

UNIT 3

Latin America

Why It Matters:

Latin America is a region of many countries. The region spans a large area north and south of the equator. The region faces political and economic challenges. How it meets these challenges will have an impact on other parts of the world.

The Andes Mountains, Chile



CHAPTER
7
Latin America
Physical Geography & History

Paseo de la Reforma, Mexico City



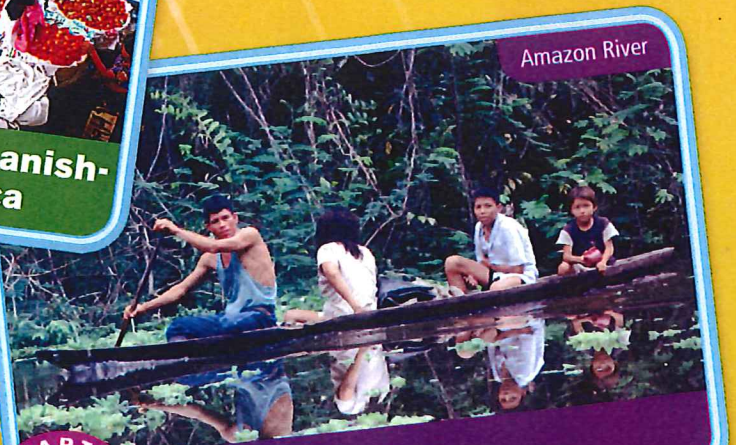
CHAPTER
8
Mexico

Marketplace in Guatemala



CHAPTER
9
Middle America and Spanish-Speaking South America

Amazon River



CHAPTER
10
Brazil

The region of Latin America stretches from Mexico to the tip of South America. As you study the maps, notice geographic patterns and specific details about the region. Answer the GeoActivity questions on each map in your notebook.

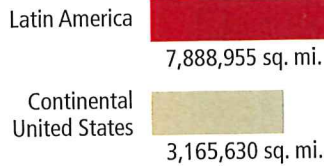
As you study the graphs on this page, compare the landmass, population, rivers, and mountains of Latin America with those of the United States. Then jot down the answers to the following questions in your notebook.

Comparing Data

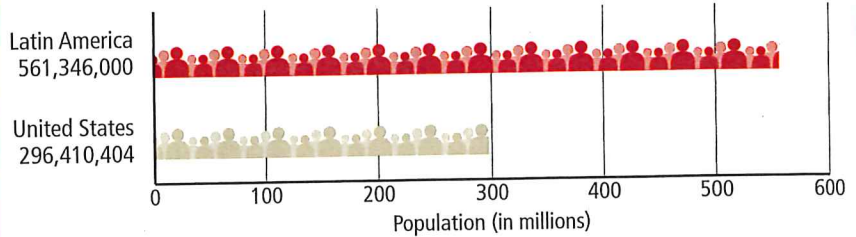
1. Compare the population of Latin America with that of the United States. How many more people live in Latin America than in the United States?
2. The discharge rate of a river measures how much water moves through a certain location in a certain amount of time. The rate in this graph is measured in cubic feet per second. How much greater is the discharge rate of the Amazon River than that of the Mississippi River?

