LATIN AMERICA AND CANADA

GEOGRAPHIC UNDERSTANDINGS

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

**DEFORESTATION OF BRAZIL’S RAIN FOREST**

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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mexico</th>
<th>Venezuela</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>at southern border of the United States</td>
<td>in northeast part of South America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>coasts on the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea</td>
<td>coasts on Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>northernmost country of Latin America</td>
<td>just north of the equator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>very mountainous with large central plateau</td>
<td>mountains in the north, central plains, with plateaus and low mountains in the south</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>land varies from warm tropical beaches to dry deserts</td>
<td>about 3% arable land; most lands better for pastures than crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>most land is too dry and rugged to grow crops; only about 12% is arable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>earthquakes and volcanic activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate</strong></td>
<td>tends to be dry and warm, although it varies by region</td>
<td>hot, tropical climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hottest June-August</td>
<td>cooler in the mountains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wettest June-August</td>
<td>rain varies by region (16 inches on the coast; over 100 inches in the mountains)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Resources</strong></td>
<td>petroleum, natural gas, silver, copper, gold, lead, zinc, and timber</td>
<td>petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, bauxite, other minerals, hydropower, diamonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>about 111,000,000</td>
<td>about 28,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>about 760,000 square miles</td>
<td>about 350,000 square miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where People Live</strong></td>
<td>Urban: 77%</td>
<td>Urban: 88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural: 23%</td>
<td>Rural: 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nearly 20% of the people live in the area of Mexico City</td>
<td>Caracas is the largest city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd most populous country in Latin America</td>
<td>most people live in the northern highlands, along the coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>largest Spanish-speaking country in the world</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trade</strong></td>
<td>mix of new and old industries</td>
<td>90% of money made on exports comes from oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>recently expanded railroads, airports, and electric generating plants</td>
<td>4 major seaports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 major seaports</td>
<td>other exports: bauxite and aluminum, steel, chemicals, agricultural products, basic manufactures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>exports: manufactured goods, oil and oil products, silver, fruits, vegetables, coffee, and cotton</td>
<td>tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tourism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Cuba</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>• eastern side of South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean</td>
<td>• Caribbean island about 90 miles south of Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• the equator crosses the northern part of the country</td>
<td>• Gulf of Mexico to the northwest and Atlantic Ocean to the northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• mostly flat to rolling lowlands; some plains, hills, mountains</td>
<td>• mostly flat to rolling plains; rugged hills and mountains in the southeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• largest country in Latin America</td>
<td>• largest island in the West Indies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• about 7% arable land</td>
<td>• about 28% arable land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate</strong></td>
<td>• mostly hot, tropical</td>
<td>• tropical; moderated by trade winds; dry season (November to April); rainy season (May to October)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• temperate (mild temperatures) in the south</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Resources</strong></td>
<td>bauxite, gold, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, platinum, tin, uranium, petroleum, hydropower, timber</td>
<td>cobalt, nickel, iron ore, chromium, copper, salt, timber, silica, petroleum, arable land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>about 191,000,000</td>
<td>about 11,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>about 3,300,000 square miles</td>
<td>about 43,000 square miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where People Live</strong></td>
<td>• Urban: 84%</td>
<td>• Urban: 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rural: 16%</td>
<td>• Rural: 24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• most populated country in Latin America</td>
<td>• Havana is the largest city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• largest Portuguese-speaking country in the world</td>
<td>• about 20% of Cubans live in Havana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• most Brazilians live along the coast; 80% live within 200 miles of the ocean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• nearly all cities and large towns are in the coastal area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trade</strong></td>
<td>• 7 major seaports</td>
<td>• 3 major seaports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• exports: transport equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, autos, and sugar</td>
<td>• exports: sugar, nickel, tobacco, fish, medical products, citrus, coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• the United States is the largest trading partner</td>
<td>• Venezuela is the largest trading partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• tourism</td>
<td>• tourism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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
**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*. 

