The Great Lakes

Five huge lakes in North America known as the Great Lakes make up the largest group of fresh water lakes on Earth.

The Andes

Stretching along South America’s western coast, the Andes are the longest mountain range in the world.
The Americas

In the heart of South America, the Amazon rain forest is home to millions of plant and animal species.

Explore the Satellite Image

Forests, mountains, and plains stretch from north to south across the Americas. How do you think the features you can see on this satellite image influence life in the Americas?
### Geographical Extremes: The Americas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Longest River</strong></td>
<td>Amazon River, Brazil/Peru: 4,000 miles (6,435 km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest Point</strong></td>
<td>Mt. Aconcagua, Argentina: 22,834 feet (6,960 m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lowest Point</strong></td>
<td>Death Valley, United States: 282 feet (86 m) below sea level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest Recorded Temperature</strong></td>
<td>Death Valley, United States: 134˚F (56.6˚C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lowest Recorded Temperature</strong></td>
<td>Snag, Canada: -81.4˚F (-63˚C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wettest Place</strong></td>
<td>Lloro, Colombia: 523.6 inches (1,329.9 cm) average precipitation per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Driest Place</strong></td>
<td>Arica, Chile: .03 inches (.08 cm) average precipitation per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest Waterfall</strong></td>
<td>Angel Falls, Venezuela: 3,212 feet (979 m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most Tornadoes</strong></td>
<td>United States: More than 1,000 per year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Size Comparison: The United States and the Americas

- **United States: More than 1,000 per year**
- **Death Valley, United States**
1. Locate Where are North America’s smaller countries located?

2. Make Generalizations What are some advantages or disadvantages that countries might face because they are large or small?
South America includes 12 countries and one overseas department of France.

1. **Name** Which country is by far the largest in South America?
2. **Compare** Compare this map to the physical map of the Americas. What physical feature separates Chile and Argentina?
Overall, population density in the Americas is not high, but many people live in large cities.

1. **Identify** Which areas of the United States have the highest population density?

2. **Make Inferences** Notice that most large cities in South America are located near the coast. Why do you think that is?
The Americas has a huge variety of climates.

1. **Name**  What are the main climates in North America and South America?
2. **Compare**  Compare this map to the population map. How does climate relate to population distribution?

**Climate Types**
- Humid tropical
- Tropical savanna
- Desert
- Steppe
- Mediterranean
- Humid subtropical
- Marine west coast
- Humid continental
- Subarctic
- Tundra
- Ice cap
- Highland

**Projection:** Miller Cylindrical
### The Americas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>CAPITAL</th>
<th>FLAG</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>AREA (sq mi)</th>
<th>PER CAPITA GDP (U.S.$)</th>
<th>LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH</th>
<th>TVS PER 1,000 PEOPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>St. John's</td>
<td><img src="mg7fvs_flg_antigua&amp;barbuda_a" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>85,632</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>$19,600</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td><img src="mg7fvs_flg_argentina_a" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>40.9 million</td>
<td>1,068,302</td>
<td>$14,200</td>
<td>76.5</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bahamas</td>
<td>Nassau</td>
<td><img src="mg7fvs_flg_bahamas_a" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>309,156</td>
<td>5,382</td>
<td>$29,600</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Bridgetown</td>
<td><img src="mg7fvs_flg_barbados_a" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>284,589</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>$19,100</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>290</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Belmopan</td>
<td><img src="mg7fvs_flg_belize_a" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>307,899</td>
<td>8,867</td>
<td>$8,400</td>
<td>68.3</td>
<td>183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>La Paz, Sucre</td>
<td><img src="mg7fvs_flg_bolivia_a" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>9.8 million</td>
<td>424,164</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brasilia</td>
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<td>198.7 million</td>
<td>3,286,488</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td><img src="mg7fvs_flg_Canada_a" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>33.5 million</td>
<td>3,855,101</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
<td>Santiago</td>
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<td>16.6 million</td>
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<td>Colombia</td>
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<td>45.6 million</td>
<td>439,736</td>
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<td>4.3 million</td>
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<td>Havana</td>
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<td>42,803</td>
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<td>Roseau</td>
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<td>72,660</td>
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<td>$9,900</td>
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<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Santo Domingo</td>
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<td>96</td>
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<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Quito</td>
<td><img src="mg7fvs_flg_unitedstates_a" alt="Flag" /></td>
<td>14.6 million</td>
<td>109,483</td>
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<td>United States</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>307.2 million</td>
<td>3,794,083</td>
<td>$46,900</td>
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<td>844</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNTRY</td>
<td>CAPITAL</td>
<td>FLAG</td>
<td>POPULATION</td>
<td>AREA  (sq mi)</td>
<td>PER CAPITA GDP (U.S. $)</td>
<td>LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH</td>
<td>TVS PER 1,000 PEOPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>San Salvador</td>
<td>🇪🇸</td>
<td>7.2 million</td>
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<td>191</td>
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<td>Grenada</td>
<td>Saint George’s</td>
<td>🇬🇩</td>
<td>90,739</td>
<td>133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Guatemala City</td>
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<td>42,043</td>
<td>$5,300</td>
<td>70.1</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>🇬🇾</td>
<td>772,298</td>
<td>83,000</td>
<td>$3,800</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Port-au-Prince</td>
<td>🇭🇹</td>
<td>9 million</td>
<td>10,714</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Honduras</td>
<td>Tegucigalpa</td>
<td>🇭🇳</td>
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<td>43,278</td>
<td>$4,100</td>
<td>69.4</td>
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<td>Kingston</td>
<td>🇰🇪</td>
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<td>4,244</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
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<td>191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Mexico City</td>
<td>🇲🇽</td>
<td>111.2 million</td>
<td>761,606</td>
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<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Managua</td>
<td>🇳🇮</td>
<td>5.9 million</td>
<td>49,998</td>
<td>$2,900</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>Panama City</td>
<td>🇵🇦</td>
<td>3.4 million</td>
<td>30,193</td>
<td>$11,700</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>192</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Asunción</td>
<td>🇵🇾</td>
<td>7 million</td>
<td>157,047</td>
<td>$4,200</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Lima</td>
<td>🇵🇪</td>
<td>29.5 million</td>
<td>496,226</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>147</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>Basseterre</td>
<td>🇳＇</td>
<td>40,131</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>$19,500</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>256</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td>Castries</td>
<td>🇳＇</td>
<td>160,267</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>$11,100</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>368</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>Kingstown</td>
<td>🇳＇</td>
<td>104,574</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>$10,200</td>
<td>74.4</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>307.2 million</td>
<td>3,794,083</td>
<td>$46,900</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three of the world’s five largest cities are located in the Americas. These huge cities are each home to more than 15 million people.

The Americas is a highly urbanized region. In the most urbanized countries, such as Venezuela and Uruguay, about 90 percent of the population lives in cities and towns.

### Facts about Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area (sq mi)</th>
<th>Per Capita GDP (U.S. $)</th>
<th>Life Expectancy at Birth</th>
<th>TVs PER 1,000 People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>Paramaribo</td>
<td>🇦🇷</td>
<td>481,267</td>
<td>63,039</td>
<td>$8,900</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Port-of-Spain</td>
<td>🇻🇪</td>
<td>1.2 million</td>
<td>1,980</td>
<td>$23,600</td>
<td>67.1</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>Montevideo</td>
<td>🇦🇷</td>
<td>3.5 million</td>
<td>68,039</td>
<td>$12,400</td>
<td>76.2</td>
<td>531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>Caracas</td>
<td>🇻🇪</td>
<td>26.8 million</td>
<td>352,144</td>
<td>$13,500</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>307.2 million</td>
<td>3,794,083</td>
<td>$46,900</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Largest Cities and Urban Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World’s Largest Cities</th>
<th>Urban Populations in the Americas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City, U.S.</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>São Paulo, Brazil</td>
<td>Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai (Bombay), India</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Americas is a highly urbanized region. In the most urbanized countries, such as Venezuela and Uruguay, about 90 percent of the population lives in cities and towns.

### Analysis

1. Compare the information for the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Mexico. How do these four countries compare?
2. Which country has the lowest per capita GDP?
The Americas is a major exporter of some crops, like coffee, wheat, corn, and bananas. While the United States leads in wheat and corn exports, other crops like coffee and bananas are exported from Central and South America.

**Coffee Exports**
- Brazil: 20.5%
- Colombia: 8.5%
- Rest of the Americas: 15.4%
- Rest of the World: 55.6%

**Wheat Exports**
- United States: 18.3%
- Canada: 9.9%
- Rest of the Americas: 8.4%
- Rest of the World: 63.4%

**Corn Exports**
- United States: 49.1%
- Argentina: 14.8%
- Rest of the Americas: 2.7%
- Rest of the World: 33.4%

**Banana Exports**
- Ecuador: 27.9%
- Costa Rica: 10.7%
- Colombia: 8.8%
- Rest of the Americas: 18.9%
- Rest of the World: 33.7%

**ANALYSIS SKILL**

1. What percentage of the world’s corn exports come from the Americas?
2. Which countries in the Americas export the most coffee?
CHAPTER 5

The United States

**Essential Question** What are the unique characteristics of the different regions of the United States?

**What You Will Learn...**

In this chapter you will learn about the physical features, climates, and resources of the United States. You will also discover how democratic ideas and immigration have shaped the United States. Finally, you will learn about our country’s different regions, diverse population, and the challenges we face as a nation.

**SECTION 1: Physical Geography ..................... 118**

*The Big Idea* The United States is a large country with diverse physical features, climates, and resources.

**SECTION 2: History and Culture ...................... 126**

*The Big Idea* Democratic ideas and immigration have shaped the history and culture of the United States.

**SECTION 3: The United States Today ............... 134**

*The Big Idea* The United States has four main regions and faces opportunities and challenges.

**FOCUS ON READING AND VIEWING**

*Categorizing* A good way to make sense of what you read is to separate facts and details into groups, called categories. For example, you could sort facts about the United States into categories like natural resources, major cities, or rivers. As you read this chapter, look for ways to categorize details under each topic. *See the lesson, Categorizing, on page R6.*

*Creating a Collage* Artists create collages by gluing art and photographs onto a flat surface, such as a poster board. As you read this chapter, you will collect ideas for a collage about the United States. After you create your own collage, you will view and evaluate the collages of other students in your class.

**Culture** People of many different ethnic groups and cultures make up the population of the United States.
The United States is made up of 50 states.

1. **Locate** What two countries border the United States?

2. **Contrast** How is Maryland’s size and location different from California’s size and location?

**History** The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor symbolizes our freedom and our history as a democratic nation.

**Geography** The Grand Canyon in Arizona is one example of the many spectacular landscapes in the United States.
What You Will Learn…

1. Major physical features of the United States include mountains, rivers, and plains.
2. The climate of the United States is wetter in the East and South and drier in the West.
3. The United States is rich in natural resources such as farmland, oil, forests, and minerals.

118 CHAPTER 5

Physical Geography

If YOU lived there...

You live in St. Louis, Missouri, which is located on the Mississippi River. For the next few days, you will travel down the river on an old-fashioned steamboat. The Mississippi begins in Minnesota and flows south through 10 states in the heart of the United States. On your trip, you bring a video camera to film life along this great river.

What will you show in your video about the Mississippi?

BUILDING BACKGROUND The United States stretches from sea to sea across North America. To the north is Canada and to the south lies Mexico. Because it is so large, the United States has a great variety of landscapes and climates.

Physical Features

The United States is the third largest country in the world behind Russia and Canada. Our country is home to an incredible variety of physical features. All but two of the 50 states—Alaska and Hawaii—make up the main part of the country. Look at the physical map of the United States on the next page. It shows the main physical features of our country. Use the map as you read about America’s physical geography in the East and South, the Interior Plains, and the West.

