

LATIN AMERICA AND CANADA

GEOGRAPHIC UNDERSTANDINGS

SS6G1 The student will locate selected features of Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: Amazon River, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Ocean, Panama Canal, Andes Mountains, Sierra Madre Mountains, and Atacama Desert.

LOCATING PHYSICAL FEATURES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In order to learn about Latin America, it is good to know some of the main features of the land and water. Look at the map, and put your finger on the United States. Move your finger south into Mexico. Notice that there is a large body of water on the west side of Mexico—the **Pacific Ocean**. The Pacific Ocean stretches down the entire western side of Central and South America. On the east side of Mexico, there are two smaller bodies of water—the **Gulf of Mexico** and the **Caribbean Sea**. The Gulf of Mexico is north of the Caribbean Sea. It touches both the United States and Mexico. Farther south is the Caribbean Sea. It is bounded on the west and south by Mexico and Central America, on the south by South America, and on the north and east by many islands.

Moving your finger south across Mexico, you will notice a large area of mountains. These are the **Sierra Madre**, which is the chief mountain range of Mexico. After Mexico, your finger will cross many smaller countries in Central America. At the most narrow point, you'll find the country of Panama, home of the **Panama Canal**. Locate this landmark on your map. This canal is a very important shortcut for ships traveling back and forth from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

As you move your finger further south into South America, look for three main physical features: the **Andes Mountains**, the **Atacama Desert**, and the **Amazon River**. The Andes Mountains run the length of the western side of South America. Find the Andes Mountains. The world's second longest river, the Amazon, runs nearly across the widest part of South America, from the Andes Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean. Further south, along the Pacific side of South America, the Andes Mountains block winds and rains, creating the second driest place on earth, the Atacama Desert.



Use the map below. Choose the best answer for questions 1-4.



- _____ 1. Which is found near the “1” on the map?
- A. Panama Canal
 - B. Atacama Desert
 - C. Andes Mountains
 - D. Sierra Madre Mountains
- _____ 2. Which physical feature is found near the “6” on the map?
- A. Amazon River
 - B. Pacific Ocean
 - C. Atacama Desert
 - D. Sierra Madre Mountains
- _____ 3. At which number on the map is the Caribbean Sea?
- A. 2
 - B. 3
 - C. 5
 - D. 7
- _____ 4. The Amazon River is found at which number on the map?
- A. 1
 - B. 6
 - C. 7
 - D. not shown

SS6G1 The student will locate selected features of Latin America and the Caribbean.

b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the countries of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela.

LOCATING COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

There are many countries in Latin America. Use the map to locate a few of them. First, place your finger on the United States. Move it south into the country of **Mexico**. Mexico has a long border with the United States and plays an important role in the economy of the United States. Move your finger south. At the most narrow point of Central America, you will find **Panama**, which is home to the Panama Canal.

As you move your finger further south, you will arrive in South America at the country of **Colombia**. Move your finger eastward to find **Venezuela**, a country that provides oil to many parts of the world. South of Venezuela is **Brazil**, the largest country in South America. West of the central part of Brazil, find **Bolivia**.

In addition to these countries, there are many island-nations. Two important ones are **Cuba** and **Haiti**. To find Cuba, locate Florida in the southeastern United States. South of Florida is a long island stretching to the southeast. This is Cuba. It is bounded on the northwest by the Gulf of Mexico, on the northeast by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south by the Caribbean Sea. To the southeast of Cuba is the large island of Hispaniola. This island is home to two countries. The western one-third of the island is the country of Haiti.

Latin America



Use the map below. Choose the best answer for questions 5-8.



- _____ 5. Which country is found at the “1” on the map?
- A. Brazil
 - B. Bolivia
 - C. Mexico
 - D. Colombia
- _____ 6. Which country is found at the “4” on the map?
- A. Brazil
 - B. Bolivia
 - C. Mexico
 - D. Colombia
- _____ 7. Which number on the map marks the country of Cuba?
- A. 2
 - B. 3
 - C. 5
 - D. 6
- _____ 8. Which number on the map marks the country of Colombia?
- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4

SS6G2 The student will discuss environmental issues in Latin America.

- a. Explain the major environmental concerns of Latin America regarding the issues of air pollution in Mexico City, Mexico, the destruction of the rain forest in Brazil, and oil-related pollution in Venezuela.

MEXICO CITY AND AIR POLLUTION

In the early twentieth century, Mexico City was known for its clear skies and views of distant snowcapped mountains. Today, Mexico City is known as one of the world's worst areas of air pollution. The air is so bad that children are more likely to have breathing problems and develop lung disease when they grow up. Older adults must stay indoors and limit activity. On most days, the hazy, polluted sky blocks the view to the mountains.

The city is crowded. Over 19 million people live in Mexico City. That's more than double the population of the entire state of Georgia. In this city are thousands of factories and over 3 million cars. The factories and cars send pollution such as lead, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide into the air. Many of the cars are older models. These older cars produce even more pollution than typical new cars.

Geography plays a role in the problems the city faces. The city is built in a bowl-shaped crater of an extinct volcano. The high elevation means that the air is thin, and the exhaust from cars and factories gets trapped in the valley. The intense sunlight helps to push smog even higher. **Smog** is a combination of smoke and thick fog.

The government of Mexico City is working on several solutions to this problem. First, drivers must leave their cars at home one day each week. Citizens are encouraged to ride buses and trains or to carpool to work. Cars are inspected more often. Those with very bad exhaust problems must be repaired. On the days of highest pollution levels, certain factories may be closed.