---

**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.
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
61. Which European countries 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
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.
69. Which country has the best rates of literacy for its people?
   A. Brazil  
   B. Uruguay  
   C. Argentina  
   D. Guatemala

70. Which country has the greatest difference between boys’ and girls’ literacy rates?
   A. Brazil  
   B. Uruguay  
   C. Argentina  
   D. Guatemala

71. If a businesswoman wanted to build a factory and have educated workers, which country would be the best choice?
   A. Brazil  
   B. Bolivia  
   C. Mexico  
   D. Guatemala

72. Which county has a literacy rate better than the regional average?
   A. Chile  
   B. Brazil  
   C. Bolivia  
   D. Guatemala
**SS6G5 The student will locate selected features of Canada.**

- Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the St. Lawrence River, Hudson Bay, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, the Great Lakes, Canadian Shield, and Rocky Mountains.

**LOCATING PHYSICAL FEATURES OF CANADA**

In order to learn more about Canada, start by learning its location. Look at the map that follows and put your finger on the United States. Move your finger north, and you’ll land in Canada! From Canada’s point of view, its entire southern border is with the United States. Notice the three oceans around Canada. The Atlantic Ocean is on the east. The Pacific Ocean is on the west. To the north is the **Arctic Ocean**. **Hudson Bay** extends far into Canada and connects to the Atlantic Ocean. Along the western border is the U.S. state of Alaska.

Canada has many rivers. One of the most important is the **St. Lawrence River**. It stretches from Lake Ontario to the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the Atlantic side of the country. Look on the map and find the eastern point of Lake Ontario. Follow the river eastward, and you will pass Montreal and Quebec City before reaching the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This river was important to Canada’s history because it allowed explorers to travel deep into North America by water. It is an important natural resource today as a source of water and as a trade route.

Canada is home to many lakes. The **Great Lakes** form part of the border with the United States. Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario are split between the United States and Canada. Lake Michigan is entirely within the United States.

The **Canadian Shield** covers a large part of eastern and central Canada. It has ancient rock just below and sometimes sticking out of the soil. The area is known for its thin, rocky soil and rough, rolling landscape. This region has many lakes and rivers and is rich in minerals.

On the west, the **Rocky Mountains** are an impressive feature. These mountains stretch over 3,000 miles, from British Columbia in Canada to New Mexico in the United States. Mount Robson is the tallest peak in the Canadian Rockies at nearly 13,000 feet.

Study each of the landforms and features that were mentioned and learn their locations on the map. Knowing the location of important places will help you better understand the people that live in those places.
73. Which is marked with a “1” on the map?
   A. Hudson Bay  
   B. Pacific Ocean  
   C. Lake Superior  
   D. Atlantic Ocean

74. Which would be found near the “3” on the map?
   A. Lake Huron  
   B. Canadian Shield  
   C. Rocky Mountains  
   D. St. Lawrence River
75. Which number is closest to the St. Lawrence River?
   A. 2  
   B. 3 
   C. 6 
   D. 7 

76. Which would be found near the “7” on the map?
   A. Lake Huron 
   B. Canadian Shield 
   C. Rocky Mountains 
   D. St. Lawrence River 

77. Which borders Canada?
   A. Cuba 
   B. Mexico 
   C. Panama 
   D. United States 

78. Which area is known for its rolling, rocky land covering eastern and central Canada?
   A. Lake Huron 
   B. Canadian Shield 
   C. Rocky Mountains 
   D. St. Lawrence River
LOCATION OF CANADA

Canada is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere in land area. It is the second-largest country by land area in the entire world. Its southern border stretches across the northern United States. It is bounded by three oceans: the Atlantic on the east, the Arctic on the north, and the Pacific to the west. Alaska forms part of Canada’s western border. From a polar point of view, the country is in an important position between the United States and Russia.

The population of Canada, about 33 million, is small compared to its land area. Mexico has about three times the number of people of Canada. The United States has about nine times the number of people of Canada. Most Canadians live on the southern border with the United States. About 90 percent of Canadians live within 100 miles of the border with the United States. Most of these live toward the east and central parts of the country.

Most Canadians live in cities or towns. Only about 20 percent of the people live in rural areas. Just over half of the population lives in one of four zones. The Golden Horseshoe zone lies around the southern end of Lake Ontario and includes Toronto. About one-fourth of all Canadians live in this zone. Another one-fourth of Canadians live in the three areas of Montréal, British Columbia’s Victoria region and southern Vancouver Island, and the Calgary-Edmonton area.