Comparing Data

Landmass

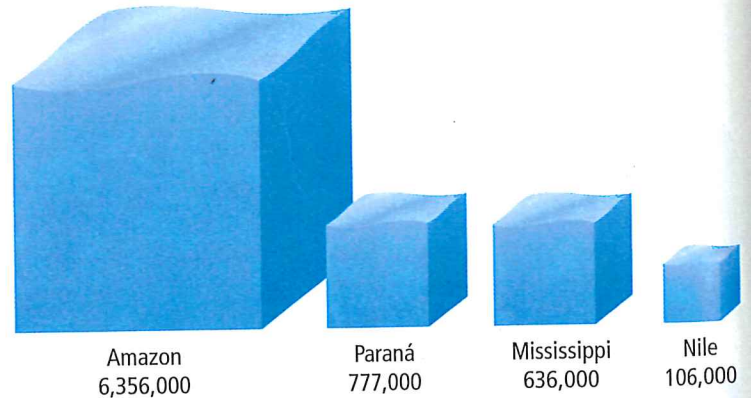


Population

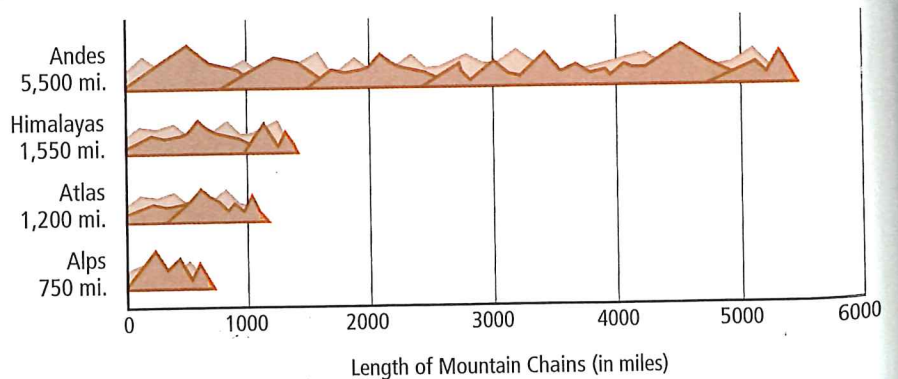


Rivers

Discharge Rate
(in cubic feet per second)



Mountains



Population Density



THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER

- Place** Where is the population of Mexico most dense?
- Region** Where do most people live in Latin America?



THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER

- 1. Place** What is the climate of the southernmost tip of South America?
- 2. Region** In what parts of Latin America can you find a highland climate?



Land use

- Commercial agriculture
- Livestock raising
- Subsistence agriculture
- Forestland
- Limited agriculture

Major resources

- Bauxite
- Copper
- Fish
- Gold
- Iron ore
- Natural gas
- Oil
- Silver
- Timber
- Tin
- Other minerals
- Manufacturing center

THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER

- 1. Place** What do the colors on the economic activity map represent?
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** What are the main economic activities of Mexico?

Latin America

Latin America is a far-reaching region of many countries. The region spans a great distance both north and south of the equator. Latin America is diverse in its land, climate, and people.



GEOGRAPHY

Mountain ranges and highlands make up a large part of Latin America. The Andes Mountains, along the western coast of South America, are the largest and the longest mountain range above sea level in the world. Volcanoes, some of them active, extend through parts of Mexico, Central America, and South America. Large plateaus and vast plains provide lands for grazing and farming.

Latin America's climate is as varied as its landscape. The climate ranges from dry deserts to hot, tropical regions to cold highlands. Vegetation in Latin America varies based on the climate.



HISTORY

The Maya, Aztec, and Inca developed advanced civilizations in Latin America before the arrival of the Spanish in the 15th century. They built complex cities and structures and changed their environment to meet their needs.

After the voyages of Columbus, Spanish *conquistadors* destroyed these civilizations. Spain and Portugal set up colonies in the region and controlled most of it for the next 300 years. By the early 1800s, most Latin American countries had gained their independence.

Machu Picchu

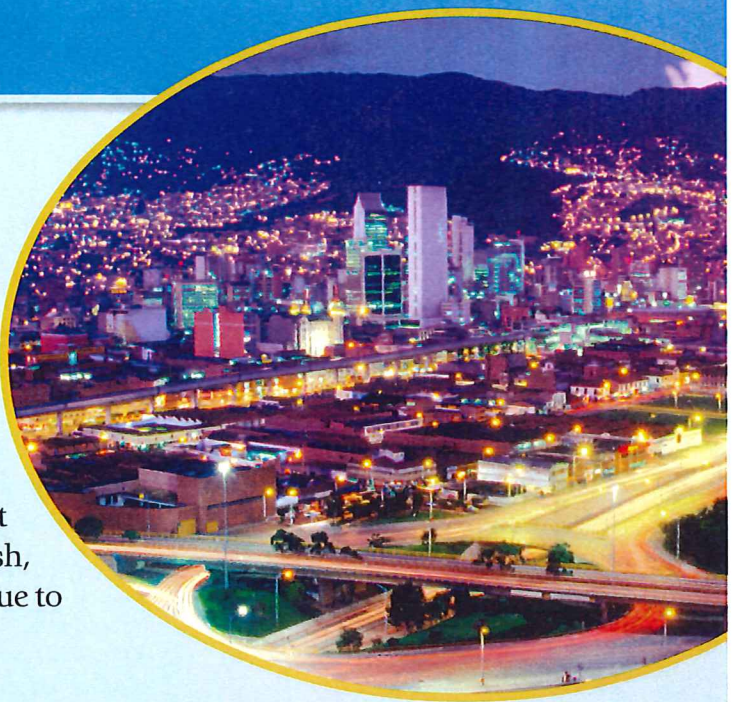
This ancient Inca city is located near present-day Cuzco, Peru.





