writers, such as poets Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda. Chileans spend their leisure time going to the movies and playing and watching football (soccer), the most popular sport.



Dancing the Tango The tango involves alternating long, slow steps with quick, short steps.

DRAW CONCLUSIONS Explain how geography affects parts of Argentina's and Chile's economies.

Paraguay and Uruguay

KEY QUESTION How is the population of Paraguay different from Uruguay's?

Paraguay is a small **landlocked** country of rivers, hills, and forests. Hilly grasslands cover much of Uruguay, located southeast of Paraguay. Both countries won independence from the Spanish, experienced political turmoil, and today are constitutional republics.

Paraguay Most people in Paraguay work in service industries and in agriculture. Cattle raising and most farming take place in eastern Paraguay, where the richest soil is found. Forests cover much of eastern Paraguay, and wood products are important industries. Paraguay is a founding member of Mercosur.





Montevideo The Plaza Independencia is located in the center of Montevideo in Uruguay. What other culture makes use of plazas in its cities?

Uruguay More than 60 percent of Uruguay's people work in service industries. Uruguay's plains and grasslands are perfect for raising cattle and sheep. Meat, hides, and wools are the nation's biggest exports. Like other Southern Cone nations, Uruguay is a member of Mercosur.

Most of Uruguay's people are of Spanish and Italian ancestry. Most people live in cities, half in Montevideo, the capital city. Unlike many other South American nations, Uruguay's culture is influenced more by European traditions than by native ones. Gaucho folklore has inspired Uruguay's music and art and Montevideo's Gaucho Museum.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST Compare the populations of Paraguay and Uruguay.

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to [Interactive Review @ClassZone.com](#)

Section 5 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

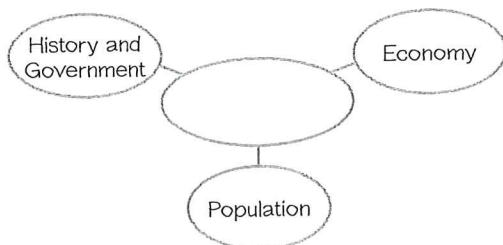
1. Explain the importance of

- gaucho
- Southern Cone
- *estancia*
- Mercosur

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Find Main Ideas Use your completed diagram to answer the following question:

What products account for most of Uruguay's exports?



KEY IDEAS

3. How are the histories of the Southern Cone nations alike?
4. What industry employs a majority of the people in Argentina and Chile?
5. Why does most farming and cattle ranching occur in eastern Paraguay?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Make Inferences** Why have Southern Cone nations become members of Mercosur?
7. **Draw Conclusions** How might Argentina's geography and size contribute to its strong economy?
8. **CONNECT to Today** In 2006, Chileans elected their first female president. What do you think this says about women's role in Chilean politics?
9. **MATH Create a Pie Graph** Choose one of the Southern Cone nations and research its major exports.
 - Make a pie graph to present the information.

CHAPTER SUMMARY



Key Idea 1

Central American countries face challenges as they improve their economies.

Key Idea 2

Europe and Africa have influenced Caribbean cultures.

Key Idea 3

Venezuela's economy depends heavily on petroleum, while Colombia's economy depends more on agricultural products.

Key Idea 4

Indians and *mestizos* make up a large part of Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

Key Idea 5

Geography has influenced the economies of Southern Cone nations.

 For Review and Study Notes, go to [Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com](#)

NAME GAME

Use the Terms & Names list to complete each sentence on paper or online.

- I am a place that is ruled by or closely connected with another country. dependency
- I describe the countries in the southern part of South America. _____
- I describe the countries of Bolivia and Paraguay. _____
- I am the national folk dance of Venezuela. _____
- I am a measure of a country's economy. _____
- I am a trade agreement made between Central American countries. _____
- I am an important animal in the Andes Mountains. _____
- I am a kind of grassy plain. _____
- I draw tourists to a natural habitat without harming the environment. _____
- I am a large farm in Argentina. _____

CAFTA
commonwealth
dependency
ecotourism
estancia
gaucho
gross domestic product, or GDP
joropo
landlocked
llama
llanos
Southern Cone

Activities

GeoGame

Use this online map to show what you know about the geography of Middle America and Spanish-Speaking South America. Drag and drop each place name to its location on the map.



Geo GAME

Present-Day Middle America and Spanish-Speaking South America

Bogotá
Caracas
Cuba
Panama
Andes Mountains

 To play the complete game, go to [Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com](#)

Crossword Puzzle

Complete an online crossword puzzle to test your knowledge of the region's history, culture, government, and economics.

ACROSS

- a small camel-like animal, related to the llama



VOCABULARY

Explain the significance of each of the following.

1. ecotourism
2. one-crop economy
3. Taino
4. commonwealth
5. landlocked



Explain how the terms in each group are related.