The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River provide important trade routes into central Canada from the Atlantic Ocean. Excellent railroads and highways carry goods shipped to either coast. There are nine major seaports that help the country to trade with other countries around the world.

79. Which country is the second largest in the world in land area?
   A. Alaska  
   B. Russia  
   C. Canada  
   D. United States

80. Which statement is true about where people in Canada live?
   A. They mostly live in rural areas. 
   B. Most people live in the Toronto area.
   C. They live north of Ontario and Quebec.
   D. Most Canadians live within 100 miles of the U.S. border.

81. Which statement best describes Canada’s population?
   A. Mexico has a smaller population than Canada.
   B. The United States has a smaller population than Canada.
   C. Canada has a large population compared to the size of its land area.
   D. Canada has a small population compared to the size of its land area.
CLIMATE OF CANADA

Although Canada is a large country, the climate of the country keeps most of its people living in just a few areas. Most of the southeastern part of Canada has a humid continental climate. This zone is between the subtropical climate to the south and the subarctic climate in the north. It has warm to hot summers and cold winters. There can be up to 60 inches of precipitation a year. Snowfall can exceed 100 inches a year in some parts of eastern Canada. The climate in the southern and central parts of the country allows for a long growing season. Canada’s central plains are important source of canola, wheat, and other grains.

The area along the Pacific coast has a temperate climate. The ocean cools the region in summer and keeps it warmer in winter. This region can get over 100 inches of rain a year. Most of this precipitation comes in winter.

Moving northward, Canada becomes much colder. Few Canadians live in the northern regions for this reason. The subarctic and arctic regions of Canada have long, cold winters and short, cool summers. It’s possible to have temperatures below freezing even in the summer.

___ 82. What climate feature keeps most Canadians living in the southern part of their country?
   A. The south has over 100 inches of rain a year.
   B. The south has over 100 inches of snow a year.
   C. The north has very little precipitation each year.
   D. The north has very cold winters and cool summers.

___ 83. Which part of Canada has subarctic and arctic climates?
   A. east
   B. west
   C. north
   D. south

___ 84. The humid continental climate that covers a large part of Canada helps the country with which type of business?
   A. fishing
   B. mining
   C. farming
   D. shipping
NATURAL RESOURCES OF CANADA

Canadians have a country rich in natural resources (gifts of nature). Some of the most important of these resources are iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, potash, diamonds, and silver. The large number of rivers and lakes are an excellent source of fish, fresh water, and hydroelectric power. Good soil allows farmers to grow crops for the people of Canada with enough left over to trade with other countries. The forests are a major natural resource along with abundant wildlife. Coal, oil, and natural gas are in large supply as well. Canadians have enough of these energy resources to supply their needs and sell the rest to other countries.

Because many of the natural resources of Canada are found in remote areas, Canadians are spread across their country. Small communities are found across Canada where mining and farming are important. Workers are needed to fish in rivers and at sea. Goods from these types of businesses are shipped by rail or highway to the larger cities for trade with other parts of Canada and the world.

85. Which are important natural resources of Canada?
A. coal, oil, water
B. oil, timber, workers
C. fish, timber, railroads
D. highways, natural gas, wildlife

86. Why do Canadians live all across their large country?
A. They do not like living so close to one another.
B. Many of their natural resources are in remote areas.
C. Cities have most of the natural resources they need to live.
D. Natural resources of Canada are mostly within 100 miles of the U.S. border.

87. What types of communities are usually found in areas where mining and farming are important?
A. large cities
B. campgrounds
C. fishing villages
D. small communities

88. Why is it good for Canada that it has enough oil and natural gas to sell?
A. It can help other countries that don’t have these resources.
B. Canadians don’t need as much oil and natural gas as people in other countries do.
C. It can supply its own energy needs and doesn’t have to depend on other countries.
D. Canadians use more oil and natural gas than people in other countries but it costs them less.
HOW CANADA’S LOCATION, CLIMATE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES IMPACT TRADE

Canada’s location in the world helps it to be a leader in world trade. Canada is uniquely located on three oceans: the Arctic, the Atlantic, and the Pacific. This gives the country wonderful opportunities to trade with both Europe and Asia. From a polar point of view, the vast country of Russia is nearby. When sea lanes are open, travel across the Arctic Ocean is possible. Canada has nine major ports and numerous smaller ones. These ports allow goods to be shipped into and out of Canada easily without having to travel through other countries. Canada’s rivers help traders as well. The St. Lawrence River served as a highway for early European explorers. Today, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway network allow goods to be shipped to and from the central part of Canada to the Atlantic Ocean. A major benefit for Canada is its location north of the United States. The two countries share over 3,000 miles of border. Trade across this long border is relatively easy, and Canadian businesses depend on easy trade of their goods and services to make their businesses successful. About 80 percent of Canada’s exports come to the United States.