CULTURE

Latin American culture today is a blend of several cultures—Indian, European, African, Asian, and people of mixed ancestry. This blend is evident in the music, art, foods, and languages of the region. The majority of Latin Americans speak Spanish, but others speak Portuguese, French, English, and Dutch. Some Indian groups continue to speak their traditional languages.



View of Medellín,
Colombia



GOVERNMENT

As colonies, Latin Americans had little or no say in how they were governed. This inexperience made it difficult to establish stable governments after gaining independence. As a result, the governments of many Latin American countries came under the rule of wealthy landowners or military dictators. By the 1980s, widespread protests against these governments occurred in several countries. Today more Latin American countries have democratic governments.



ECONOMICS

Since the 1800s, many Latin American countries have depended on one or two products for export, particularly agricultural products, and have imported most of their manufactured goods. Recently, however, many Latin American countries began to develop other industries. Some Latin American countries have become major exporters of manufactured goods. Latin American countries have also established organizations to promote trade among countries in the region.

Unit Writing Project

As you read this unit, choose a country or an area of Latin America that interests you. Imagine that you are on a week's vacation there. Write a daily journal entry describing what you've seen and learned about the area and your reactions to it.

Think About:

- an area that you find interesting
- what you learned about the area that makes it interesting to you

Latin America

The Almanac provides information about the geography, economy, and culture of the countries of Latin America.



Antigua and Barbuda

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: St. John's
Total Area: 171 sq. mi.
Population: 68,722

ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; agricultural products
Exports: petroleum products

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Anglican 32%; Moravian 12%; Catholic 11%



Argentina

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Buenos Aires
Total Area: 1,068,302 sq. mi.
Population: 38,747,000

ECONOMY

Imports: chemicals; machinery
Exports: food and livestock

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 80%; Protestant 5%



Bahamas

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Nassau
Total Area: 5,382 sq. mi.
Population: 323,000

ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; food products
Exports: crustaceans and mollusks

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Baptist 18%; Catholic 17%; Anglican 11%



Barbados

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Bridgetown
Total Area: 166 sq. mi.
Population: 270,000

ECONOMY

Imports: capital goods; food
Exports: food; sugar and molasses; rum

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Anglican 26%; Pentecostal 11%



Belize

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Belmopan
Total Area: 8,867 sq. mi.
Population: 270,000

ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; mineral fuels; food
Exports: seafood; sugar; bananas

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Catholic 50%; Protestant 32%; nonreligious 9%



Bolivia

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Sucre
Total Area: 424,164 sq. mi.
Population: 9,182,000

ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; chemicals; food
Exports: soybean products; natural gas

CULTURE

Language: Spanish; Aymara; Quechua
Religion: Catholic 89%; Protestant 9%



Brazil

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Brasília
Total Area: 3,286,488 sq. mi.
Population: 186,405,000

ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; chemicals
Exports: meat; sugar; coffee; soybeans

CULTURE

Language: Portuguese
Religion: Catholic 72%; Protestant 23%



Chile

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Santiago
Total Area: 292,260 sq. mi.
Population: 16,295,000

ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; metals; copper
Exports: copper; food products; fruit

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 70%; Protestant 15%



Colombia

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Bogotá
Total Area: 439,736 sq. mi.
Population: 45,600,000



ECONOMY

Imports: capital goods; consumer goods
Exports: petroleum; chemicals; coal; food; machinery; coffee

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 92%



Costa Rica

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: San José
Total Area: 19,730 sq. mi.
Population: 4,327,000



ECONOMY

Imports: general merchandise
Exports: bananas; coffee; tropical fruit

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 86%; Protestant 9%; other Christian 2%



Cuba

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Havana
Total Area: 42,803 sq. mi.
Population: 11,269,000



ECONOMY

Imports: food and livestock; cereals
Exports: raw sugar; nickel; seafood; medicines

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 39%



Dominica

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Roseau
Total Area: 291 sq. mi.
Population: 69,029



ECONOMY

Imports: food; machinery
Exports: coconut-based soaps; cosmetics

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Catholic 70%; six largest Protestant groups 17%



Dominican Republic

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Santo Domingo
Total Area: 18,815 sq. mi.
Population: 8,895,000



ECONOMY

Imports: refined petroleum; food
Exports: ferronickel; ships' stores; raw sugar; cocoa

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 82%; Protestant 6%



Ecuador

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Quito
Total Area: 109,483 sq. mi.
Population: 13,228,000



ECONOMY

Imports: chemicals; food and live animals
Exports: fish and crustaceans; cut flowers

CULTURE

Language: Spanish; Quechua; Shuar
Religion: Catholic 94%; Protestant 2%



El Salvador

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: San Salvador
Total Area: 8,124 sq. mi.
Population: 6,881,000



ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; chemicals and chemical products; food; petroleum
Exports: clothing; coffee; paper; yarn

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 78%; Protestant 17%



Grenada

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: St. George's
Total Area: 133 sq. mi.
Population: 89,502



ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; food; chemicals
Exports: electronic components; nutmeg; fish; paper products; cocoa beans

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Catholic 58%; Protestant 38%



Guatemala

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Guatemala City
Total Area: 42,043 sq. mi.
Population: 12,599,000



ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; chemicals; crude and refined petroleum; road vehicles
Exports: coffee; sugar; bananas; spices

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 76%; Protestant 22%

Rio de Janeiro Located on Brazil's southeast coast, Rio de Janeiro is Brazil's second-largest city.





Guyana

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Georgetown
Total Area: 83,000 sq. mi.
Population: 751,000

ECONOMY

Imports: consumer goods; fuels
Exports: gold; sugar; shrimp; rice; timber

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Hindu 34%; Protestant 28%;
Catholic 12%; Muslim 9%



Jamaica

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Kingston
Total Area: 4,244 sq. mi.
Population: 2,651,000

ECONOMY

Imports: consumer goods; petroleum
Exports: alumina; bauxite; clothing; sugar;
coffee; rum

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Protestant 61%; Catholic 3%



Panama

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Panama City
Total Area: 30,193 sq. mi.
Population: 3,232,000

ECONOMY

Imports: mineral fuels; petroleum;
machinery; transport equipment
Exports: bananas; seafoods

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 82%; Christian 13%



Haiti

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Port-au-Prince
Total Area: 10,714 sq. mi.
Population: 8,528,000

ECONOMY

Imports: food and livestock; machinery
Exports: clothing; mangoes; cacao;
essential oils; leather goods

CULTURE

Language: Haitian Creole; French
Religion: Catholic 69%; Protestant 24%



Honduras

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Tegucigalpa
Total Area: 43,278 sq. mi.
Population: 7,205,000

ECONOMY

Imports: food and livestock; machinery
Exports: shrimp; coffee; palm oil

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 87%; Protestant 10%



Mexico

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Mexico City
Total Area: 761,606 sq. mi.
Population: 107,029,000

ECONOMY

Imports: electronics; clothing; rubber and
plastic products
Exports: road vehicles; machinery; textiles

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 90%; Protestant 4%;



Nicaragua

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Managua
Total Area: 49,998 sq. mi.
Population: 5,487,000

ECONOMY

Imports: consumer goods; fuels
Exports: food products; coffee

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 85%; Protestant 12%



Paraguay

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Asunción
Total Area: 157,047 sq. mi.
Population: 6,158,000

ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; chemicals; food
Exports: soybean products; meats

CULTURE

Language: Spanish; Guaraní
Religion: Catholic 90%; Protestant 5%



Green Crested Basilisk This lizard is one of many species of animals found in the rain forests of Latin America.



Peru

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Lima
Total Area: 496,226 sq. mi.
Population: 27,968,000



ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; chemicals and chemical products; petroleum; food
Exports: gold; animal feed; copper

CULTURE

Language: Spanish; Quechua; Aymara
Religion: Catholic 96%



St. Kitts and Nevis

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Basseterre
Total Area: 101 sq. mi.
Population: 38,958



ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; food; metals
Exports: raw sugar; telecommunications equipment

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Protestant 85%; Catholic 7%



St. Lucia

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Castries
Total Area: 238 sq. mi.
Population: 161,000



ECONOMY

Imports: food; machinery; manufactured goods
Exports: bananas; beer and ale; clothing

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Catholic 69%; Protestant 22%



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Kingstown
Total Area: 150 sq. mi.
Population: 119,000



ECONOMY

Imports: food products; machinery
Exports: bananas; packaged flour; packaged rice; eddoes and dasheens

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: Protestant 58%; Catholic 11%



Suriname

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Paramaribo
Total Area: 63,039 sq. mi.
Population: 449,000



ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; food; road vehicles
Exports: alumina; gold; petroleum; rice

CULTURE

Language: Dutch
Religion: Christian 50%; Hindu 18%; Muslim 14%



Trinidad and Tobago

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Port of Spain
Total Area: 1,980 sq. mi.
Population: 1,305,000



ECONOMY

Imports: petroleum; industrial machinery
Exports: floating docks; iron and steel

CULTURE

Language: English
Religion: six largest Protestant bodies 30%; Catholic 29%; Hindu 24%



Uruguay

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Montevideo
Total Area: 68,039 sq. mi.
Population: 3,463,000