The East and South

If you were traveling across the United States, you might start on the country’s eastern coast. This low area, which is flat and close to sea level, is called the Atlantic Coastal Plain. As you go west, the land gradually rises higher to a region called the Piedmont. The Appalachian Mountains, which are the main mountain range in the East, rise above the Piedmont. These mountains are very old. For many millions of years, rain, snow, and wind
have eroded and smoothed their peaks. As a result, the highest mountain in the Appalachians is about 6,700 feet (2,040 m).

**The Interior Plains**

As you travel west from the Appalachians, you come across the vast Interior Plains that stretch to the Great Plains just east of the Rocky Mountains. The Interior Plains are filled with hills, lakes, and rivers. The first major water feature that you see here is called the **Great Lakes**. These lakes make up the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world. The Great Lakes are also an important waterway for trade between the United States and Canada.

West of the Great Lakes lies North America’s largest and most important river, the **Mississippi River**. Tributaries in the interior plains flow to the Mississippi. A **tributary** is a smaller stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river.
Along the way, these rivers deposit rich silt. The silt creates fertile farmlands that cover most of the Interior Plains. The Missouri and Ohio rivers are huge tributaries of the Mississippi. They help drain the entire Interior Plains.

Look at the map on the previous page. Notice the land begins to increase in elevation west of the Interior Plains. This higher region is called the Great Plains. Vast areas of grasslands cover these plains.

**The West**

In the region called the West, several of the country’s most rugged mountain ranges make up the **Rocky Mountains**. These enormous mountains, also called the Rockies, stretch as far as you can see. Many of the mountains’ jagged peaks rise above 14,000 feet (4,270 m).

In the Rocky Mountains is a line of high peaks called the Continental Divide. A **continental divide** is an area of high ground that divides the flow of rivers towards opposite ends of a continent.

Rivers east of the divide in the Rockies mostly flow eastward and empty into the Mississippi River. Most of the rivers west of the divide flow westward and empty into the Pacific Ocean.

Farther west, mountain ranges include the Cascade Range and the Sierra Nevada. Most of the mountains in the Cascades are dormant volcanoes. One mountain, Mount Saint Helens, is an active volcano. A tremendous eruption in 1980 blew off the mountain’s peak and destroyed 150 square miles (390 sq km) of forest.

Mountains also stretch north along the Pacific coast. At 20,320 feet (6,194 m), Alaska’s Mount McKinley is the highest mountain in North America.

Far out in the Pacific Ocean are the islands that make up the state of Hawaii. Volcanoes formed these islands millions of years ago. Today, hot lava and ash continue to erupt from the islands’ volcanoes.

**REVIEW CHECK**

**Summarizing** What are the major physical features of the United States?
Climate

Did you know that the United States has a greater variety of climates than any other country? Look at the map above to see the different climates of the United States.

The East and South

The eastern United States has three climate regions. In the Northeast, people live in a humid continental climate with snowy winters and warm, humid summers. Southerners, on the other hand, experience milder winters and the warm, humid summers of a humid subtropical climate. Most of Florida is warm all year.

The Interior Plains

Temperatures throughout the year can vary greatly in the Interior Plains. Summers are hot and dry in the Great Plains. However, most of the region has a humid continental climate with long, cold winters.
The West
Climates in the West are mostly dry. The Pacific Northwest coast, however, has a wet, mild coastal climate. The region's coldest climates are in Alaska, which has both subarctic and tundra climates. In contrast, Hawaii is the only state with a warm, tropical climate.

READING CHECK Identifying What types of climates are found in the United States?

Natural Resources
The United States is extremely rich in natural resources. Do you know that your life is affected in some way every day by these natural resources? For example, if you ate bread today, it was probably made with wheat grown in the fertile soils of the Interior Plains. If you rode in a car or on a bus recently, it may have used gasoline from Alaska, California, or Louisiana.

The United States is a major oil producer but uses more oil than it produces. In fact, we import more than one half of the oil we need.

Valuable minerals are mined in the Appalachians and Rockies. One mineral, coal, supplies the energy for more than half of the electricity produced in the United States. The United States has about 25 percent of the world’s coal reserves and is a major coal exporter.

Other important resources include forests and farmland, which cover much of the country. The trees in our forests provide lumber that is used in constructing buildings. Wood from these trees is also used to make paper. Farmland produces a variety of crops including wheat, corn, soybeans, cotton, fruits, and vegetables.

READING CHECK Summarizing What are important natural resources in the U.S.?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW In this section you learned about the geography, climates, and natural resources of the United States. In the next section, you will learn about the history and culture of the United States.

Section 1 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places
1. a. Define What is a tributary?
   b. Contrast How are the Appalachian Mountains different from the Rocky Mountains?
   c. Elaborate Why are the Great Lakes an important waterway?
2. a. Describe What is the climate like in the Northeast?
   b. Draw Conclusions What would winter be like in Alaska?
3. a. Recall What kinds of crops are grown in the United States?
   b. Explain Why is coal an important resource?
   c. Predict What natural resources might not be as important to your daily life in the future?

Critical Thinking
4. Categorizing Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to organize your notes on physical features, climate, and resources by region of the country.

   ![Graphic Organizer]

5. Thinking about Physical Geography Jot down key words that describe the physical features and climate of the United States. Think of at least three objects or images you might use to illustrate physical features and climate.
Using a Political Map

Learn
Many types of maps are useful in studying geography. Political maps are one of the most frequently used types of maps. These maps show human cultural features such as cities, states, and countries. Look at the map’s legend to figure out how these features are represented on the map.

Most political maps show national boundaries and state boundaries. The countries on political maps are sometimes shaded different colors to help you tell where the borders of each country are located.

Practice
Use the political map here to answer the following questions.
• What countries does this map show?
• How does the map show the difference between state boundaries and national boundaries?
• What is the capital of Canada?

Apply
Using an atlas or the Internet, find a political map of your state. Use that map to answer the following questions.
1. What is the state capital and where is it located?
2. What other states or countries border your state?
3. What are two other cities in your state besides the capital and the city you live in?
Background  Earth’s physical systems create patterns around us, and these patterns influence our lives. For example, every region of the United States has distinctive natural hazards. Volcanoes threaten the Pacific Northwest. Earthquakes rattle California. Wildfires strike forests in the West. Hurricanes endanger the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts, and major rivers are prone to flooding. Tornadoes regularly rip across flat areas of central and southeast United States.

In fact, the United States lies in danger of getting hit by an average of six hurricanes a year. Formed by the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea and the collision of strong winds, hurricanes are the most powerful storms on Earth. Most hurricanes look like large doughnuts with a hole, or eye, in the middle of the storm. Around the eye, high winds and rain bands rotate counterclockwise. Once the hurricane moves over land or cold water it weakens.
Hurricane Katrina On August 29, 2005, one of the most destructive hurricanes ever hit the United States. Hurricane Katrina devastated coastal regions of Louisiana, the city of New Orleans, and the entire coast of Mississippi.

With winds as high as 145 mph (235 km), Katrina destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses. In addition, the force of Katrina’s storm surge pushed water from the Gulf of Mexico onto land to a height of about two stories tall. As a result, low-lying areas along the Gulf coast experienced massive flooding.

The storm surge also caused several levees that protected New Orleans from the waters of Lake Pontchartrain to break. The loss of these levees caused the lake’s waters to flood most of the city. About 150,000 people who did not evacuate before the storm were left stranded in shelters, high-rise buildings, and on rooftops. Using boats and helicopters, emergency workers rescued thousands of the city’s people. Total damages from the storm along the Gulf coast was estimated to be nearly $130 billion. More than 1,300 people died and over a million were displaced.

What It Means Natural hazards can influence where we live, how we build our homes, and how we prepare for storms. In addition to hurricanes, other hazards affect the United States. For example, Tornado Alley is a region of the Great Plains that experiences a high number of tornadoes, or “twisters”—rapidly spinning columns of air that stay in contact with the ground. In Tornado Alley, special warning sirens go off when storms develop that might form a dangerous tornado.

Geography for Life Activity

1. How are hurricanes formed?
2. Many people train and volunteer as storm chasers. They may follow storms for hundreds of miles to gather scientific data, take photographs, or file news reports. What might be the risks and rewards of such activity? Would it interest you?
3. Comparing Windstorms Do some research to find out how tornadoes and hurricanes differ. Summarize the differences in a chart that includes information about how these storms start, where and when they tend to occur in the United States, and their wind strength.
History and Culture

If YOU lived there...

It is 1803, and President Jefferson just arranged the purchase of a huge area of land west of the Mississippi River. It almost doubles the size of the United States. Living on the frontier in Ohio, you are a skillful hunter and trapper. One day, you see a poster calling for volunteers to explore the new Louisiana Territory. An expedition is heading west soon. You think it would be exciting but dangerous.

Will you join the expedition to the West? Why or why not?

BUILDING BACKGROUND From 13 colonies on the Atlantic coast, the territory of the United States expanded all the way to the Pacific Ocean in about 75 years. Since then, America’s democracy has attracted immigrants from almost every country in the world. Looking for new opportunities, these immigrants have made the country very diverse.

First Modern Democracy

Long before Italian explorer Christopher Columbus sailed to the Americas in 1492, native people lived on the land that is now the United States. These Native Americans developed many distinct cultures. Soon after Columbus and his crew explored the Americas, other Europeans began to set up colonies there.

The American Colonies

Europeans began settling in North America and setting up colonies in the 1500s. A colony is a territory inhabited and controlled by people from a foreign land. By the mid-1700s the British Empire included more than a dozen colonies along the Atlantic coast. New cities in the colonies such as Boston and New York became major seaports.
Some people living in the British colonies lived on plantations. A plantation is a large farm that grows mainly one crop. Many of the colonial plantations produced tobacco, rice, or cotton. Thousands of enslaved Africans were brought to the colonies and forced to work on plantations.

By the 1770s many colonists in America were unhappy with British rule. They wanted independence from Britain. In July 1776, the colonial representatives adopted the Declaration of Independence. The document stated that “all men are created equal” and have the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Although not everyone in the colonies was considered equal, the Declaration was a great step toward equality and justice.

To win their independence, the American colonists fought the British in the Revolutionary War. First, colonists from Massachusetts fought in the early battles of the war in and around Boston. As the war spread west and south, soldiers from all the American colonies joined the fight against Britain.

In 1781 the American forces under General George Washington defeated the British army at the Battle of Yorktown in Virginia. With this defeat, Britain recognized the independence of the United States. As a consequence, Britain granted all its land east of the Mississippi River to the new nation.

**Expansion and Industrial Growth**

After independence, the United States gradually expanded west. Despite the challenges of crossing swift-moving rivers and traveling across rugged terrain and huge mountains, people moved west for land and plentiful resources.

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**BIOGRAPHY**

**George Washington**

(1732–1799)

As the first president of the United States, George Washington is known as the Father of His Country. Washington was admired for his heroism and leadership as the commanding general during the Revolutionary War. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention chose him to preside over their meetings. Washington was then elected president in 1789 and served two terms.

**Drawing Inferences**

Why do you think Washington was elected president?
These first settlers that traveled west were called pioneers. Many followed the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail west from Missouri to the Oregon Territory. Groups of families traveled together in wagons pulled by oxen or mules. The trip was harsh. Food, supplies, and water were scarce.

While many pioneers headed west seeking land, others went in search of gold. The discovery of gold in California in the late 1840s had a major impact on the country. Tens of thousands of people moved to California.

By 1850 the population of the United States exceeded 23 million and the country stretched all the way to the Pacific Ocean. As the United States expanded, the nation’s economy also grew. By the late 1800s, the country was a major producer of goods like steel, oil, and textiles, or cloth products. The steel industry grew around cities that were located near coal and iron ore deposits. Most of those new industrial cities were in the Northeast and Midwest. The country’s economy also benefited from the development of waterways and railroads. This development helped industry and people move farther into the interior.