The climate of Canada helps the country trade with other countries. Though much of the northern part of the country has a rough, cold climate, the southern part is good for farming. A long growing season and good rainfall helps Canada produce canola, wheat, and other grains in large quantities. These are exported to other countries and traded for goods and services that are not available in Canada. Even though the climate overall is colder than the United States, it is not so harsh that trade cannot take place in the winter. An excellent system of highways, railroads, and air transportation has been built and adapted to the colder climate.

Canada’s natural resources are very important to its ability to trade with other countries. Canada sells oil and natural gas, fish, agricultural products, and timber to other countries. Electricity is made at hydroelectric power plants along Canada’s rivers. Extra energy not needed by Canadians is sold to the United States. About 5 percent of the land in Canada is arable. However, because there is so much land, that 5 percent is actually a large amount of land. The rich soil helps to produce valuable crops consumed in Canada and traded to other countries.

89. Which condition makes it easy for Canada to trade with the United States?
   A. The countries share a border over 3,000 miles long.
   B. Canada has easy access to seven major ports on three oceans.
   C. The countries have abundant natural resources and a long growing season.
   D. Canada has many natural resources and goods that are not available in the United States.

90. Which geophysical area is most important to help businesses in central Canada move goods to countries in Europe?
   A. the Canadian Shield
   B. the Rocky Mountains
   C. the ports on the Pacific Ocean
   D. the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway
91. Why is timber an important natural resource for export by Canadian businesses?
   A. There are more trees available than the Canadians can use themselves.
   B. There are fewer trees in Canadian forests than in most forests of the world.
   C. Many countries in the world trade with Brazil to get the timber that they need.
   D. Many countries in the Western Hemisphere trade only with Latin American countries.

92. How are Canadians able to produce enough food for their own use and still have food to sell to other countries when only 5 percent of the land is arable?
   A. Canadians do not eat as much food as other people.
   B. Canadians buy most of their food from other countries.
   C. Canada is a very large country, so 5 percent arable land is quite a lot of land.
   D. Canada has lots of technology that they use to grow more crops on a small amount of land.

Use the graph to answer questions 93-96.

93. What month is usually the driest in Vancouver, Canada?
   A. April
   B. August
   C. January
   D. November

94. What month is usually the coldest in Vancouver, Canada?
   A. April
   B. August
   C. January
   D. November
95. About how many inches of precipitation does Vancouver have in January?
   A. 4
   B. 6
   C. 40
   D. 60

96. Which sentence BEST summarizes the information in the graph?
   A. Vancouver is hottest and driest in summer.
   B. Vancouver is hottest and wettest in summer.
   C. Summer and winter have similar temperatures but more rain in winter.
   D. Summer and winter have similar precipitation, but it’s colder in winter.

SS6G7 The student will discuss environmental issues in Canada.
   a. Explain the major environmental concerns of Canada regarding acid rain and pollution of the Great Lakes, the extraction and use of natural resources on the Canadian Shield, and timber resources.

Canada faces a number of environmental issues. It has many natural resources that it can use for its people and for trade to other countries. Some of the natural resources are renewable, and some are nonrenewable. The country must find ways to carefully manage both types of resources so that the environment is not damaged. Industries help Canada have a good economy with a high standard of living. However, factories are a source of pollution. Canada must find ways to keep its industry alive without destroying its environment.

ACID RAIN

Factories and automobiles produce many pollutants. Depending on what a factory makes, it can put many different pollutants into the air. Coal-burning power plants, cars, and trucks are also polluters of the air. Sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides are especially dangerous. When these pollutants are put into the air, they mix with the water molecules and turn the water acidic. Clouds or rain droplets that are acidic are called acid rain.