Because the population continues to grow, Mexico City must continue to find ways to clean its air. The government is working to find ways to improve the fuels used for energy. It is also working to increase the number of cars that produce little or no air pollution.

- _____ **9. How does geography play a role in Mexico City's air pollution problem?**
- A. It is one of the world's largest cities.
 - B. The city has views of distant snowcapped mountains.
 - C. It lies in a bowl-shaped valley that traps air pollutants.
 - D. The cars and factories send pollution such as lead, sulfur, and carbon monoxide into the air.
- _____ **10. What are the main sources of air pollution in Mexico City?**
- A. intense sunlight
 - B. the high altitude
 - C. factories and cars
 - D. cars that produce little or no air pollution

- ___ 11. Which solution is a way that the government is trying to reduce pollution in Mexico City?
- A. ignoring cars with exhaust problems
 - B. reducing the number of buses and trains
 - C. making sure the population continues to grow
 - D. increasing the number of cars that produce little or no air pollution
- ___ 12. Which solution to Mexico City's air pollution problem would be most challenging to businesses?
- A. closing factories one day a week
 - B. using fuels that produce less pollution
 - C. having employees ride trains or buses to work
 - D. asking citizens to leave their cars at home one day a week

DESTRUCTION OF THE RAIN FOREST IN BRAZIL

Brazil is the largest country in South America, and the fifth largest in the world, by land area and population. More than half the country is covered by rain forest. This jungle environment is home to more than 40,000 different kinds of plants and thousands of types of animals. Trees in the forest can soar up to 150 feet in the air. The Amazon River and other large rivers carry water from the rain forests across Brazil and into the Atlantic Ocean.

The rain forests of Brazil are valuable in many ways. In the rain forest, humans have found plants that can be used to produce drugs for treating disease. Brazil nuts, cocoa, and rubber are among the products people use as well. The trees themselves can be sold for timber. The forest serves another purpose—creating oxygen! All plants “breathe” carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. It is estimated that 20 percent of the world's oxygen is produced in the rain forests of the Amazon region.

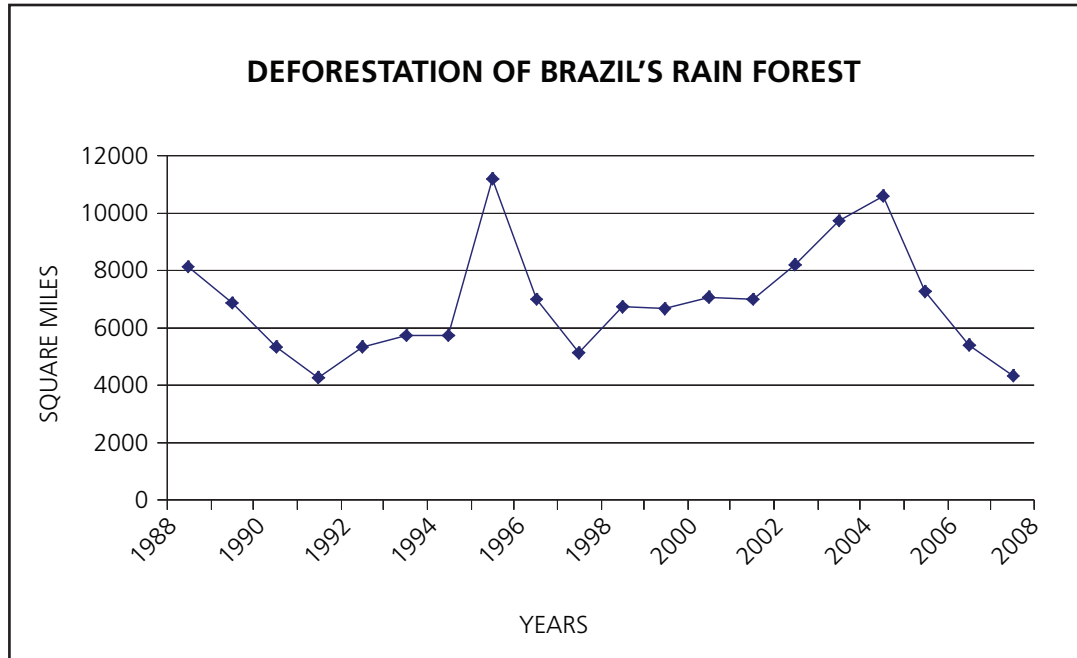
Brazil is home to some native populations that depend on the forest. Many of these rain forest people have had little or no contact with the outside world. They maintain their traditional way of life. These people depend on the rain forest for their food, clothing, shelter, and spiritual life.

This beautiful and important environment is threatened by human activity. Many Brazilians live in poor conditions. One way the people get money for their families is to clear the forest and sell the timber. Humans use chain saws and bulldozers to clear large areas of the forest and haul away the trees. The process is known as **deforestation**. The cleared land can be used to start cattle ranches or farms to grow such crops as soybeans. Illegal clearing of the forests increases when the value of crops and cattle go up. In the past ten years, nearly 200,000 square miles of rain forest have been lost due to deforestation. The people, animals, and plants that live in this environment are threatened with extinction.

The government has created laws to control the amount of forest that is cut down. However, little money is spent on enforcing those laws. Environmental groups and governments from around the world are working with Brazil's government to find ways to save the rain forests. They hope to help Brazil's people find ways to use the forests' resources without destroying the rain forest itself.