Attracted by a strong economy, millions of people immigrated, or came to, the United States for better jobs and land. Immigration from European countries was especially heavy in the late 1800s and early 1900s. As a result of this historical pattern of immigration, the United States is a culturally diverse nation today.
**Wars and Peace**

The United States fought in several wars during the 1900s. Many Americans died in two major wars, World Wars I and II. After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became rivals in what was known as the Cold War. The Cold War lasted until the early 1990s, when the Soviet Union collapsed. U.S. troops also served in long wars in Korea in the 1950s and in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1991, the U.S. fought Iraq in the Persian Gulf War. More recently, the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003 and is helping Iraqis rebuild their country today.

Today the United States is a member of many international organizations. The headquarters of one such organization, the United Nations (UN), is located in New York City. About 190 countries are UN members. The United States is one of the most powerful members.

**Government and Citizenship**

The United States has a limited, democratic government based on the U.S. Constitution. This document spells out the powers and functions of the branches of the federal government. The federal government includes an elected president and Congress. In general, the federal government handles issues affecting the whole country, but many powers are left to the 50 state governments. Counties and cities also have their own local governments. Many of these local governments provide services to the community such as trash collection, road building, electricity, and public transportation.

**Rights and Responsibilities**

American citizens have many rights and responsibilities, including the right to vote. Starting at age 18, U.S. citizens are allowed to vote. They are also encouraged to play an active role in government. For example, Americans can call or write their public officials to ask them to help solve problems in their communities. Without people participating in their government, the democratic process suffers.

**Reading Check**  **Sequencing**  What were some major events in the history of the United States?
People and Culture

About 7 out of 10 Americans are descended from European immigrants. However, the United States is also home to people of many other cultures and ethnic groups. As a result, the United States is a diverse nation where many languages are spoken and different religions and customs are practiced. The blending of these different cultures has helped produce a unique American culture.

Ethnic Groups in the United States

Some ethnic groups in the United States include Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans. As you can see on the maps on the next page, higher percentages of these ethnic groups are concentrated in different areas of the United States.

For thousands of years, Native Americans were the only people living in the Americas. Today, most Native Americans live in the western United States. Many Native Americans are concentrated in Arizona and New Mexico.

Even though African Americans live in every region of the country, some areas of the United States have a higher percentage of African Americans. For example, a higher percentage of African Americans live in southern states. Many large cities also have a high percentage of African Americans. On the other hand, descendants of people who came from Asian countries, or Asian Americans, are mostly concentrated in California.

Many Hispanic Americans originally migrated to the United States from Mexico, Cuba, and other Latin American countries. As you can see on the map of Hispanic Americans, a higher percentage of Hispanic Americans live in the southwestern states. These states border Mexico.

Language

What language or languages do you hear as you walk through the hall of your school? Since most people in the United States speak English, you probably hear English spoken every day. However, in many parts of the country, English is just one of many languages you might hear. Are you or is someone you know bilingual? People who speak two languages are bilingual.

Today more than 55 million U.S. residents speak a language in addition to English. These languages include Spanish, French, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Navajo, and many others.

After English, Spanish is the most widely spoken language in the United States. About 34 million Americans speak Spanish at home. Many of these people live near the border between the United States and Mexico and in Florida.

Religion

Americans also practice many religious faiths. Most people are Christians. However, some are Jewish or Muslim. A small percentage of Americans are Hindu or Buddhist. What religions are practiced in your community? Your community might have Christian churches, Jewish synagogues, and Islamic mosques, as well as other places of worship. Religious variety adds to our country’s cultural diversity.

With so many different religions, many religious holidays are celebrated in the United States. These holidays include the Christian celebrations of Christmas and Easter and the Jewish holidays of Hanukkah, Yom Kippur, and Rosh Hashanah. Some African Americans also celebrate Kwanzaa, a holiday that is based on a traditional African festival. Muslims celebrate the end of the month of Ramadan with a large feast called ‘Id al-Fitr.
Distribution of Selected Ethnic Groups, 2000

1. Locate In what region of the United States does the highest percentage of African Americans live?

2. Analyze Why do you think many Hispanic Americans live in the southwestern United States?

Diverse America
People of different ethnic groups enjoy a concert in Miami, Florida. Like most large American cities, Miami has a very diverse population. More than half of all Hispanic Americans of Cuban descent live in Miami.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Regions These maps show population information from the U.S. Census. Every 10 years, Americans answer census questions about their race or ethnic group.
Foods and Music
Diversity shows itself through cultural practices. In addition to language and religion, cultural practices include the food we eat and the music we listen to.

America's food is as diverse as the American people. Think about some of the foods you have eaten this week. You may have eaten Mexican tacos, Italian pasta, or Japanese sushi. These dishes are now part of the American diet.

Different types of music from around the world have also influenced American culture. For example, salsa music from Latin America is popular in the United States today. Many American musicians now combine elements of salsa into their pop songs. However, music that originated in the United States is also popular in other countries. American musical styles include blues, jazz, rock, and hip hop.

American Popular Culture
As the most powerful country in the world, the United States has tremendous influence around the world. American popular culture, such as movies, television programs, and sports, is popular elsewhere. For example, the Star Wars movies are seen by millions of people around the world. Other examples of American culture in other places include the popularity of baseball in Japan, Starbucks coffee shops in almost every major city in the world, and an MTV channel available throughout Asia. As you can see, Americans influence the rest of the world in many ways through their culture.

Reading Check Generalizing How has cultural diversity enriched life in the United States?

Summary and Preview The history of the United States has helped shape the democratic nation it is today. Drawn to the United States because of its democracy, immigrants from around the world have shaped American culture. In the next section, you will learn about the different regions of the United States and the issues the country is facing today.

Section 2 Assessment
Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places
1. a. Define What is a colony?
   b. Make Inferences Why did the pioneers move west?
   c. Elaborate What is an example of the rights and responsibilities that American citizens have?
2. a. Recall What language other than English is widely spoken in the United States?
   b. Summarize What are some religions practiced in the United States?
   c. Predict How do you think American culture will be different in the future, and what influences do you think will bring about the changes?

Critical Thinking
3. Summarizing Using your notes, write one descriptive sentence about the history, government, people, and culture of the United States.

Focus on Viewing
4. Thinking about History and Culture How would you describe the history and culture of the United States? Identify two images for your collage.
About the Reading  In Bearstone, writer Will Hobbs tells about an orphaned Native American boy named Cloyd who lives on a Colorado farm. While roaming the nearby canyons, Cloyd finds a relic from his ancestors. The relic is a stone in the shape of a turquoise bear, which becomes his Bearstone, the title of this story.

AS YOU READ  Identify what the mountains mean to Cloyd.

... This was a shining new world. To the north and east, peaks still covered with snow shone in the cloudless blue sky. He'd never seen mountains so sharp and rugged, so fierce and splendid. Below him, an eagle soared high above the old man’s field. It was a good sign.

Then he remembered his grandmother’s parting words as he left for Colorado. She told him something he’d never heard before: their band of Weminuche Utes hadn’t always lived at White Mesa. Colorado, especially the mountains above Durango, had been their home until gold was discovered there and the white men wanted them out of the way. Summers the people used to hunt and fish in the high mountains, she’d said; they knew every stream, places so out of the way that white men still hadn’t seen them. ‘So don’t feel bad about going to Durango,’ she told him.

Cloyd regarded the distant peaks with new strength, a fierce kind of pride he’d never felt before. These were the mountains where his people used to live.

Connecting Literature to Geography

1. Describing What details in the first paragraph show us that Cloyd feels happy and at home in these mountains? Which details describe the physical features of these mountains?

2. Making Inferences Why did Cloyd’s grandmother think he shouldn’t feel bad about going to Durango? How does this fact affect his feelings about the mountains of Colorado?
What You Will Learn…

1. The United States has four regions—the Northeast, South, Midwest, and West.
2. The United States has a strong economy and a powerful military but is facing the challenge of world terrorism.

Main Ideas

The United States has four main regions and faces opportunities and challenges.

The Big Idea

The United States has four main regions and faces opportunities and challenges.

Key Terms and Places

megalopolis, p. 135
Washington, D.C., p. 135
Detroit, p. 137
Chicago, p. 137
Seattle, p. 138
terrorism, p. 140

If YOU lived there...

You and your family run a small resort hotel in Fort Lauderdale, on the east coast of Florida. You love the sunny weather and the beaches there. Now your family is thinking about moving the business to another region where the tourist industry is important. They have looked at ski lodges in Colorado, lake cottages in Michigan, and hotels on the coast of Maine.

How will you decide among these different regions?

BUILDING BACKGROUND

Geography, history, climate, and population give each region of the United States its own style. Some differences between the regions are more visible than others. For example, people in each region speak with different accents and have their favorite foods. Even with some differences, however, Americans are linked by a sense of unity in confronting important issues.

Regions of the United States

Because the United States is such a large country, geographers often divide it into four main regions. These are the Northeast, South, Midwest, and the West. You can see the four regions on the map on the next page. Find the region where you live. You probably know more about your own region than you do the three others. The population, resources, and economies of the four regions are similar in some ways and unique in others.

The Northeast

The Northeast shares a border with Canada. The economy in this region is heavily dependent on banks, investment firms, and insurance companies. Education also contributes to the economy. The area’s respected universities include Harvard and Yale.
Some natural resources of the Northeast states include rich farmland and huge pockets of coal. Used in the steelmaking process, coal remains very important to the region’s economy. The steel industry helped make Pittsburgh, in western Pennsylvania, the largest industrial city in the Appalachians.

Today fishing remains an important industry in the Northeast. Major seaports allow companies to ship their products to markets around the world. Cool, shallow waters off the Atlantic coast are good fishing areas. Cod and shellfish such as lobster are the most valuable seafood.

The Northeast is the most densely populated region of the United States. Much of the Northeast is a megalopolis, a string of large cities that have grown together. This area stretches along the Atlantic coast from Boston to Washington, D.C. The three other major cities in the megalopolis are New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.
At least 40 million people live in this urban area. All of these cities were founded during the colonial era. They grew because they were important seaports. Today these cities are industrial and financial centers.

**The South**

The South is a region that includes long coastlines along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Along the coastal plains rich soils provide farmers with abundant crops of cotton, tobacco, and citrus fruit.

In recent years, the South has become more urban and industrial and is one of the country’s fastest-growing regions. The South’s cities, such as Atlanta, have grown along with the economy. The Atlanta metropolitan area has grown from a population of only about 1 million in 1960 to more than 5 million today.

Other places in the South have also experienced growth in population and industry. The Research Triangle in North Carolina is an area of high-tech companies and several large universities. The Texas Gulf Coast and the lower Mississippi River area have huge oil refineries and petrochemical plants. Their products, which include gasoline, are mostly shipped from the ports of Houston and New Orleans.
The Midwest

The Midwest is one of the most productive farming regions in the world. The Mississippi River and many of its tributaries carry materials that help create the region’s rich soils, which are good for farming. Midwestern farmers grow mostly corn, wheat, and soybeans. Farmers in the region also raise livestock such as dairy cows.

The core of the Midwest’s corn-growing region stretches from Ohio to Nebraska. Much of the corn is used to feed livestock, such as beef cattle and hogs.

To the north of the corn-growing region is an area of dairy farms. States with dairy farms are major producers of milk, cheese, and other dairy products. This area includes Wisconsin and most of Michigan and Minnesota. Much of the dairy farm region is pasture, but farmers also grow crops to feed dairy cows.

Many of the Midwest’s farm and factory products are shipped to markets by water routes, such as those along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. The other is through the Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence Seaway to the Atlantic Ocean.