Acid rain causes many problems in the environment. Acid levels can become similar to the levels of acid in vinegar. This level of acid can kill plants, damage or kill trees, and pollute lakes and rivers enough to kill the fish. Property can be damaged too. In some cities, acid rain has dissolved the stone used in statues. The statues of people, for instance, lose their crisp facial features and begin to look smoothed and worn down.

Canada has passed laws to limit pollution. The government has worked with factory owners to build factories that do not pollute the air. Laws have been passed requiring automobiles to produce less pollution. The government also encourages Canadians to walk, ride bikes, or take the bus instead of driving their cars. Canada cannot solve this problem alone, however. In parts of southern Canada, 50-75 percent of the pollution that causes acid rain comes from the United States. Wind patterns tend to move the pollution from the United States north into Canada.
97. Rain mixes with which substances to become acidic?
   A. sulfur dioxide, oxygen, hydrogen
   B. hydrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide
   C. water molecules, carbon dioxide, hydrogen
   D. sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide

98. Which are sources of chemicals in acid rain?
   A. forests
   B. walkers
   C. bicycles
   D. coal-burning power plants

99. Canada has to work with the United States to solve the problem of acid rain because the United States
   A. is the source of much of Canada’s air pollution.
   B. purchases many of the goods that Canada produces in its factories.
   C. has reduced the amount of acid rain and understands how to solve the problem.
   D. is careful to keep air pollution from leaving the United States and entering Canada.

Use the statements below to answer question 100.

1. Fish in lakes die.
2. Forests begin to die.
4. Stone statues begin to lose their features.

100. Which statements are problems that result from acid rain?
   A. 1, 2, 3
   B. 2, 3, 4
   C. 1, 2, 4
   D. 1, 3, 4
WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF SULFUR DIOXIDE ($SO_2$) IN THE AIR?

Use the two graphs to answer questions 101-104.

101. The purpose of these graphs is to show
   A. the sources of $SO_2$ pollution in the United States and Canada.
   B. that the United States creates more $SO_2$ pollution than Canada.
   C. that Canada creates more $SO_2$ pollution than the United States.
   D. the sources of all air pollution in the United States and Canada.

102. Which source of pollution is the greatest producer of $SO_2$ in the United States?
   A. electric utilities
   B. fuel combustion
   C. industrial sources
   D. transportation (cars, trucks, etc.)

103. What is the second leading source of $SO_2$ in Canada?
   A. electric utilities
   B. fuel combustion
   C. industrial sources
   D. transportation (cars, trucks, etc.)

104. How does $SO_2$ pollution from transportation compare between the two countries?
   A. They are about the same.
   B. Canada has a much higher percentage.
   C. The United States has a much higher percentage.
   D. There is no $SO_2$ pollution from transportation in the two countries.
POLLUTION OF THE GREAT LAKES

Industries and people in Canada depend upon the water from the Great Lakes. They use the water to drink. They also use it in the processes of their factories. Since the Great Lakes are shared between the United States and Canada, it is important for the two countries to work together to keep the lakes’ environment clean and healthy.

By the 1970s, the Great Lakes were becoming well known for their water pollution. In some places, fishing was unsafe. In other places, there were no fish alive! The factories around the Great Lakes had been using the lakes as their inexpensive dumping ground. In 1972, the governments of the two countries signed an agreement to begin reduction of phosphorus. This chemical is used in fertilizer, pesticides, toothpaste, detergents, and explosives. It is bad for lakes because, in large quantities, it can cause a rapid increase in algae called an algal bloom. One result from algal blooms is the eventual death of plant and animal life in the area of the bloom.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada was signed in 1971 and renewed in 2002. The goal of the agreement is to restore the lakes’ environment and prevent further damage. The countries are working to make sure that chemicals that could poison animals and people are not put into the lakes. The countries are also working to reduce the amount of human waste dumped into the lakes.

105. The first Canadian-American plan to clean the Great Lakes was to reduce which chemical?
   A. detergent
   B. fertilizer
   C. pesticide
   D. phosphorus

106. Why does the Canadian government have to work with the U.S. government to clean up the Great Lakes?
   A. The two countries share the water in the lakes.
   B. The two countries put different types of pollution in the lakes.
   C. Animals and plants in the lakes depend on people to clean up the water.
   D. Animals and plants in the lakes are not important to the people of either country.