- ___ 13. **Which is a problem associated with deforestation?**
- A. More oxygen is available on the planet.
 - B. Poor people earn money from selling trees.
 - C. Native people have too much forest for their needs.
 - D. There is less forest to produce goods that humans need.
- ___ 14. **Why does deforestation increase when the value of crops and cattle go up?**
- A. The value of timber goes up.
 - B. Laws to protect the rain forest are not enforced.
 - C. People think they can make more profit selling cattle and crops.
 - D. Environmental groups work with the government only when prices are down.
- ___ 15. **What is the main crop grown in areas of deforestation?**
- A. cocoa
 - B. rubber
 - C. soybeans
 - D. Brazil nuts
- ___ 16. **The world gets about 20 percent of which resource from the Amazon rain forest?**
- A. rubber
 - B. oxygen
 - C. soybeans
 - D. medicine

Use the graph to answer questions 17-20.



- ___ 17. **The purpose of this graph is to show**
- A. the amount of land in the Brazilian rain forest.
 - B. how much forest is left in the Brazilian rain forest.
 - C. the amount of land protected by deforestation laws in Brazil.
 - D. how much of the Brazilian rain forest was cut down each year.
- ___ 18. **In what year was the destruction of the rain forest the greatest?**
- A. 1991
 - B. 1995
 - C. 2004
 - D. 2007
- ___ 19. **What trend is there in deforestation after 2004?**
- A. The amount of deforestation is going up.
 - B. The amount of deforestation is going down.
 - C. Deforestation levels have stayed about the same.
 - D. Deforestation levels are lower than they were in the 1980s.
- ___ 20. **What was the approximate number of square miles lost to deforestation in 1991?**
- A. 3,800
 - B. 4,000
 - C. 4,200
 - D. 4,500

OIL-RELATED POLLUTION IN VENEZUELA

Venezuela is one of the largest producers of oil and natural gas in the world. The country is the fifth-largest producer of oil in the world. It has been producing oil for about a hundred years. It is now one of the top four sources of oil for the United States. In fact, about 15 percent of the oil sold in the United States comes from Venezuela. The money from oil sales accounts for about half the money received by the government of Venezuela.

The production of oil and natural gas has come at a cost, however. Along the Caribbean Sea, Venezuela's coast has become polluted with oil. Oil spills and tanker leaks have damaged the environment in the region. They have also hurt the ability of fishermen to earn a living. The country leads South America in the production of the gas carbon dioxide, which is a by-product of burning fossil fuels like natural gas and oil. High levels of carbon dioxide in the air can cause breathing problems for children and the elderly. Other health problems can occur in healthy adults after long exposure to high levels of carbon dioxide. Some scientists believe that increases in carbon dioxide contribute to "global warming." They believe this because carbon dioxide tends to trap warm air at the surface of the Earth instead of letting it rise.

Oil businesses have damaged the environment in another way. Lake Maracaibo is the largest lake in South America. Due to the large amount of oil removed from the nearby areas, the land in the area is changing. The eastern shore of the lake is dropping about three inches a year. The government built a dike to keep the water in the lake from flooding the nearby homes, towns, and farms.

- ___ **21. What problem has been caused by oil production in Venezuela?**
- A. About 15 percent of U.S. oil comes from Venezuela.
 - B. The coast along the Caribbean Sea has been polluted with oil.
 - C. Lake Maracaibo has become the largest lake in South America.
 - D. Venezuela is more polluted than other South American countries.
- ___ **22. Why might the Venezuelan government NOT want to stop oil production in the country, even though it causes a lot of pollution?**
- A. The government gets about half of its money from the oil business.
 - B. The government does not care about the damage to the environment.
 - C. People along Lake Maracaibo are now protected by a dike to prevent flooding.
 - D. People in Venezuela do not care about the environment as much as other people.
- ___ **23. Who is affected first by carbon dioxide pollution?**
- A. healthy adults
 - B. children and the elderly
 - C. farmers along Lake Maracaibo
 - D. fisherman along the Caribbean coast
- ___ **24. Which problem is associated with too much carbon dioxide in the air?**
- A. algal bloom
 - B. breathing problems
 - C. cooler air trapped at Earth's surface
 - D. oil slicks on the Caribbean coastline

SS6G3 The student will explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Latin America and the Caribbean.

- a. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of Mexico and Venezuela affect where people live and how they trade.

LOCATION, CLIMATE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF MEXICO**Location of Mexico**

Mexico is the second-largest country by size and population in Latin America. It is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. The country is located south of the United States. On the west is the Pacific Ocean, and on the east are the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

Mexico's location between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea allows it the opportunity to trade. There are seven major seaports in Mexico. Oil and other materials from Mexico can be easily shipped around the world to ports along the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Another advantage of Mexico's location is that it is close to the United States. Because the two countries share a border, trade is easier. Railroads and trucks can be used to ship goods. Mexico's main trading partner is the United States.

Climate of Mexico

Mexico has the Sierra Madre Mountains, deserts in the north, tropical beaches, plains, and plateaus. The climate varies according to the location, with some tropical areas receiving more than 40 inches of rain a year. Desert areas in the north remain dry most of the year.

Most people live on the Central Plateau of Mexico in the central part of the country. Mexico City, one of the world's largest cities, is in this region. There is **arable** (farmable) land in this region, and there is usually enough rain to grow a variety of crops. The region has many manufacturing centers, which provide jobs. Over 75 percent of the people in Mexico live in **urban** (city) areas. This allows them to have jobs in manufacturing or service industries. About 25 percent of Mexico's workers are farmers. However, fewer people are choosing to work on farms because of the challenges of little rainfall and unproductive soil as well as little money for modern farm equipment and fertilizers.