Most major cities in the Midwest are located on rivers or the Great Lakes. As a result, they are important transportation centers. Farm products, coal, and iron ore are easily shipped to these cities from nearby farms and mines. These natural resources support industries such as automobile manufacturing. For example, Detroit, Michigan, is the country’s leading automobile producer.

One of the busiest shipping ports on the Great Lakes is Chicago, Illinois. The city also has one of the world’s busiest airports. Chicago’s industries attracted many immigrants in the late 1800s. People moved here to work in the city’s steel mills. Today Chicago is the nation’s third-largest city.

Millions of Americans vacation in the South, which makes the travel industry profitable in the region. Warm weather and beautiful beaches draw many vacationers to resorts in the South. You may not think of weather and beaches when you think about industry, but you should. Resort areas are an industry because they provide jobs and help local economies grow.

Many cities in the South trade goods and services with Mexico and countries in Central and South America. This trade is possible because several of the southern states are located near these countries. For example, Miami is an important trading port and travel connection with Caribbean countries, Mexico, and South America. Atlanta, Houston, and Dallas are also major transportation centers.
The West

The West is the largest region in the United States. Many western states have large open spaces with few people. The West is not all open spaces, however. Many large cities are on the Pacific coast.

One state on the coast, California, is home to more than 10 percent of the U.S. population. California’s mild climate and wealth of resources attract people to the state. Most Californians live in Los Angeles, San Diego, and the San Francisco Bay area. The center of the country’s entertainment industry, Hollywood, is in Los Angeles. Farming and the technology industry are also important to California’s economy.

The economy of other states in the West is dependent on ranching and growing wheat. Wheat is grown mostly in Montana, Idaho, and Washington.

Much of the farmland in the West must be irrigated, or watered. One method of irrigation uses long sprinkler systems mounted on huge wheels. The wheels rotate slowly. This sprinkler system waters the area within a circle. From the air, parts of the irrigated Great Plains resemble a series of green circles.

The West also has rich deposits of coal, oil, gold, silver, copper, and other minerals. However, mining these minerals can cause problems. For example, coal miners in parts of the Great Plains use a process called strip mining, which strips away soil and rock. This kind of mining leads to soil erosion and other problems. Today laws require miners to restore mined areas.

In Oregon and Washington, forestry and fishing are two of the most important economic activities. Seattle is Washington’s largest city. The Seattle area is home to many important industries, including a major computer software company. More than half of the people in Oregon live in and around Portland.

Alaska’s economy is largely based on oil, forests, and fish. As in Washington and Oregon, people debate over developing

Olympic National Park
One of the largest sections of coastal wilderness in the United States, shown here, stretches along the Pacific coast in Washington’s Olympic National Park.
these resources. For example, some people want to limit oil drilling in wild areas of Alaska. Others want to expand drilling to produce more oil.

Hawaii’s natural beauty, mild climate, and fertile soils are its most important resources. The islands’ major crops are sugarcane and pineapples. Millions of tourists visit the islands each year.

**Reading Check**  Comparing  How is the economy of the West different from the economy of the South?

**Changes in the Nation**

Because of its economic and military strength, the United States is often called the world’s only superpower. In recent years, however, the United States has faced many challenges and changes.

**Economy**

An abundance of natural resources, technology, and plentiful jobs have helped make the U.S. economy strong. The United States also benefits by trading with other countries. The three largest trading partners of the United States are Canada, China, and Mexico. In 1992 the United States, Mexico, and Canada signed the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA. This agreement made trade easier and cheaper between the three neighboring nations.

Still, the U.S. economy has experienced significant ups and downs since the 1990s. In the 1990s the nation experienced the longest period of economic growth in its history. By the end of 2007, the United States faced a recession, or a sharp decrease in economic activity. In this recession, the housing market collapsed, major banks and businesses failed, and an estimated 8.4 million jobs were lost in the United States.

**The War on Terror**

In the 1990s the United States began to experience acts of terrorism against its people. Terrorism is the threat or use of violence to intimidate or cause fear for political or social reasons. Some terrorists have been from foreign countries, whereas others have been U.S. citizens.

On September 11, 2001, the United States suffered the deadliest terrorist attack in the country’s history. Wanting to disrupt the U.S. economy, 19 Islamic extremist terrorists hijacked four American jets. They crashed two into the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon.

In response, U.S. President George W. Bush declared a “war on terrorism.” He sent military forces to Afghanistan, to kill or capture members of a terrorist group called al-Qaeda, which had planned the September 11 attacks. The United States then turned its attention to Iraq. President Bush believed that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was another threat to Americans. In March 2003 Bush sent U.S. troops into Iraq to remove Hussein from power.

Today world leaders are working with the United States to combat terrorism. In the United States, the Department of Homeland Security was established to prevent terrorist attacks on American soil. Many other countries have also increased security within their borders, especially at international airports.

**Government**

The 2008 presidential election pitted Republican senator John McCain and his running mate Governor Sarah Palin against Democratic senator Barack Obama and his running mate Joe Biden, a fellow senator. The two presidential candidates differed in many ways. For example, McCain was 25 years older than Obama and he held opposing views on the war in Iraq.
McCain, a distinguished military veteran, thought that U.S. forces should stay in Iraq indefinitely. Obama supported plans to withdraw U.S. troops as soon as possible. The two also differed over how best to address the economy, taxes, and health care.

On election day, about 128 million people voted, the highest voter turnout for any election in U.S. history. Barack Obama won the election, winning 365 electoral votes to McCain’s 173. Obama became the nation’s first African American president.

**Summary and Preview** In this section, you learned about the geographic features, resources, and economic activities found in different regions of the United States. You also learned that the economy and terrorism are two important issues facing the country today. In the next chapter, you will learn about Canada, our neighbor to the north of the United States.

**Section 3 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. **Define** What is a megalopolis? What major cities are part of the largest megalopolis in the United States?

   **Compare and Contrast** How is land use in the Midwest similar to and different from land use in the South?

   **Elaborate** How are the regions of the United States different from one another?

2. **Define** What is terrorism? What terrorist attack occurred in September 2001?

   **Explain** How did a recession affect the U.S. economy in 2007?

   **Elaborate** What steps are the United States and other countries taking in an attempt to combat world terrorism?

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Finding Main Ideas** Use your notes to help you list at least one main idea about the population, resources, and economy of each region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northeast</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>West</th>
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<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
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**Focus on Viewing**

4. **Thinking about the United States Today** You have read about the regions of the United States, as well as issues facing the country today. What key words, images, and objects might represent what you have learned?
**Chapter Review**

**Visual Summary**

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

1. The physical geography of the United States includes mountains, rivers, and plains.
2. After gaining independence from the British, Americans created the first modern democracy.
3. The United States has four geographic and economic regions—the Northeast, South, Midwest, and the West.

**Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places**

Match the terms or places with their definitions or descriptions.

- **a. Boston**
- **b. Great Lakes**
- **c. tributary**
- **d. Rocky Mountains**
- **e. colony**
- **f. Appalachian Mountains**
- **g. pioneers**
- **h. bilingual**
- **i. megalopolis**
- **j. Washington, D.C.**
- **k. Chicago**
- **l. terrorism**

1. a string of cities that have grown together
2. major seaport in the British colonies
3. stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river
4. violent attacks that cause fear
5. first settlers
6. largest freshwater lake system in the world
7. major mountain range in the West
8. capital of the United States
9. third-largest city in the United States
10. major mountain range in the East
11. having the ability to speak two languages
12. territory controlled by people from a foreign land

**Comprehension and Critical Thinking**

**SECTION 1 (Pages 118–122)**

13. **Identify** What river drains the entire Interior Plains and is the longest river in North America?

**Geography’s Impact**

Review the video to answer the closing question: What do you think it would be like to live in a country that had no cultural diversity?
SECTION 1 (continued)

b. Contrast How are the Appalachians different from the Rocky Mountains?
c. Elaborate What natural resources affect your daily life?

SECTION 2 (Pages 126–132)

14. a. Define Who were the pioneers?
b. Draw Conclusions Why do you think people immigrate to the United States?
c. Elaborate How has American culture influenced cultures around the world?

SECTION 3 (Pages 134–140)

15. a. Recall What are the four regions of the United States?
b. Compare Is corn grown mostly in the Midwest or the South?
c. Elaborate How should the United States protect itself from terrorism?

Using the Internet

16. Activity: Making a Brochure The United States is a country with a diverse population. This diversity is seen in many of the holidays Americans celebrate. Through your online textbook, research holidays celebrated in the United States. Take notes on what you find. Then use your notes to create an illustrated brochure about three holidays. Be sure to tell about the history, background, and traditions of each holiday.

Social Studies Skills

Reading a Political Map Look at the political map of the United States at the beginning of this chapter. Then answer the following questions.
17. What four states border Mexico?
18. What river forms the boundary between Illinois and Missouri?

Map Activity

19. The United States On a sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.
- Great Lakes
- Mississippi River
- Atlantic Ocean
- Alaska

FOCUS ON READING AND VIEWING

20. Categorizing For each category below, list details from the chapter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Regions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

21. Creating a Collage Gather the information and images you need to create a collage about the United States. Next, decide how to organize your collage. You might, for example, organize it by region or by time period. After you have attached your images to the poster board, create a label for each grouping. Finally, write a title for the entire collage. Be prepared to display your work and evaluate your classmates’ collages for organization and clarity.


**CHAPTER 5**

**Standardized Test Prep**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Question 8 will require a brief essay.

1. What physical feature does the Mississippi River and its tributaries drain?
   - A. Piedmont
   - B. Rocky Mountains
   - C. Interior Plains
   - D. Great Lakes

2. What country did the United States gain independence from?
   - A. Britain
   - B. France
   - C. Canada
   - D. Mexico

3. Many pioneers moved west hoping to find
   - A. silver.
   - B. diamonds.
   - C. coal.
   - D. gold.

4. People who are bilingual speak how many languages?
   - A. one
   - B. five
   - C. two
   - D. three

5. NAFTA is a trade agreement among the United States, Mexico, and
   - A. Brazil.
   - B. Canada.
   - C. Britain.
   - D. Australia.

6. Based on the map above, which region is the Midwest?
   - A. X
   - B. W
   - C. Z
   - D. Y

7. Which region is known for its dense population?
   - A. Z
   - B. W
   - C. Y
   - D. X

8. **Extended Response** Look at the map of U.S. regions and the chart of major U.S. cities in Section 3. Write a short essay describing the population, resources, and economies of each region of the United States.
The American Revolution led to the formation of the United States of America in 1776. Beginning in the 1760s, tensions grew between American colonists and their British rulers when Britain started passing a series of new laws and taxes for the colonies. With no representation in the British government, however, colonists had no say in these laws, which led to growing discontent. After fighting broke out in 1775, colonial leaders met to decide what to do. They approved the Declaration of Independence, announcing that the American colonies were free from British rule. In reality, however, freedom would not come until after years of fighting.

Explore some of the people and events of the American Revolution online. You can find a wealth of information, video clips, primary sources, activities, and more at hmhsocialstudies.com.
“Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death”

Read an excerpt from Patrick Henry’s famous speech, which urged the colonists to fight against the British.

“I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”

— Patrick Henry

Seeds of Revolution

Watch the video to learn about colonial discontent in the years before the Revolutionary War.

Independence!

Watch the video to learn about the origins of the Declaration of Independence.

Victory!

Watch the video to learn how the American colonists won the Revolutionary War.
CHAPTER 6

Canada

Essential Question How has geography and climate shaped the development of Canada’s provinces?

What You Will Learn...

In this chapter you will learn about the physical features, climates, and resources of Canada. You will study the history of Canada and the country’s different cultures. Finally, you will learn about Canada’s government, regions, and economy.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography .................. 146
The Big Idea Canada is a huge country with a northerly location, cold climates, and rich resources.