ECONOMY

Imports: chemicals; food and tobacco
Exports: leather goods; beef

CULTURE

Language: Spanish
Religion: Catholic 78%; atheist 6%



Venezuela

GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Caracas
Total Area: 352,144 sq. mi.
Population: 26,749,000



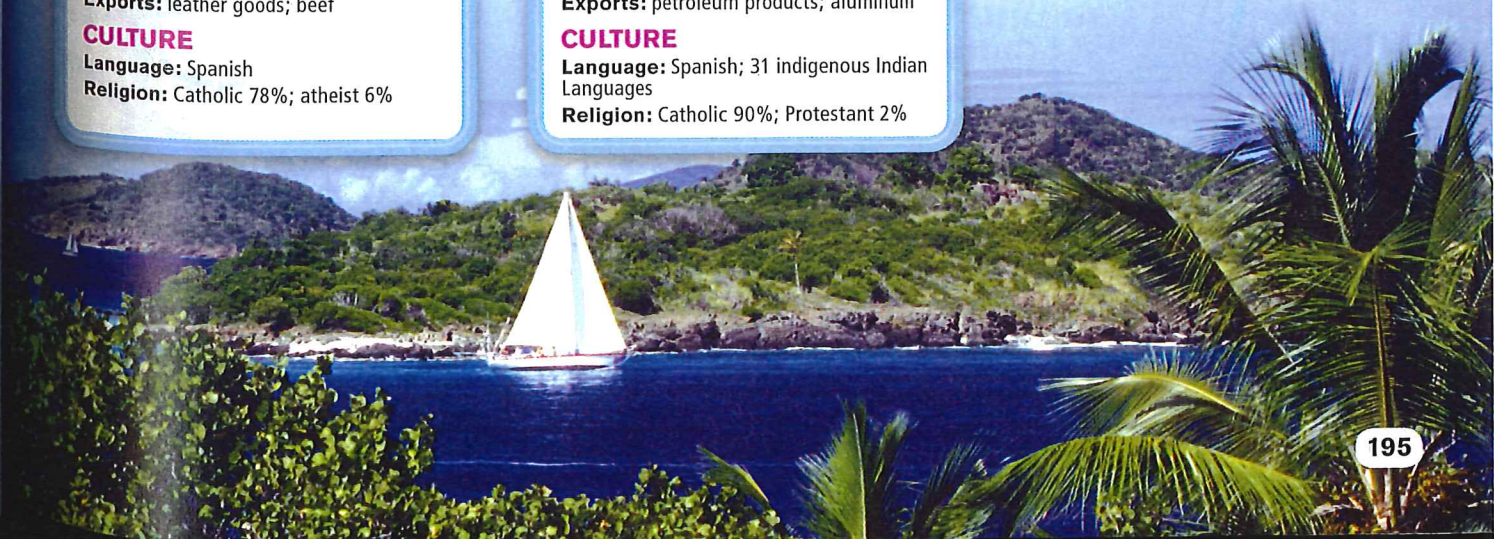
ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; chemicals; vehicles
Exports: petroleum products; aluminum

CULTURE

Language: Spanish; 31 indigenous Indian Languages
Religion: Catholic 90%; Protestant 2%

Caribbean Islands The islands of the Caribbean are among the world's most popular tourist destinations.





CHAPTER
7

Latin America

Physical Geography and History

1

GEOGRAPHY

Physical Geography of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean

2

GEOGRAPHY

Physical Geography of South America

3

HISTORY

Ancient Civilizations

4

HISTORY

From Colonization to Independence



1200 B.C.

Culture

◀ **1200 B.C.** Olmec build the first known civilization in southeastern Mexico.

Geography

1200s Inca settle in Cuzco Valley.

History

A.D. 900 Classic period of Mayan civilization ends.

Geography

1325 Aztecs establish their capital city, Tenochtitlán. ▶



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How have Latin America's geography and resources helped shape its history?

CONNECT Geography & History

Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. What is the largest country in Latin America?
2. What country is named after Simón Bolívar, one of the leaders for South American independence?



Present-Day Latin America

 [Click here](#) to explore Latin America @ [ClassZone.com](#)



★ National capital
● Other city

0 500 1,000 miles
0 500 1,000 kilometers



History

◀ **1532** Francisco Pizarro conquers the Inca.

History

1521 Hernán Cortés conquers the Aztecs.

History

1810–1825 Simón Bolívar leads South American countries in their fight for independence from Spain. ▶



1850

History

1810 Father Hidalgo calls for Mexico's independence from Spain.