107. Which people are likely to be against the Great Lakes Water Quality Treatment Agreement?
   A. fishermen who catch fish in the lakes
   B. homeowners who live along the lakes
   C. factory owners in the area of the lakes
   D. people who get their drinking water from the lakes
EXTRACTION AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE CANADIAN SHIELD

The Canadian Shield is a large area of uplands surrounding Hudson Bay. This region covers most of the eastern half of Canada. The soil in the region is thin and rocky. Beneath the soil is one of Canada’s most valuable resources—minerals. The mines in this region produce gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, iron ore, uranium, and nickel. In fact, the most valuable minerals available in Canada are in the Canadian Shield. About 1.5 million people make their living in the mining industry in Canada—many of them in the Canadian Shield.

Mining can be messy work. The land around mines can be damaged and the environment ruined. Blasting and digging with heavy machinery are common activities in mining areas. *Slag*, or leftover rock from the smelting process, is often dumped in any convenient place. Mining processes can spew sulfur dioxide, $\text{SO}_2$, into the air, producing acid rain and killing nearby vegetation and lake animals. Chemicals from the mines that are dumped into rivers and streams can poison the water and kill animal and plant life.

The Canadian Shield’s minerals are also near the most populated areas of Canada. Pollution related to mining can have an impact on the large metropolitan areas to the south. The government has made new rules about mining. Some of the new rules reduce the amount of pollution allowed in waterways. Canada’s government hopes to keep its fish alive and safe to eat without shutting down important mining industries.

108. Where in Canada are the most valuable minerals found?
   A. Hudson Bay  
   B. Canadian Shield  
   C. Golden Horseshoe  
   D. St. Lawrence Seaway

109. Which is a benefit of mining in Canada?
   A. Valuable mining lands are located near cities.  
   B. Waterways are polluted in the process of mining.  
   C. Over 1.5 million people work in the mining industry.  
   D. Sulfur dioxide ($\text{SO}_2$) is spewed into the air and lands in waterways.

110. Why is the Canadian Shield important to the economy of Canada?
   A. It contains large, valuable mineral deposits.  
   B. Mining operations look for new deposits of minerals.  
   C. It is close to many of the large metropolitan areas of Canada.  
   D. There are many ways that the environment can be damaged by mining.
THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN CANADA

Vast forests cover almost half the land in Canada. Canadians have made this natural resource important to the economy. Loggers cut the trees and then send them to mills. These mills use the timber to make a variety of products including lumber, plywood, and wood pulp for making many kinds of paper.

Forests serve an important role in the environment. Animals and plants depend on the forests to live. Forests also serve to provide oxygen to the atmosphere and to filter out pollutants in the air. Forests serve as homes for wildlife and areas for human recreation.

Citizens in Canada are concerned that logging will destroy the forests and the benefits that it brings. A major concern for many Canadians is clear-cutting. Most timber companies cut all the trees in a given area, leaving large treeless gaps in the forest. Results of clear-cutting include reduced water quality, erosion, and loss of wildlife habitat. Heavy machinery can leave the forest floor compacted. This makes it hard for new growth to start. Some environmental groups want companies to leave small trees and seedlings. They also want to see smaller groups of trees removed instead of hundreds of acres of trees at a time.

The government and industry are working together to try to manage the use of the forests. Hundreds of millions of seeds and seedlings are planted each year. Billions of dollars are spent managing and protecting the forests. Over $100 million is spent each year by the logging industry to protect wildlife and their habitats.

111. Forests cover about how much land in Canada?
   A. one-half
   B. one-third
   C. one-fourth
   D. three-fourths

112. Which is a problem related to clear-cutting?
   A. Soil is turned up.
   B. Erosion of soil stops.
   C. Timber companies save money.
   D. Wildlife loses large areas of habitat.

113. What is the government of Canada doing to protect the forests?
   A. planting seeds and seedlings
   B. spending billions of dollars selling forests
   C. encouraging clear-cutting to keep lumber costs down
   D. providing new homes for wildlife and new areas for human recreation