SECTION 2: History and Culture .................. 150
The Big Idea Canada’s history and culture reflect Native Canadian and European settlement, immigration, and migration to cities.

SECTION 3: Canada Today ......................... 156
The Big Idea Canada’s democratic government oversees the country’s regions and economy.

Focus on Reading and Speaking

Understanding Lists Identifying a list of the interesting facts that you read about may help you understand the topic you are studying. For example, you could identify facts about Canada’s physical features, regions, government, or economy. As you read this chapter, look for lists of facts. See the lesson, Understanding Lists, on page R7.

Creating a Radio Ad You are a member of the Canadian tourism board and your job is to develop a radio ad to attract visitors to Canada. Read about Canada in this chapter. Then, write a script for a one-minute radio ad. Be ready to present your ad to the class.

Culture Ice hockey is Canada’s national sport. Many Canadians grow up playing on frozen lakes.
Canada’s physical geography ranges from the rocky Atlantic coast shown here to vast interior plains and mountains in the west.

Geography

History

Since 1867, leaders of Canada’s democratic government have met in the nation’s parliament building in Ottawa.

1. Locate What is the provincial capital of Manitoba?

2. Make Inferences What do you think the climate is like in the Yukon Territory? Why?

Technology of the Ice Road
What You Will Learn…

1. A huge country, Canada has a wide variety of physical features, including rugged mountains, plains, and swamps.
2. Because of its northerly location, Canada is dominated by cold climates.
3. Canada is rich in natural resources like fish, minerals, fertile soil, and forests.

Main Ideas

Canada is a huge country with a northerly location, cold climates, and rich resources.

Key Terms and Places
Rocky Mountains, p. 146
St. Lawrence River, p. 146
Niagara Falls, p. 146
Canadian Shield, p. 147
Grand Banks, p. 148
pulp, p. 149
newsprint, p. 149

If YOU lived there...

You live in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in central Canada. Your hiking club is trying to decide where to go on a trip this summer. Since you live on the plains, some people want to visit the rugged Rocky Mountains in the west. Others want to travel north to Hudson Bay to see polar bears and other wildlife. Others would rather hike in the east near the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls.

Which place will you choose for this year’s trip?

BUILDING BACKGROUND A long international boundary separates Canada and the United States. With the exception of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, there is no actual physical boundary between the two countries. Rivers, lakes, prairies, and mountain ranges cross the border.

Physical Features

Did you know that Canada is the second-largest country in the world? Russia is the only country in the world that is larger than Canada. The United States is the third-largest country in the world and shares many physical features with Canada.

As you look at the map on the following page, see if you can find the physical features that the United States and Canada share. You may notice that mountains along the Pacific coast and the Rocky Mountains extend north into western Canada from the western United States. Broad plains stretch across the interiors of both countries. In the east, the two countries share a natural border formed by the St. Lawrence River. An important international waterway, the St. Lawrence links the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

The United States and Canada also share a spectacular physical feature called Niagara Falls. The falls are located on the Niagara River between the province of Ontario and New York State.
Created by the waters of the Niagara River, the falls flow between two of the Great Lakes—Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The falls here plunge an average of 162 feet (50 m) down a huge ledge. That is higher than many 15-story buildings!

Canada has a region of rocky uplands, lakes, and swamps called the **Canadian Shield**. See on the map how this feature curves around Hudson Bay. The Shield covers about half the country.

Farther north, Canada stretches all the way up to the Arctic Ocean. The land here is covered with ice year-round. Ellesmere Island is very rugged with snow-covered mountains and jagged coastlines. Very few people live this far north, but wildlife such as the polar bear and the Arctic wolf have adapted to the harsh environment.

**Reading Check**

**Summarizing** What are the major physical features of Canada?
Climate

Canada’s location greatly influences the country’s climate. Canada is located far from the equator at much higher latitudes than the United States. This more northerly location gives Canada cool to freezing temperatures year-round.

The farther north you go in Canada, the colder it gets. The coldest areas of Canada are located close to the Arctic Circle. Much of central and northern Canada has a subarctic climate. The far north has tundra and ice cap climates. About half of Canada lies in these extremely cold climates.

The central and eastern parts of southern Canada have a much different climate. It is humid and relatively mild. However, the mildest area of Canada is along the coast of British Columbia. This location on the Pacific coast brings rainy winters and mild temperatures. Inland areas of southern Canada are colder and drier.

Resources

Canada is incredibly rich in natural resources such as fish, minerals, and forests. Canada’s Atlantic and Pacific coastal waters are among the world’s richest fishing areas. Off the Atlantic coast lies a large fishing ground near Newfoundland and Labrador called the Grand Banks. Here, cold waters from the Labrador Sea meet the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. These conditions are ideal for the growth of tiny organisms, or plankton, that fish like to eat. As a result, large schools of fish gather at the Grand Banks. However, recent overfishing of this region has left many fishers in Canada unemployed.

Minerals are also valuable resources in Canada. The Canadian Shield contains many mineral deposits. Canada is a main source of the world’s nickel, zinc, and uranium. Lead, copper, gold, and silver are also important resources. Saskatchewan has large deposits of potash, a mineral used to make fertilizer. Alberta produces most of Canada’s oil and natural gas.

Focus on Reading

What climates would you include in a list of the climates of Canada?
Vast areas of forests stretch across most of Canada from Labrador to the Pacific coast. These trees provide lumber and pulp. Pulp—softened wood fibers—is used to make paper. The United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan get much of their newsprint from Canada. Newsprint is cheap paper used mainly for newspapers.

**Summary and Preview** In this section, you learned that Canada shares many physical features with the United States. However, Canada's geography is also different. Due to its northerly location, Canada has a cold climate. Fish, minerals, fertile soil, and forests are all important natural resources. In the next section, you will learn about the history and culture of Canada.

**Section 1 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Recall** What river links the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean?
   b. **Explain** What physical features does Niagara Falls flow between?
   c. **Develop** If you were to live in Canada, where would you not want to live?

2. a. **Describe** How is Canada's climate related to its northerly location?
   b. **Draw Conclusions** Where would you expect to find Canada's coldest climate? Why?

3. a. **Define** What is the Grand Banks?
   b. **Interpret** How are Canada's forests a valuable resource?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Generalizing** Using your notes on Canada's resources, identify the location of each type of resource.

**Focus on Speaking**

5. **Writing about Physical Geography** What information about Canada's physical features, climate, and resources might visitors find appealing? Jot down what descriptions you want to include in your radio ad.
History and Culture

If YOU lived there...

You own a general store in Calgary, Alberta, in the early 1880s. Your town is a center for agriculture and ranching on the prairies around you. Still, it sometimes feels very isolated. You miss your family in Ontario. Now the news comes that the Canadian Pacific Railway will soon reach Calgary. It will connect the town with all of central and eastern Canada.

How will the railroad change your life?

BUILDING BACKGROUND  Canada is a close neighbor with the United States. The two countries are linked by a common language and a history of British colonial rule. But the two countries developed in different ways. Canada’s diverse population developed its own culture and way of life.

Key Terms and Places
provinces, p. 152
Quebec, p. 152
British Columbia, p. 152
Toronto, p. 154

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the history and culture of Canada.

History

As the ice sheets of the ice ages melted, people moved into all areas of what is now Canada. As they did elsewhere in the Americas, these ancient settlers adapted to the physical environment.
Native Canadians

Indians and the Inuit (IH-nu-wuht) people were the first Canadians. Over the years, some of these native peoples divided into groups that became known as the First Nations. One group living on Canada’s vast interior plains, the Cree, were skilled bison hunters. In the far north the Inuit adapted to the region’s extreme cold, where farming was impossible. By hunting seals, whales, walruses, and other animals, the Inuit could feed, clothe, and house themselves. Today about 400,000 Indians and Inuit live in Canada.

European Settlement

Other people migrated to Canada from Europe. The first Europeans in Canada were the Vikings, or Norse. They settled on Newfoundland Island in about AD 1000, but later abandoned their settlements. In the late 1400s other Europeans arrived and explored Canada. Soon more explorers and fishermen from western Europe began crossing the Atlantic.

Trade quickly developed between the Europeans and Native Canadians. Europeans valued the furs that Native Canadians supplied. The Canadians wanted European metal goods like axes and guns. Through trading, they began to also exchange foods, clothing, and methods of travel.

New France

France was the first European country to successfully settle parts of what would become Canada. The French established Quebec City in 1608. They called their new territories New France. At its height, New France included much of eastern Canada and the central United States.

New France was important for several reasons. It was part of the French Empire, which provided money and goods to French settlers. It also served as a base to spread French culture.

France had to compete with Britain, another European colonial power, for control of Canada. To defend their interests against the British, the French built trade and diplomatic relationships with Native Canadians. They exported furs, fish, and other products from New France to other parts of their empire. In addition, the French sent manufactured goods from France to New France. French missionaries also went to New France to convert people to Christianity.

All of these efforts protected French interests in New France for 150 years, until the British finally defeated the French. Although it did not last, New France shaped Canada’s cultural makeup. The descendants of French settlers form one of Canada’s major ethnic groups today.
British Conquest

In the mid-1700s, the rivalry between France and England turned to war. The conflict was called the French and Indian War. This was the war that resulted in the British taking control of New France away from the French. A small number of French went back to France. However, the great majority stayed. For most of them, few changes occurred in their daily activities. They farmed the same land, prayed in the same churches, and continued to speak French. Few English-speaking settlers came to what is now called Quebec.

The British divided Quebec into two colonies. Lower Canada was mostly French-speaking, and Upper Canada was mostly English-speaking. The boundary between Upper and Lower Canada forms part of the border between the provinces of Quebec and Ontario today. Provinces are administrative divisions of a country. To the east, the colony of Nova Scotia (nōvuh ŕ-shuh) was also divided. A new colony called New Brunswick was created where many of the British settlers lived.

Creation of Canada

For several decades these new colonies developed separately from each other. The colonists viewed themselves as different from other parts of the British Empire. Therefore, the British Parliament created the Dominion of Canada in 1867. A dominion is a territory or area of influence. For Canadians, the creation of the Dominion was a step toward independence from Britain. The motto of the new Dominion was “from sea to sea.”

How would Canadians create a nation from sea to sea? With railroads. When the Dominion was established, Ontario and Quebec were already well served by railroads. British Columbia, on the Pacific coast, was not. To connect British Columbia with the provinces in the east, the Canadians built a transcontinental railroad. Completed in 1885, the Canadian Pacific Railway was Canada’s first transcontinental railroad.

After the Canadian Pacific Railway linked the original Canadian provinces to British Columbia, Canada acquired vast lands in the north. Much of this land was bought from the Hudson’s Bay Company, a large British fur-trading business. Most of the people living in the north were Native Canadians and people of mixed European and native ancestry. With the building
of the railroad and the signing of treaties with Native Canadians, early Canadian settlers created a way for more people to settle Canada’s new territories.

**READING CHECK**  
**Summarizing** How was Canada linked from sea to sea?

**Culture**

Canada’s people reflect a history of British and French colonial rule. In addition, the country has experienced waves of immigration. The country is home to a great variety of people who belong to different ethnic groups and cultures. Although individual groups still keep their own cultural ways, many Canadians have tried to create a single national identity.

**Immigration**

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, many immigrants came to Canada from Europe. Most were from Britain, Russia, and Germany. Some people also came from the United States. While most of these immigrants farmed, others worked in mines, forests, and factories.
Other immigrants were lured to Canada in 1897 by the discovery of gold in the Yukon Territory. Many people from the United States migrated north in search of Canada’s gold.