Natural Resources of Mexico

The people of Mexico are able to use their **natural resources** (gifts of nature) to trade with other countries. Oil is one of the most important **exports** (goods sold to other countries). Mexico is the tenth-largest oil exporter in the world. It exports about 1.7 million barrels of oil a day. Money from the sale of oil provides about a third of the Mexican government's budget. Mexico is also one of the world's largest exporters of silver. Silver mines in Mexico produce about 15 percent of the silver sold in the world each year. Other exports include fruits, vegetables, coffee, and cotton. The economy is boosted by tourism, too. The country is very close to the United States, so most of the tourists are American. In fact, three-fourths of Mexico's trade with other countries comes from the United States.

- _____ 25. **Which metal is mined more in Mexico than anywhere else?**
- A. iron
 - B. lead
 - C. silver
 - D. copper
- _____ 26. **Which country has about three-fourths of the trade with Mexico?**
- A. Brazil
 - B. Guyana
 - C. Venezuela
 - D. United States
- _____ 27. **Which region of Mexico has the most people?**
- A. Central Plateau
 - B. northern deserts
 - C. tropical beaches
 - D. Sierra Madre Mountains
- _____ 28. **Which is a problem for the farmers in Mexico?**
- A. The soil is not very productive.
 - B. Many areas have too much rainfall.
 - C. There is not enough sunlight to grow crops.
 - D. There are few businesses to sell farm equipment.

LOCATION, CLIMATE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF VENEZUELA

Location of Venezuela

Venezuela is a much smaller Latin American country than Mexico. To the north are the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. The country shares borders with Guyana on the east, Brazil on the south, and Colombia on the west.

Venezuela's coastline gives it easy access to trade with other countries. There are four major ports in the country. Oil can be loaded onto tankers and shipped to ports in the United States and Europe. The nearby Panama Canal provides a shortcut to the Pacific Ocean and trade with Asian countries.

Climate of Venezuela

Venezuela lies in the tropics and is just north of the equator. This means that it has a hot, tropical climate all year. Only in high elevations such as the Andes will temperatures fall to the freezing point. Most rain falls from May to October. Along the coast, it is relatively dry with about 16 inches of rain each year. In higher elevations, annual rainfall is over 100 inches a year.

About 88 percent of the people in Venezuela live in urban areas along the coast in the northern part of the country. Although there is a lot of poverty, many professionals live in these urban areas, including doctors, lawyers, teachers, businessmen, and government employees. These people give the country a large middle class. About 75 percent of Venezuelans make their living in service jobs such as education, health care, and hotel, transportation, and trade businesses. **Service jobs** are those that involve providing services to people rather than products.

Natural Resources of Venezuela

Other Venezuelans make their living fishing in Lake Maracaibo, South America's largest lake, and along the coast of the Caribbean Sea. There is little arable land, so farming provides jobs for only 10 percent of the population.

The oil industry provides other jobs. Venezuela is the sixth-largest oil exporter in the world. It produces 2.8 million barrels of oil a day. Its location on the ocean gives it easy access to trade with countries around the world. About 90 percent of the money the government makes on trade with other countries comes from the oil business. In fact, half of the government's money comes from the oil business. The government has used this money to improve health care and education services, especially in poor communities. It has also used the money to make improvements in roads and telephone networks.

Venezuela and Mexico have common problems. For instance, millions of their citizens live in poor conditions. They have little or no health care, and their children do not have an opportunity for a good education. In addition, both countries depend on oil production for a large part of their trade. When the price of oil goes down, it is difficult for the government to pay its bills and help its people. The environmental cost of the production of oil is a problem, too. Pollution caused by oil will affect the land and air in these countries for many years to come.

- ___ **29. What is a major reason that few Venezuelans are farmers?**
- A. There is too much rain.
 - B. There is little arable land.
 - C. Venezuela trades with Guyana, Brazil, and Colombia for food.
 - D. Venezuela is able to buy the food it needs from other countries.
- ___ **30. Which is a negative result of Venezuela's oil business?**
- A. Health care services have improved.
 - B. Pollution has damaged the air and land.
 - C. Education for poor children has improved.
 - D. Road and telephone networks have been expanded.
- ___ **31. How has Venezuela's location helped its trade with other countries?**
- A. Venezuela is in the northern part of South America.
 - B. The countries of the Caribbean Sea can trade with nearby Venezuela.
 - C. The countries of Guyana, Brazil, and Colombia share a border with Venezuela.
 - D. Venezuela has a coastline with ports on the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.
- ___ **32. Most people in Venezuela live in what type of area?**
- A. rural
 - B. urban
 - C. half live in urban areas, half in rural
 - D. this information has not been collected

Use the information from the reading and the following table to answer questions 33-37.

Comparing Mexico and Venezuela

	Mexico	Venezuela
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at southern border of the United States • coasts on the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea • northernmost country of Latin America • very mountainous with large central plateau • land varies from warm tropical beaches to dry deserts • most land is too dry and rugged to grow crops; only about 12% is arable • earthquakes and volcanic activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in northeast part of South America • coasts on Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean • just north of the equator • mountains in the north, central plains, with plateaus and low mountains in the south • about 3% arable land; most lands better for pastures than crops
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tends to be dry and warm, although it varies by region • hottest June-August • wettest June-August 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hot, tropical climate • cooler in the mountains • rain varies by region (16 inches on the coast; over 100 inches in the mountains)
Natural Resources	petroleum, natural gas, silver, copper, gold, lead, zinc, and timber	petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, bauxite, other minerals, hydropower, diamonds
Population	about 111,000,000	about 28,000,000
Area	about 760,000 square miles	about 350,000 square miles
Where People Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban: 77% • Rural: 23% • nearly 20% of the people live in the area of Mexico City • 2nd most populous country in Latin America • largest Spanish-speaking country in the world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban: 88% • Rural: 12% • Caracas is the largest city • most people live in the northern highlands, along the coast
Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mix of new and old industries • recently expanded railroads, airports, and electric generating plants • 7 major seaports • exports: manufactured goods, oil and oil products, silver, fruits, vegetables, coffee, and cotton • tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of money made on exports comes from oil • 4 major seaports • other exports: bauxite and aluminum, steel, chemicals, agricultural products, basic manufactures • tourism