6. CAFTA and Mercosur
7. dictator and communism
8. Pampas, gaucho, and *estancia*

KEY IDEAS

1 Central America

9. What is Central America's main economic activity?
10. What group of people makes up most of Central America's population?

2 The Caribbean

11. Why did the Spanish bring enslaved Africans to the Caribbean islands?
12. What kind of government does Puerto Rico have?

3 Venezuela and Colombia

13. What product is the most important to the economy of Venezuela?
14. What is Colombia's leading export?

4 Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador

15. What are three economic activities in Peru?
16. What are the major mineral exports of Bolivia and Ecuador?

5 Argentina and Chile

17. What economic activity provides most of Argentina's and Chile's gross domestic product?
18. In what parts of Argentina does farming and ranching take place?
19. Where do most people in Uruguay live?

CRITICAL THINKING

20. Compare and Contrast Create a chart to compare the industries and major products of Venezuela, Peru, and Argentina.

COUNTRY	MAJOR INDUSTRIES/PRODUCTS
Venezuela	
Peru	
Argentina	

21. **Evaluate** What challenges do Central American countries face today?
22. **Identify Problems and Solutions** What have Central American and Caribbean nations done to help solve the problem of one-crop economies?
23. **Five Themes: Movement** How has the settlement of Caribbean nations affected the culture of those nations?
24. **Connect to History** What conditions created during the Spanish conquest of South America made it difficult for nations there to form stable governments?

Answer the ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How are the countries of this region working to strengthen their governments and economies?

Written response Write a two- or three-paragraph response to the Essential Question. Be sure to consider the key ideas of each section. Use the rubric below to guide your thinking.

Response Rubric

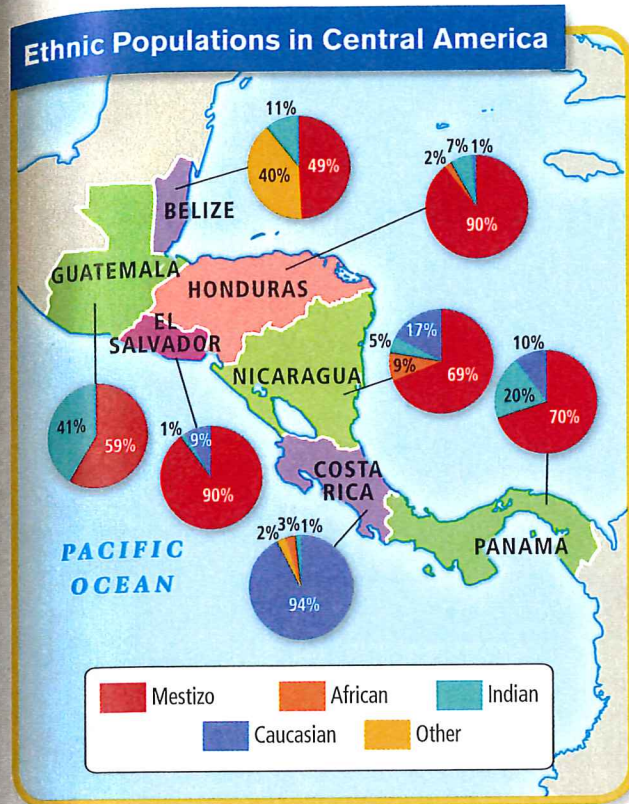
A strong response will:

- discuss ways in which the countries have strengthened their governments
- explain how the nations have strengthened their economies

- Online Test Practice @ ClassZone.com
- Test-Taking Strategies and Practice at the front of this book

THEMATIC MAP

Use the map to answer questions 1 and 2.



1. What percentage of Guatemalans are *mestizo*?
- about 59 percent
 - about 33 percent
 - about 3 percent
 - about 1 percent

2. Which of the following countries has the largest percentage of *mestizos*?
- Belize
 - Panama
 - El Salvador
 - Guatemala

TABLE

Use the table below to answer questions 3 and 4 on your paper.

	Literacy Rate	Life Expectancy
Haiti	53 percent	53 years
Costa Rica	96 percent	77 years
Ecuador	93 percent	76 years
Argentina	97 percent	76 years

Source: *The World Factbook*, 2006

3. Which country has the lowest life expectancy?
4. What conclusion can you draw about the relationship between literacy rates and life expectancy?

GeoActivity

1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY-SCIENCE

Use the library or visit a zoo to find out about an animal that makes its home in the region, such as the Andean condor, spectacled bear, tapir, or toucan. Find out how the animal adapts to its environment. Present the information in an illustrated, captioned poster.

2. WRITING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Write an ad that encourages people to visit one of the countries discussed in the chapter. Your ad should focus on the landforms, people, and cultural features that visitors to the country would find interesting.

3. MENTAL MAPPING

Create an outline map of South America and label the following:

- Southern Cone nations
- Andes Mountains
- llanos
- coastal plains
- altiplano
- equator
- Pampas