Immigrants also came to Canada from Asian countries, especially China, Japan, and India. British Columbia became the first Canadian province to have a large Asian minority. Many Chinese immigrants migrated to Canada to work on the railroads. Chinese immigrants built most of the Canadian Pacific Railway, one of the railroad lines linking eastern Canada to the Pacific coast.

All of these immigrants played an important part in an economic boom that Canada experienced in the early 1900s. During these prosperous times, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Ontario produced wheat, pulp, and paper. British Columbia and Ontario supplied the country with minerals and hydroelectricity. As a result, Canadians enjoyed one of the highest standards of living in the world by the 1940s.

**Movement to Cities**

After World War II, another wave of immigrants from Europe arrived in Canada. Many settled in Canada’s large cities. For example, **Toronto** has become one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world. The Europeans were joined by other people from Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, and particularly Asia. Asian businesspeople have brought a great deal of wealth to Canada’s economy.

Many Canadians have recently moved from farms to the country’s cities. Some settlements in rural Canada have even disappeared because so many people left. Many Canadians have moved to cities in
Ontario to find jobs. Others moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, for its good job opportunities, mild climate, and location near plentiful resources. Resources such as oil, gas, potash, and uranium have provided wealth to many cities in the Western Provinces. However, the political and economic center of power remains in the cities of Ottawa, Toronto, and Montreal.

**Reading Check**  Analyzing  How has immigration changed Canada?

**Summary and Preview** In this section, you learned that Canada was greatly influenced by British and French settlement, the building of the railroad to the Pacific coast, immigration, and movement to cities. In the next section you will learn about Canada’s regions and economy today.

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**Focus on Culture**

**Vancouver’s Chinatown**

If you walked around Vancouver, British Columbia, you would quickly realize when you entered the neighborhood of Chinatown. First you would notice that most signs are in Chinese and you would hear some people speaking Chinese. Then you would realize most restaurants serve Chinese food, and shops sell colorful silk clothing, herbs, and art imported from China. If you were in the city for the Chinese New Year, you would probably see a parade of people in traditional Chinese dress. Vancouver’s Chinatown is a unique place where Chinese culture is kept alive in Canada today.

**Drawing Conclusions** How is Vancouver’s Chinatown a unique neighborhood?

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**Section 2 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Recall**  What is a **province**?
   b. **Summarize**  How did Britain gain control of New France from the French?
   c. **Elaborate**  How do you think the Canadian Pacific Railway changed Canada?

2. a. **Identify**  What immigrant group helped build the railroads?
   b. **Draw Conclusions**  Why did people migrate to Canada?
   c. **Elaborate**  Why do you think many Canadians moved from farms to the cities?

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Analyzing**  Draw a diagram like the one below. Using your notes, write a sentence in each box about how each topic influenced the next topic.

   Railroad → Immigration → Cities

**Focus on Speaking**

4. **Adding Details**  Add information about the history and culture of Canada to your notes. Which details would most interest potential visitors?
Canada Today

If YOU lived there...

You and your family live in Toronto, Ontario. Your parents, who are architects, have been offered an important project in Montreal. If they accept it, you would live there for two years. Montreal is a major city in French-speaking Quebec. You would have to learn a new language. In Montreal, most street signs and advertisements are written in French.

How do you feel about moving to a city with a different language and culture?

BUILDING BACKGROUND  Canada today has been shaped by both history and geography. Canada's first European settlers were French, but the British eventually controlled the territory. Differences in culture still remain, however. In addition, the four regions of Canada are separated by vast distances, economic activities, and culture.

Canada’s Government

“Peace, order, and good government” is a statement from Canada’s constitution that Canadians greatly value. Canadians are proud of their democratic government, which is led by a prime minister. Similar to a president, a prime minister is the head of a country’s government.

Canada’s prime minister oversees the country’s parliament, Canada’s governing body. Parliament consists of the House of Commons and the Senate. Canadians elect members of the House of Commons. However, senators are appointed by the prime minister.

Canada’s 10 provincial governments are each led by a premier. These provincial governments are much like our state governments. Canada’s central government is similar to our federal government. The Canadian federal system lets people keep their feelings of loyalty to their own province.

READING CHECK  Comparing  How is Canada’s government similar to that of the United States?
**Canada’s Regions**

Canada’s physical geography separates the country into different regions. For example, people living on the Pacific coast in British Columbia are isolated from Canadians living in the eastern provinces on the Atlantic coast. Just as geographic distance separates much of Canada, differences in culture also define regions.

**Regionalism**

The cultural differences between English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians have led to problems. English is the main language in most of Canada. In Quebec, however, French is the main language. When Canadians from different regions discuss important issues, they are often influenced by regionalism. **Regionalism** refers to the strong connection that people feel toward the region in which they live.

In some places, this connection is stronger than people’s connection to their country as a whole. To better understand regionalism in Canada, we will now explore each region of the country. As you read, refer to the map below to locate each region.

**The Eastern Provinces**

The region called the Eastern Provinces is a region that lies on the Atlantic coast of Canada. The provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island are often called the Maritime Provinces. **Maritime** means on or near the sea. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador is usually not considered one of the Maritime Provinces. It includes the island of Newfoundland and a large region of the mainland called Labrador.

A short growing season limits farming in the Eastern Provinces. However, farmers in Prince Edward Island grow potatoes.
Most of the economy in Canada’s Eastern Provinces is related to the forestry and fishing industries.

Many people in the Eastern Provinces are descendants of immigrants from the British Isles. In addition, French-speaking families have moved from Quebec to New Brunswick. Most of the region’s people live in coastal cities. Many cities have industrial plants and serve as fishing and shipping ports. Along the Atlantic coast lies Halifax, Nova Scotia, the region’s largest city.

**The Heartland**

Inland from the Eastern Provinces are Quebec and Ontario, which together are sometimes referred to as the Heartland. More than half of all Canadians live in these two provinces. In fact, the chain of cities that extends from Windsor, Ontario, to the city of Quebec is the country’s most urbanized region.

The provincial capital of Quebec is also called Quebec. The city’s older section has narrow streets, stone walls, and French-style architecture. Montreal is Canada’s second-largest city and one of the largest French-speaking cities in the world. About 3.5 million people live in the Montreal metropolitan area. It is the financial and industrial center of the province. Winters in Montreal are very cold. To deal with this harsh environment, Montreal’s people use underground passages and overhead tunnels to move between buildings in the city’s downtown.

In Canada many residents of Quebec, called Quebecois (kay-buh-KWAH), believe their province should be given a special status. Quebecois argue that this status would recognize the cultural differences between their province and the rest of Canada. Some even want Quebec to become an independent country.
On the other hand, many English-speaking Canadians think Quebec already has too many privileges. Most Canadians, however, still support a united Canada. Strong feelings of regionalism will continue to be an important issue.

With an even larger population than Quebec, the province of Ontario is Canada’s leading manufacturing province. Hamilton, Ontario, is the center of Canada’s steel industry. Canada exports much of its steel to the United States.

Ontario’s capital, Toronto, is a major center for industry, finance, education, and culture. Toronto’s residents come from many different parts of the world, including China, Europe, and India.

Canada’s national capital, Ottawa, is also in Ontario. In Ottawa many people speak both English and French. The city is known for its grand government buildings, parks, and several universities.

**The Western Provinces**

West of Ontario are the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. On the Pacific coast is the province of British Columbia. Together, these four provinces make up Canada’s Western Provinces.

More people live in Quebec than in all of the prairie provinces combined. The southern grasslands of these provinces are part of a rich wheat belt. Farms here produce far more wheat than Canadians need. The extra wheat is exported. Oil and natural gas production is a very important economic activity in Alberta. The beauty of the Canadian Rockies attracts many visitors to national parks in western Alberta and eastern British Columbia.

British Columbia is Canada’s westernmost province and home to almost 4 million people. This mountainous province has rich natural resources, including forests, salmon, and valuable minerals.
Nearly half of British Columbia’s population lives in and around the coastal city of Vancouver. The city’s location on the Pacific coast helps it to trade with countries in Asia.

The Canadian North

Northern Canada is extremely cold due to its location close to the Arctic Circle. The region called the Canadian North includes the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut (NOO-nuh-voot). These three territories cover more than a third of Canada but are home to only about 100,000 people.

Nunavut is a new territory created for the native Inuit people who live there. Nunavut means “Our Land” in the Inuit language. Even though Nunavut is part of Canada, the people there have their own distinct culture and government. About 30,000 people live in Nunavut.

The physical geography of the Canadian North includes forests and tundra. The frozen waters of the Arctic Ocean separate isolated towns and villages. During some parts of the winter, sunlight is limited to only a few hours.

**READING CHECK**

Drawing Conclusions

How does geography affect the location of economic activities in the Western Provinces?

Canada’s Economy

As you learned in Section 1, Canada has many valuable natural resources. Canada’s economy is based on the industries associated with these resources. In addition, Canada’s economy also benefits from trade.

**Industries**

Canada is one of the world’s leading mineral producers. Canadians mine valuable titanium, zinc, iron ore, gold, and coal. Canada’s iron and steel industry uses iron ore to manufacture products like planes, automobiles and household appliances. However, most Canadians work in the services industry. For example, tourism is
Canada’s fastest-growing services industry. Canada’s economy also benefits from the millions of dollars visitors spend in the country each year.

**Trade**
Canada’s economy depends on trade. Many of Canada’s natural resources that you have learned about are exported to countries around the world. Canada’s leading trading partner is the United States.

As the world’s largest trading relationship, Canada and the United States rely heavily on each other. About 60 percent of Canada’s imported goods are from the United States. About 85 percent of Canada’s exports, such as lumber, go to the United States.

However, the United States placed tariffs, or added fees, on Canadian timber. American lumber companies accused Canada of selling their lumber at unfairly low prices. Canada argued that the tariffs were unfair according to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The export of cattle to the United States is another area of dispute between the two countries. When a Canadian cow was discovered with mad cow disease in 2003, the United States banned the import of all cattle from Canada. Canadian ranchers now claim that all their cows are free of the disease. After a two-year ban, the United States imports Canadian cattle and beef again.

**READING CHECK**  **Summarizing** What goods does Canada export?

**SUMMARY** In this section you learned that Canada has distinct regions that are separated by both geography and culture. The U.S. and Canada share a common history, a border, and the English language. Next you will learn about the country of Mexico.
Using Mental Maps and Sketch Maps

Learn
We create maps in our heads of all kinds of places—our schools, communities, country, and the world. These images, or mental maps, are shaped by what we see and experience.

We use mental maps of places when we draw sketch maps. A sketch map uses very simple shapes to show the relationship between places and the relative size of places. Notice the sketch map of the world shown here. It may not look like any other map in your book, but it does give you an idea of what the world looks like.

Practice
Does your mental map of the world look like the sketch map here? It is alright if they do not look exactly alike. Now think about the places in your own neighborhood. Use your mental map to draw a sketch map of your neighborhood. Then use your sketch map to answer the following questions.

- What are the most important features of your map?
- What is the largest building in your neighborhood?
- What labels did you use on your map?

Apply
Draw a sketch map of Canada. Make sure to include the cities and physical features you learned about in this chapter. Then exchange your map with another student. Ask your partner to make corrections to your map if he or she does not understand it.
Chapter Review

Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

Canada has cold climates and its physical features include rugged mountains.

Native Canadian and European settlement has influenced Canadian culture.

Canada has distinctive cultural regions today.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

Choose the letter of the answer that best completes each statement below.

1. A physical feature of rocky uplands, lakes, and swamps in Canada is called the
   a. Niagara Falls.  
   b. Great Lakes.  
   c. Grand Banks.  
   d. Canadian Shield.