- ___ 33. Which statement **BEST** describes the population of Mexico and Venezuela?
- A. The countries have about the same population.
 - B. The countries do not have information on their population.
 - C. Mexico has about four times the number of people of Venezuela.
 - D. Mexico has about one-fourth the number of people of Venezuela.
- ___ 34. The warm climate of Mexico and Venezuela is **MOST** helpful to which of its industries?
- A. oil
 - B. fishing
 - C. tourism
 - D. health care
- ___ 35. Why do most Mexicans and Venezuelans live in urban areas?
- A. Rural areas do not have good climates.
 - B. There is much arable land in these countries.
 - C. There are more jobs in the factories and businesses of the cities.
 - D. Rural areas have more opportunity for good education and health care.
- ___ 36. What is the major source of income in both Mexico and Venezuela?
- A. oil
 - B. tourism
 - C. manufactured goods
 - D. agricultural products
- ___ 37. What is one problem with depending on oil exports for most of a country's income?
- A. Most countries produce the oil they need.
 - B. Most countries do not need to purchase oil.
 - C. When the price of oil goes up, the country cannot afford to sell oil.
 - D. When the price of oil goes down, the country begins to run low on money.

SS6G3 The student will explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Latin America and the Caribbean.

b. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of Brazil and Cuba affect where people live and how they trade.

LOCATION, CLIMATE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF BRAZIL**Location of Brazil**

Brazil is the largest country in Latin America in both population and land area. Brazil is located on the eastern side of South America along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Brazil shares a border with nearly every other country in South America. The Amazon River and other large rivers stretch across most of Brazil.

Brazil's location on the Atlantic Ocean and its closeness to the Panama Canal greatly influence its trade with other countries. Brazil's exports can be shipped through any of the seven major seaports on the coast. Cars and other transportation equipment are traded to other countries. Exports also include iron ore and shoes. The United States is Brazil's most important trading partner. China, Argentina, Germany, and the Netherlands also buy goods from Brazil.

Tourism is a growing industry in Brazil. The Amazon rain forest draws many visitors. Its animals, plants, and other natural wonders cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Brazil's sandy beaches and warm climate are another attraction. Cities such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo have attractions and festivals that bring visitors from around the world.

Climate of Brazil

The country's location on the equator gives it the climate needed to support one of the world's largest regions of tropical rain forest. The climate is mostly hot and tropical. In the south, further from the equator, the climate is temperate (mild).

Most Brazilians live along the eastern, coastal areas of their country. Good roads do not extend into the vast Amazon rain forest region of the interior of the country. As a result, 80 percent of the people live within 200 miles of the ocean. Brazil's cities are clustered in this area too. About 30 percent of the people work in health care, education, or government jobs. Another 30 percent work in businesses such as transportation, communication, and trade. Nearly 12 percent of the workers find jobs in manufacturing. Because these jobs tend to be found in urban areas, nearly 85 percent of Brazilians live in urban environments.

Natural Resources of Brazil

Only 7 percent of the land in Brazil is arable, but Brazil makes the most of this resource. Twenty percent of the workers in Brazil are farmers. They produce one-third of the world's coffee, and they lead the world in the production of oranges, papayas, and sugar cane. Soybeans and soybean products are important products for trade with other countries. Only the United States exports more farm products than Brazil.

- ___ 38. **Where do most Brazilians live in their country?**
- A. in the interior
 - B. along the Amazon river
 - C. in the Amazon rain forest
 - D. along the eastern, coastal area
- ___ 39. **The climate of Brazil allows farmers to export all of these crops EXCEPT**
- A. wheat
 - B. coffee
 - C. oranges
 - D. sugar cane
- ___ 40. **Which natural resource is an important export for Brazil?**
- A. cars
 - B. shoes
 - C. iron ore
 - D. sugar cane
- ___ 41. **Why does Brazil have a fast-growing tourism industry?**
- A. Most Brazilians live in urban areas and need jobs.
 - B. Most Brazilians live within 200 miles of the coast.
 - C. Brazil has many cities scattered across the country that tourists enjoy visiting.
 - D. Brazil has many natural wonders that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.
- ___ 42. **How does Brazil's location help it trade with other countries?**
- A. There are seven major seaports along the Atlantic coast.
 - B. The Amazon River allows ships to travel inland to the Andes.
 - C. Brazil shares a border with nearly every other South American country.
 - D. Brazil is able to purchase from other countries goods that it cannot make on its own.

LOCATION, CLIMATE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF CUBA

Location of Cuba

Cuba is an island nation 90 miles south of the state of Florida. It is bounded by the Gulf of Mexico on the northwest, the Atlantic Ocean on the northeast, and the Caribbean Sea to the south. The island is a little more than 700 miles long, and it ranges from 135 miles at its widest point to only 20 miles at the narrowest point. Cuba is the largest island in the West Indies.

Most Cubans (76 percent) live in urban areas. Twenty percent of them live in the capital and largest city, Havana. Many workers in the urban areas have jobs in manufacturing. A large number have jobs in service professions such as education, health care, government, and tourism. Cuba's location on ocean trading routes has been an important influence on its history and current economy.