2. Which part of Canada did the French settle?
   a. Ontario  
   b. New Brunswick  
   c. Quebec  
   d. British Columbia

3. What province was the first to have a large Asian population?
   a. Manitoba  
   b. British Columbia  
   c. Quebec  
   d. Saskatchewan

4. A strong connection that people feel toward their region is called
   a. maritime.  
   b. province.  
   c. heartland.  
   d. regionalism.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 146–149)

5. a. Define  What is pulp?
    b. Make Inferences  What is the coldest area in Canada?
    c. Evaluate  What makes the Grand Banks an ideal fishing ground?

SECTION 2 (Pages 150–155)

6. a. Identify  Who were the first Canadians?
    b. Draw Conclusions  Why did Canadians build a rail line across Canada?
    c. Predict  Do you think Canada’s cities will increase or decrease in population in the future? Explain your answers.

SECTION 3 (Pages 156–161)

7. a. Recall  What kind of government does Canada have?
SECTION 3 (continued)

b. **Compare and Contrast** How are the Eastern Provinces different than the Western Provinces?

c. **Evaluate** Why do the Quebecois see themselves as different from other Canadians?

**Using the Internet**

8. **Activity: Writing Newspaper Articles** You are a reporter for The Quebec Chronicle assigned to write articles for the next issue of the newspaper. Through your online textbook, explore the people of Quebec and find background information for your articles covering Quebec. Use the links provided to conduct your research and then write three short articles. Go to press using the interactive template and publish your Canadian newspaper.

**Social Studies Skills**

9. **Using Mental Maps and Sketch Maps** Without looking at a map of Canada think about what the Eastern Provinces look like. Then create a sketch map of the Eastern Provinces. Make sure to include a compass rose and important physical features.

**Map Activity**

10. **Canada** On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

   Rocky Mountains   Manitoba
   Nunavut           St. Lawrence River
   Vancouver

**Focus on Reading and Speaking**

11. **Understanding Lists** Use your notes about Canada to create a list of important facts for each section. Organize your lists using this chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Geography</th>
<th>History and Culture</th>
<th>Canada Today</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

12. **Creating a Tourism Ad** Now that you have collected notes on Canada’s geography, history, and culture, choose the information you think will most appeal to visitors. Write a one-minute radio script, using descriptive and persuasive language to convince your audience to visit Canada. Describe Canada in a way that will capture your audience’s imagination. Ask the class to listen carefully as you read your radio ad to them. Then ask the class to evaluate your ad on how persuasive it was or was not.
DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. The United States and Canada share which physical feature?
   A. Canadian Shield
   B. Rocky Mountains
   C. Hudson Bay
   D. Saskatchewan River

2. What resource in Canada provides pulp and newsprint?
   A. forests
   B. nickel
   C. potash
   D. fish

3. Many Canadians moved from farms to cities to find
   A. gold.
   B. good schools.
   C. jobs.
   D. better weather.

4. Canada’s prime minister oversees the country’s
   A. railroads.
   B. parliament.
   C. provincial governments.
   D. city governments.

5. Canada’s capital, Ottawa, is located in
   A. Northwest Territories.
   B. Nova Scotia.
   C. Ontario.
   D. British Columbia.

6. Based on the map above, which climate type does the Pacific coast of British Columbia experience?
   A. subarctic
   B. marine west coast
   C. highland
   D. steppe

7. About 60 percent of Canada’s imported goods come from which country?
   A. Mexico
   B. Greenland
   C. Russia
   D. United States

8. Extended Response Look at the political map of Canada at the beginning of this chapter. Using information from the map, explain why the United States and Canada are major trading partners.
**Chapter 7: Mexico**

**Essential Question** What are the major physical, cultural, and economic features of Mexico?

**What You Will Learn...**

In this chapter, you will learn about Mexico's physical geography. You will also study the influence of early cultures and Spanish colonial history on Mexico's culture. Today, Mexico is experiencing many changes in its government and economy.

**SECTION 1: Physical Geography** .......................... 168

The Big Idea  Mexico is a large country with different natural environments in its northern, central, and southern regions.

**SECTION 2: History and Culture** .......................... 172

The Big Idea  Native American cultures and Spanish colonization shaped Mexican history and culture.

**SECTION 3: Mexico Today** .......................... 178

The Big Idea  Mexico has four culture regions that all play a part in the country's government and economy.

**FOCUS ON READING AND WRITING**

**Predicting**  Predicting is trying to guess what will happen next. As you read a chapter, stop along the way and consider what you have read. Does the text provide any clues about what will happen next? If it does, see if you can make a prediction about the text. See the lesson, Predicting, on page R8.

**Writing an “I Am” Poem**  Countries have stories to tell, just like people do. As you read this chapter, gather details about Mexico—how it looks, what its history was like, and what it is like today. Then write an “I Am” poem from the point of view of Mexico telling what you have learned.

**Culture**  Brightly costumed dancers perform a traditional dance in Cancún.
**History**
The Spanish brought Christianity to Mexico and built churches like this one.

**Geography**
Much of Mexico’s landscape is dry, with high plateaus and mountains.
### Physical Geography

**If YOU lived there...**

You live on Mexico’s Pacific coast. Sunny weather and good beaches bring tourists year-round. Now you are on your way to visit a cousin in Puebla, in the highlands. To get there, you will have to take a bus along the winding roads of the steep Sierra Madre Occidental. This rugged mountain range runs along the coast. You have never been to the interior of Mexico before.

**What landscapes will you see on your trip?**

### BUILDING BACKGROUND

Mexico is part of Latin America, a region in the Western Hemisphere where Spanish and Portuguese culture shaped life. Mexico is also part of North America, along with the United States and Canada. Unlike its northern neighbors, Mexico’s landscape consists mainly of highlands and coastal plains.

### Key Terms and Places

- **Río Bravo (Rio Grande)**, p. 168
- **peninsula**, p. 168
- **Baja California**, p. 168
- **Gulf of Mexico**, p. 168
- **Yucatán Peninsula**, p. 168
- **Sierra Madre**, p. 169

### Physical Features

Mexico, our neighbor to the south, shares a long border with the United States. Forming part of this border is one of Mexico’s few major rivers, the **Río Bravo**. In the United States this river is called the Rio Grande. At other places along the U.S.–Mexico border it is impossible to tell where one country ends and the other country begins.

### Bodies of Water

As you can see on the map, except for its border with the United States, Mexico is mostly surrounded by water. Mexico’s border in the west is the Pacific Ocean. Stretching south into the Pacific Ocean from northern Mexico is a narrow **peninsula**, or piece of land surrounded on three sides by water, called **Baja California**. To the east, Mexico’s border is the **Gulf of Mexico**. The Gulf of Mexico is separated from the Caribbean Sea by a part of Mexico called the **Yucatán (yoo-kah-TAHN)** **Peninsula**.
Plateaus and Mountains

Much of the interior landscape of Mexico consists of a high, mostly rugged region called the Mexican Plateau. The plateau’s lowest point is more than a half mile above sea level. Its highest point is close to two miles above sea level. The entire plateau spreads between two mountain ranges that rise still higher. One range, the Sierra Madre Oriental, lies in the east. The other, the Sierra Madre Occidental, lies in the west. Together, these two mountain ranges and another shorter one in southern Mexico make up the Sierra Madre (SYER-rah MAH-dray), or “mother range.”

Between the two ranges in the south lies the Valley of Mexico. Mexico City, the country’s capital, is located there. The mountains south of Mexico City include towering, snowcapped volcanoes. Volcanic eruptions, as well as earthquakes, are a threat there. The volcano Popocatépetl (poh-puh-cah-TEH-pet-uhl) near Mexico City has been active as recently as 2010.
Coastal Lowlands

From the highlands in central Mexico, the land slopes down to the coasts. Beautiful, sunny beaches stretch all along Mexico’s eastern and western coasts. The plain that runs along the west coast is fairly wide in the north. It becomes narrower in the south. On the east side of the country, the Gulf coastal plain is wide and flat. The soils and climate there are good for farming.

The Yucatán Peninsula in the southeast is also mostly flat. Limestone rock underlies much of the area. Erosion there has created caves and sinkholes, steep-sided depressions that form when the roof of a cave collapses. Many of these sinkholes are filled with water.

READING CHECK  Summarizing What are Mexico’s major physical features?

Climate and Vegetation

From snowcapped mountain peaks to warm, sunny beaches, Mexico has many different climates. You can see Mexico’s climate regions on the map below. This great variety of climates results in several different types of vegetation.

In some areas, changes in elevation cause climates to vary widely within a short distance. For example, the areas of high elevation on the Mexican Plateau can have surprisingly cool temperatures. At times, freezing temperatures reach as far south as Mexico City—even though it is located in the tropics. Mexico’s mountain valleys generally have mild climates, and many people have settled there.

The valleys along Mexico’s southern coastal areas also have pleasant climates. Warm temperatures and a summer rainy season support the forests that cover about 25 percent of Mexico’s land area. Tropical rain forests provide a home for jaguars, monkeys, anteaters, and other animals.

While most of southern Mexico is warm and humid, the climate in the northern part of the Yucatán Peninsula is hot and dry. The main vegetation there is scrub forest.

**ACADEMIC VOCABULARY**

**vary** to be different
Like the Yucatán Peninsula in the south, most of northern Mexico is dry. The deserts in Baja California and the northern part of the plateau get little rainfall. Desert plants and dry grasslands are common in the north. Cougars, coyotes, and deer live in some areas of the desert.

Another important resource is water. The refreshing water surrounding Mexico draws many tourists to the country’s scenic beaches. Unfortunately, water is limited in many parts of Mexico. Water scarcity is a serious issue.

**Reading Check** Analyzing Why does Mexico City sometimes experience freezing temperatures even though it is in the tropics?

**Natural Resources**

Mexico is rich in natural resources. One of its most important resources is petroleum, or oil. Oil reserves are found mainly under the southern and Gulf coastal plains as well as offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Mexico sells much of its oil to the United States.

Before oil was discovered in Mexico, minerals were the country’s most valuable resource. Some gold and silver mines that were begun many centuries ago are still in operation. In addition, new mines have been developed in Mexico’s mountains. Today Mexico’s mines produce more silver than any other country in the world. Mexican mines also yield large amounts of copper, gold, lead, and zinc.

Another important resource is water. The refreshing water surrounding Mexico draws many tourists to the country’s scenic beaches. Unfortunately, water is limited in many parts of Mexico. Water scarcity is a serious issue.

**Reading Check** Finding Main Ideas What is one of Mexico’s most important resources?

**Summary and Preview**

The natural environments of Mexico range from arid plateaus in the north to humid, forested mountains in the south. Next, you will study the history and culture of Mexico.

**Section 1 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. Describe What is the interior of Mexico like?
   b. Analyze Do you think the Yucatán Peninsula is a good place for farming? Explain your answer.
2. a. Recall What is the climate like in the northern part of the Yucatán Peninsula?
   b. Explain Why can climates sometimes vary widely within a short distance?
   c. Elaborate How do you think climate and vegetation affect where people live in Mexico?
3. a. Identify Where are Mexico’s oil reserves located?
   b. Make Inferences What problems might water scarcity cause for Mexican citizens?
   c. Elaborate How are Mexico’s location, climate, and physical features also natural resources?

**Critical Thinking**

4. Categorizing Draw a chart like the one here. Using your notes, list the geographical features found in northern Mexico and southern Mexico.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mexico</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Mexico</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Focus on Writing**

5. Telling What Mexico Looks Like What features of Mexico’s physical geography will you include in your “I Am” poem? Write notes about the physical features, climate and vegetation, and natural resources of Mexico.
CHAPTER 7

History and Culture

1. Early cultures of Mexico included the Olmec, the Maya, and the Aztec.
2. Mexico’s period as a Spanish colony and its struggles since independence have shaped its culture.
3. Spanish and native cultures have influenced Mexico’s customs and traditions today.