Climate of Cuba

Cuba's climate is tropical but moderated by tradewinds. There is a rainy season from May to October, and there is a dry season from November to April. The tropical climate means that Cuba is warm to hot all year long. Winds help move the air and provide relief from the heat.

Cuba's location and climate also make it a target for hurricanes. The warm tropical waters provide energy for the storms, which begin on the coast of Africa. As the storms move west, they often move across islands in the Caribbean, including Cuba. Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30.

Natural Resources of Cuba

Twenty-eight percent of Cuba's land is arable. Cuba makes good use of this land by growing not only crops for its own people but also crops to sell to other countries. For centuries, sugar cane plantations have been a major source of income for Cuba. This is true today, with sugar being the most important export of the country. Coffee, fish, fruits, and tobacco products are traded to other countries as well. Cuba is known for its cigars. This tobacco product is highly prized by many people and provides a good income to the country. Cuba's location on the ocean gives it easy access to rich fishing waters. Fishing provides food for Cubans, and it gives the country another product to export.

One of the fastest-growing industries is tourism. Cuba has a beautiful, natural landscape and wonderful beaches. Tourists from Canada, Europe, and Latin America bring money to the island and provide jobs for the people. Hotels are being built or renovated to attract even more tourists.

Cuba is a **communist** country. That means the government owns or controls most farms and businesses. The communist government of the Soviet Union helped to support Cuba for many years. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Cuba faced difficult times. Cuba's trade with other countries does not bring in enough money to meet the needs of its people. Today, Venezuela sells oil to Cuba at a reduced price, but Cuba cannot sell enough goods to buy everything its people need. In order to save energy, the government sometimes orders businesses and factories to close. The government also orders **blackouts**, or times when all electricity to a region is cut off.

- ___ 43. **What has been the major export for Cuba for the past two hundred years?**
- A. fish
 - B. fruits
 - C. sugar
 - D. coffee
- ___ 44. **Which industries are helped MOST by Cuba's location on the ocean?**
- A. tourism and fishing
 - B. fishing and tobacco
 - C. sugar and health care
 - D. tourism and health care
- ___ 45. **Which product does Venezuela provide at a reduced cost to Cuba?**
- A. oil
 - B. fish
 - C. wheat
 - D. sugar cane
- ___ 46. **The large amount of arable land is MOST helpful to which industry in Cuba?**
- A. fishing
 - B. tourism
 - C. farming
 - D. manufacturing
- ___ 47. **Which country supported Cuba until 1991?**
- A. Canada
 - B. Venezuela
 - C. Soviet Union
 - D. United States

Use information from your reading and the following table to answer questions 48-52.

Comparing Brazil and Cuba

	Brazil	Cuba
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eastern side of South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean • the equator crosses the northern part of the country • mostly flat to rolling lowlands; some plains, hills, mountains • largest country in Latin America • about 7% arable land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean island about 90 miles south of Florida • Gulf of Mexico to the northwest and Atlantic Ocean to the northeast • mostly flat to rolling plains; rugged hills and mountains in the southeast • largest island in the West Indies • about 28% arable land
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mostly hot, tropical • temperate (mild temperatures) in the south 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tropical; moderated by trade winds; dry season (November to April); rainy season (May to October)
Natural Resources	bauxite, gold, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, platinum, tin, uranium, petroleum, hydropower, timber	cobalt, nickel, iron ore, chromium, copper, salt, timber, silica, petroleum, arable land
Population	about 191,000,000	about 11,000,000
Area	about 3,300,000 square miles	about 43,000 square miles
Where People Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban: 84% • Rural: 16% • most populated country in Latin America • largest Portuguese-speaking country in the world • most Brazilians live along the coast; 80% live within 200 miles of the ocean • nearly all cities and large towns are in the coastal area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban: 76% • Rural: 24% • Havana is the largest city • about 20% of Cubans live in Havana
Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 major seaports • exports: transport equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, autos, and sugar • the United States is the largest trading partner • tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 major seaports • exports: sugar, nickel, tobacco, fish, medical products, citrus, coffee • Venezuela is the largest trading partner • tourism

- ___ 48. **Who is Brazil's largest trading partner?**
- A. Cuba
 - B. Guyana
 - C. Venezuela
 - D. United States
- ___ 49. **A similarity between Brazil and Cuba is that, in both countries, people tend to live in**
- A. rural areas.
 - B. urban areas.
 - C. away from the ocean.
 - D. farming communities.
- ___ 50. **A difference between Brazil and Cuba is that Brazil**
- A. has a much larger population than Cuba.
 - B. has a much smaller population than Cuba.
 - C. does not allow people to live near the coast.
 - D. does not want people to move inland into the rain forest.
- ___ 51. **How do the land areas of Cuba and Brazil compare?**
- A. Cuba is over 700 miles long.
 - B. Cuba is about half the size of Brazil.
 - C. The countries are about the same size.
 - D. Brazil is about eight times the size of Cuba.
- ___ 52. **In which industries do Cuba and Brazil compete with each other for trade with other countries?**
- A. coffee, sugar, tourism
 - B. Brazil nuts, tobacco, nickel
 - C. iron ore, soybeans, footwear
 - D. tobacco, autos, medical products

SS6G4 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of people who live in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- a. Describe the results of blending of ethnic groups in Latin America and the Caribbean.

THE BLENDING OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The cultures of Latin America are diverse. Each region has its own character, which reflects its history. The languages, customs, beliefs, and even the foods from an area are a result of its history. Latin America also has diversity in its races. Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans were the largest groups. Members of these groups have intermarried and developed unique cultures over time.

Many of the Europeans that came to the New World in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries forced the native people to work on plantations or in mines. Disease and death followed, and most of the natives on the islands were wiped out. However, in Central and South America, many Native Americans were able to preserve their cultures by moving to remote mountain or forest regions.

In order to get workers, Europeans brought Africans to the New World and forced them to work as slaves. Descendants of these people live there today. There are also people of mixed ancestry. **Mulattoes** in Brazil, Panama, and the West Indies are numerous. Their ancestors were both African and European. Most of the people in Venezuela are **mestizos**. Their ancestors were both European and Native American.

The main religion in Latin America and the Caribbean is Roman Catholic. However, the practices of Native Americans and Africans have blended with Roman Catholic beliefs. Unique festivals such as the "Day of the Dead" in Mexico are one result. This holiday coincides with the Catholic All Saints' Day. The Day of the Dead blends Native American beliefs about the afterlife with Roman Catholic beliefs. Religions based on African traditional beliefs are also present. Cuba, for instance, has groups that practice **Santeria**. In Peru and Bolivia, many native people continue their traditional beliefs and ceremonies.

The groups in Latin America are proud of their heritage. There are some problems, though. People with European ancestors often have more important jobs, better education and health care, and more money than others. Native Americans, blacks, and mestizos have begun to demand equality in their countries. In Bolivia, for instance, a Native American was elected president for the first time in 2005.

- ____ **53. What are the three main sources of the cultural groups of Latin America and the Caribbean?**
- A. Africans, Mulattoes, Catholics
 - B. Africans, Europeans, Native Americans
 - C. Mestizos, Native Americans, Europeans
 - D. Native Americans, Mulattoes, Europeans
- ____ **54. In Latin America and the Caribbean, people with which ethnic background often have better jobs and more money?**
- A. African
 - B. Mestizo
 - C. European
 - D. Native American

55. How is the “Day of the Dead” an example of blended culture?

- A. It is celebrated by traditional African cultures.
- B. A Roman Catholic holiday is given a new name in Mexico.
- C. The Roman Catholic holiday is celebrated in a way which includes Native American traditions.
- D. The traditional Native American belief is celebrated in the same way that it has been for thousands of years.

56. What is one cause for the blending of cultures in Latin America and the Caribbean?

- A. Men and women from different ethnic groups intermarried.
- B. Native Americans adapted their beliefs to the beliefs of other people.
- C. The rugged land of Central and South America kept the people apart.
- D. People from different ethnic groups enjoyed learning about other cultures.

SS6G4 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of people who live in Latin America and the Caribbean.

b. Explain why Latin America is a region based on the languages of Portuguese and Spanish.

THE REGION OF “LATIN AMERICA” AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES

Christopher Columbus made his first famous voyage to the New World in 1492. He was working for the king and queen of Spain trying to find a quick and safe passage to China. He hoped such a passage would be profitable to him and the Spanish king and queen. Of course, we now know that Columbus did not reach China or anywhere in Asia. He had, in fact, “discovered” continents unknown to the Europeans at that time.

Over the next two hundred years, Spain, its neighbor Portugal, and other European countries sent ships to explore these new lands. The Spanish explored, conquered, and settled areas of Florida, Mexico, and large parts of Central and South America. The Spanish also claimed many islands of the West Indies. Portugal’s claim was Brazil. This land stretched from the Atlantic Ocean across South America to the Andes Mountains. It covered most of the vast Amazon River region. The Spanish and Portuguese spread their culture and religion across the region and developed communities that were similar to their home countries.

The Portuguese and Spanish followed similar patterns in their history in the region. Each conquered the native population and attempted to use these people as a source of slave labor. Africans were later imported as slaves to work in mines and large farms such as sugar cane plantations.

The British colonies in North America fought for independence from their mother country, **Great Britain**. In the same way, the regions of Central and South America fought for independence from Spain and Portugal. Spain lost Mexico in the early 1800s. By 1898, Puerto Rico, the last Spanish colony in the New World, had been ceded to the United States.

French, English, Dutch, and hundreds of native languages are spoken in Central and South America and the Caribbean. Despite this fact, the term **Latin America** was started in the 1800s to group the countries that spoke mostly languages based on the ancient Latin language (Spanish and Portuguese). The shared history and culture, and the dominance of Portuguese and Spanish languages, have made the term **Latin America** one that unites Central and South America and the Caribbean based on its two primary languages. The English language is based on an ancient German language. So, English-speaking countries of North America are not included in the term **Latin America**.

- ___ 57. **What are the two primary languages of Latin America?**
- A. English and French
 - B. French and Spanish
 - C. Portuguese and English
 - D. Spanish and Portuguese
- ___ 58. **On what common language are the languages of Spain and Portugal based?**
- A. Spanish
 - B. Portuguese
 - C. ancient Latin
 - D. ancient German
- ___ 59. **Why does the term *Latin America* fit as a description for the regions of Central and South America and the Caribbean?**
- A. The people in these countries speak Latin.
 - B. The countries share similar histories and culture.
 - C. The people in these countries speak languages that come from Latin.
 - D. The countries share similar histories and culture, and they mostly speak languages based on Latin.
- ___ 60. **Which countries are included in the term *Latin America*?**
- A. all countries that speak Latin
 - B. countries located in North America
 - C. countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean
 - D. countries in Central and South America, but not those in the Caribbean

Use the map that follows to answer questions 61-64.

Map of European Claims in America 1763



- ___ 61. Which European counties claimed the most territory in South America in 1763?
- A. France and Spain
 - B. Portugal and Spain
 - C. Brazil and La Plata
 - D. Portugal and the Netherlands (Dutch)
- ___ 62. Which European countries claimed small portions of South America in 1763?
- A. Portugal and Spain
 - B. Brazil and La Plata
 - C. New Granada and La Plata
 - D. the Netherlands (Dutch) and France
- ___ 63. Which modern-day countries are located in the land labeled New Spain?
- A. Spain and Portugal
 - B. United States and Brazil
 - C. Mexico and United States
 - D. Mexico and North America
- ___ 64. The region labeled New Spain was claimed by what country?
- A. Spain
 - B. Brazil
 - C. Portugal
 - D. Great Britain

SS6G4 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of people who live in Latin America and the Caribbean.

c. Evaluate how the literacy rate affects the standard of living.

LITERACY AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN LATIN AMERICA

A **literate** person is one who can read and write. Literacy is a major factor in whether a person is able to get a job and be successful in the workplace. The countries of Latin America have improved the **literacy rate** of their people. On average, 89 percent of the people in Latin America and the Caribbean are literate. That leaves an **illiteracy rate** of 11 percent. The **standard of living** (the “economic level” achieved by a person, family, or country) is often lower in countries where the illiteracy rate is high.

In some cultures, it is believed to be more important for boys to have an education than girls. This fact is shown in the fact that 12 percent of girls are illiterate in this region while only 9 percent of boys are illiterate. In some countries, the difference between boys’ and girls’ literacy rates is very large. In other countries, the illiteracy rates are about the same. Either way, the goal of most governments is to have 100 percent literacy among their people. Many governments, missionaries, and aid groups come to the poorest of these countries to assist the people in educating all their children.

One reason that many of the poor cannot learn to read and write is because their communities cannot afford to pay for teachers and schools. Having these basic skills, however, is important. Without the basic skills of reading and writing, workers are stuck in the lowest-paying jobs. Countries with large numbers of illiterate workers cannot build and operate modern industries.

A cycle of poverty can develop in which people cannot get an education, so they can only get low-paying jobs. Because they can only get low-paying jobs, they cannot get enough money to pay for their children’s education. The standard of living remains low for these families because their education level remains low.

___ **65. When a person is literate, that means that the person can**

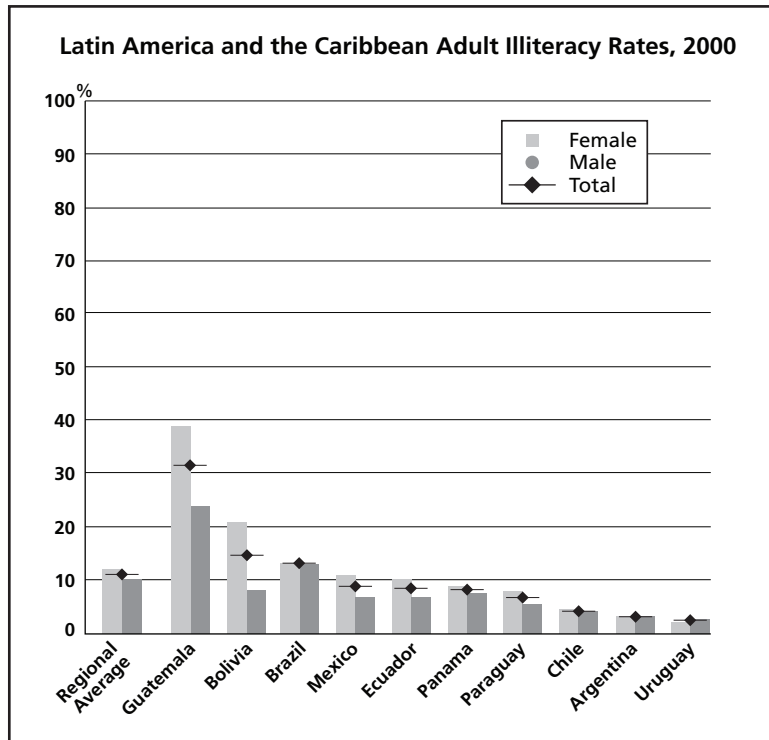
- A. read and write.
- B. get a good job.
- C. have a greater standard of living.
- D. pay for his or her child’s education.

___ **66. Which is often an effect of a high literacy rate?**

- A. a higher illiteracy rate
- B. lower education levels
- C. a lower standard of living
- D. a higher standard of living

- ___ 67. **Why do some countries have higher literacy rates for boys than for girls?**
- A. Boys enjoy learning to read and write more than girls do.
 - B. Girls enjoy learning to read and write more than boys do.
 - C. Some cultures believe that it is not as important for girls to learn to read and write as it is for boys.
 - D. Some cultures believe that it is not as important for boys to learn to read and write as it is for girls.
- ___ 68. **An illiterate person is most likely to have all of the following EXCEPT**
- A. a large home.
 - B. a low-paying job.
 - C. a lower standard of living.
 - D. children who cannot read and write.

Use the following graph to answer questions 69-72.



69. Which country has the best rates of literacy for its people?
- Brazil
 - Uruguay
 - Argentina
 - Guatemala
70. Which country has the greatest difference between boys' and girls' literacy rates?
- Brazil
 - Uruguay
 - Argentina
 - Guatemala
71. If a businesswoman wanted to build a factory and have educated workers, which country would be the best choice?
- Brazil
 - Bolivia
 - Mexico
 - Guatemala
72. Which country has a literacy rate better than the regional average?
- Chile
 - Brazil
 - Bolivia
 - Guatemala