Main Ideas

Native American cultures and Spanish colonization shaped Mexican history and culture.

Key Terms

empire, p. 173
mestizos, p. 174
missions, p. 174
haciendas, p. 174

The Big Idea

Will you help the strangers fight the Aztecs? Why or why not?

BUILDING BACKGROUND

Mexico was home to several of the earliest advanced cultures in the Americas. Early farmers there developed crops that became staples in much of North America. Mexico also has valuable minerals, which drew Spanish conquerors and colonists. Spanish culture blended with native Mexican cultures.

Early Cultures

People first came to Mexico many thousands of years ago. As early as 5,000 years ago, they were growing beans, peppers, and squash. They also domesticated an early form of corn. Farming allowed these people to build the first permanent settlements in the Americas.

Early Cultures of Mexico

Olmec

- The Olmec made sculptures of giant stone heads.
- The heads may have represented rulers or gods.

If YOU lived there...

You belong to one of the native Indian peoples in southern Mexico in the early 1500s. Years ago, the Aztec rulers went to war against your people. They took many captives. They have always treated you cruelly. Now some strangers have come from across the sea. They want your people to help them conquer the Aztecs.

Will you help the strangers fight the Aztecs? Why or why not?

Use the graphic organizer online to organize your notes on Mexico’s history and culture.
Olmec
By about 1500 BC the Olmec people in Mexico were living in small villages. The Olmec lived on the humid southern coast of the Gulf of Mexico, where they built temples and giant statues. They also traded carved stones like jade and obsidian with other cultures in eastern Mexico.

Maya
A few hundred years later, the Maya built on the achievements of the Olmec. Between about AD 250 and 900, the Maya built large cities in Mexico and Central America. In these cities they built stone temples to worship their gods. They studied the stars and developed a detailed calendar. They also kept written records that scholars still study today to learn about Maya history. However, scholars do not fully understand why Maya civilization suddenly collapsed sometime after 900.

Aztec
After the decline of the Maya civilization, people called the Aztecs moved to central Mexico from the north. In 1325 they built their capital on an island in a lake. Known as Tenochtitlán (tay-nawch-teet-LAHN), this capital grew into one of the largest and most impressive cities of its time.

The Aztecs also built a large, powerful empire. An empire is a land with different territories and peoples under a single ruler. The Aztecs built their empire through conquest. They defeated their neighboring tribes in war. Then they forced the other people to pay taxes and to provide war captives for sacrifice to the Aztec gods.

CONNECTING TO Technology

Chinampas
The Aztecs practiced a form of raised-field farming in the swampy lake areas of central Mexico. They called these raised fields chinampas. To make them, Aztec farmers piled earth on rafts anchored to trees in the lake. There they grew the corn, beans, and squash that most people ate.

Analyzing Why do you think the Aztecs decided to build raised fields for their crops?

The Aztecs planted trees in the lake to anchor the rafts.

The Maya had a trade network between cities.
This Maya pyramid stands in Uxmal.

The Aztecs built the first empire in the Americas.
Aztec artisans made art like this turquoise mask.

READING CHECK Summarizing What were some achievements of Mexico’s early cultures?
Colonial Mexico and Independence

In spite of its great size and power, the Aztec Empire did not last long after the first Europeans landed in Mexico. In 1519 Hernán Cortés, a Spanish soldier, arrived in Mexico with about 600 men. These conquistadors (kahn-KEES-tuh-dawrz), or conquerors, gained allies from other tribes in the region. They also had guns and horses, which the Aztecs had never seen before. The new weapons terrified the Aztecs and gave the Spanish an advantage.

The Spanish also unknowingly brought European diseases such as smallpox. The Aztecs had no resistance to these diseases, so many of them died. Greatly weakened by disease, the Aztecs were defeated. In 1521 Cortés claimed the land for Spain.

Colonial Times

After the conquest, Spanish and American Indian peoples and cultures mixed. This mixing formed a new Mexican identity. Spaniards called people of mixed European and Indian ancestry mestizos (me-STEES-tohz). When Africans were brought to America as slaves, they added to this mix of peoples. The Spaniards called people of mixed European and African ancestry mulattoes (muh-LAHT-ohs). Africans and American Indians also intermarried.

Life in colonial Mexico was greatly influenced by the Roman Catholic Church. Large areas of northern Mexico were left to the church to explore and to rule. Church outposts known as missions were scattered throughout the area. Priests at the missions learned native languages and taught the Indians Spanish. They also worked to convert the American Indians to Catholicism.

In addition to spreading Christianity, the Spaniards wanted to find gold and silver in Mexico. American Indians and enslaved Africans did most of the hard physical labor in the mines. As a result, many died from disease and overwork.

Like mining, agriculture became an important part of the colonial economy. After the conquest, the Spanish monarch granted haciendas (hah-see-EN-duhs), or huge expanses of farm or ranch land, to some favored people of Spanish ancestry. Peasants, usually Indians, lived and worked on these haciendas. The haciendas made their owners very wealthy.
Independence
Spain ruled Mexico for almost 300 years before the people of Mexico demanded independence. The revolt against Spanish rule was led by a Catholic priest named Miguel Hidalgo. In 1810, he gave a famous speech calling for the common people to rise up against the Spanish. Hidalgo was killed in 1811, but fighting continued until Mexico won its independence in 1821.

Later Struggles
Fifteen years after Mexico gained its independence, a large area, Texas, broke away. Eventually, Texas joined the United States. As a result, Mexico and the United States fought over Texas and the location of their shared border. This conflict led to the Mexican-American War, in which Mexico lost nearly half its territory to the United States.

In the mid-1800s, Mexico faced other challenges. During this time, the popular president Benito Juárez helped Mexico survive a French invasion. He also made reforms that reduced the privileges of the church and the army.

In spite of these reforms, in the early 1900s the president helped the hacienda owners take land from peasants. Also, foreign companies owned huge amounts of land in Mexico and, in turn, influenced Mexican politics. Many Mexicans thought the president gave these large landowners too many privileges.

As a result, the Mexican Revolution broke out in 1910. The fighting lasted 10 years. One major result of the Mexican Revolution was land reform. The newly formed government took land from the large landowners and gave it back to the peasant villages.

Reading Check  Sequencing  What events occurred after Mexico gained independence?

Benito Juárez
(1806–1872)
Benito Juárez was Mexico’s first president of Indian heritage. A wise and passionate leader, Juárez stood up for the rights of all Mexicans. As the minister of justice, he got rid of special courts for members of the church and the military. As president, he passed reforms that laid the foundation for a democratic government. Today he is considered a national hero in Mexico.

Drawing Conclusions  How may Juárez’s heritage have affected his efforts for Mexico’s citizens?

Culture
Mexico’s history has influenced its culture. For example, one major influence from history is language. Most Mexicans speak Spanish because of the Spanish influence in colonial times. Another influence from Spain is religion. About 90 percent of all Mexicans are Roman Catholic.

However, Mexico’s culture also reflects its American Indian heritage. For example, many people still speak American Indian languages. In Mexico, a person’s language is tied to his or her ethnic group. Speaking an American Indian language identifies a person as Indian.

Mexicans also have some unique cultural practices that combine elements of Spanish influence with the influence of Mexican Indians. An example of this combining can be seen in a holiday called Day of the Dead. This holiday is a day to remember and honor dead ancestors.

Academic Vocabulary
influence  change or have an effect on

Video
The Peasant Revolution
Mexicans celebrate Day of the Dead on November 1 and 2. These dates are similar to the dates that the Catholic Church honors the dead with All Souls’ Day. The holiday also reflects native customs and beliefs about hopes of life after death.

**Reading Check**

**Categorizing** What aspects of Mexican culture show the influence of Spanish rule?

**Summary and Preview** Mexico’s early cultures formed great civilizations, but after the conquest of the Aztec Empire, power in Mexico shifted to Spain. Spain ruled Mexico for nearly 300 years before Mexico gained independence. Mexico’s history and its mix of Indian and Spanish backgrounds have influenced the country’s culture. In the next section you will learn about life in Mexico today.

***Section 2 Assessment***

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. **Recall** Where in Mexico did the Olmec live?
   - **Explain** How did the Aztecs build and rule their empire?
   - **Elaborate** Why do you think scholars are not sure what caused the end of Maya civilization?

2. **Identify** Who began the revolt that led to Mexico’s independence?
   - **Explain** What was Mexico like in colonial times?
   - **Predict** How may history have been different if the Aztecs had defeated the Spanish?

3. **Identify** What Mexican holiday honors dead ancestors?
   - **Summarize** How did Mexico’s colonial past shape its culture?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Sequencing** Draw a diagram like the one below. Then, using your notes, list the major events in Mexico’s history in the order they happened.

5. **Learning about History and Culture** Mexico’s history is full of fascinating stories. In your notebook, jot down ideas about people and stories from Mexico’s history.
Taking Notes

Learn

Taking notes can help you remember what you have learned from your textbook or in class. To be effective, your notes must be clear and organized. One good way to organize your notes is in a chart like the one here. Use the following steps to help you take useful notes:

- **Before you read:** Divide a page in your notebook into two columns as shown.
- **While you read:** Write down your notes in phrases or sentences in the large column on the right.
- **After you read:** Review your notes. Then in the small column on the left, jot down ideas, key terms, or questions in your own words based on the notes you took.

Practice

Answer the following questions about taking notes.

1. Where should you write your notes while you read or listen in class?

2. How can jotting down key ideas, terms, and questions help you clarify your notes after you take them?

Apply

Look back at Section 1 of this chapter. Divide your paper into two columns and take notes on the section using the suggestions above. Then answer the following questions.

1. What ideas or questions did you write in the Recall column on the left?

2. What are some advantages of taking notes?
**Mexico Today**

**If YOU lived there...**

For many years, your family has lived in a small village in southern Mexico. Jobs are scarce there. Your older brother and sisters talk about moving to a larger city. Big cities may provide some more opportunities, but they can be crowded and noisy. Many people from your village have already gone to the city.

**How do you feel about moving to the city?**

**Main Ideas**

1. Government has traditionally played a large role in Mexico's economy.
2. Mexico has four distinct culture regions.

**The Big Idea**

Mexico has four culture regions that all play a part in the country's government and economy.

**Key Terms and Places**

inflation, p. 178
slash-and-burn agriculture, p. 179
cash crop, p. 179
Mexico City, p. 180
smog, p. 180
maquiladoras, p. 181

**Building Background**

After Mexico gained independence, many government leaders did not rule democratically. For years the Mexican people had little say in their government. But changes in the 1990s and 2000s led toward more democracy and prosperity.

**Government and Economy**

Today people in Mexico can vote in certain elections for the first time. People can find jobs in cities and buy their families a home. More children are able to attend school. In recent years, changes in Mexico's government and economy have made improvements like these possible.

**Government**

Mexico has a democratic government. However, Mexico is not like the United States where different political parties have always competed for power. In Mexico the same political party controlled the government for 71 years. But this control ended in 2000 when Mexicans elected Vicente Fox their president. Fox represented a different political party.

For many years, Mexico's government controlled most of the country's economic activity. Today the government has less control of the economy.

**Economy**

Mexico is a developing country. It has struggled with debts to foreign banks, unemployment, and inflation. **Inflation** is a rise in prices that occurs when currency loses its buying power.
Although living standards in Mexico are lower than in many other countries, Mexico’s economy is growing. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which took effect in 1994, has made trade among Mexico, the United States, and Canada easier. Mexico’s agricultural and industrial exports have increased since NAFTA went into effect.

**Agriculture** Agriculture has long been a key part of the Mexican economy. This is true even though just 13 percent of the land is good for farming. Many farmers in southern Mexico practice **slash-and-burn agriculture**, which is the practice of burning forest in order to clear land for planting.

The high market demand for food in the United States has encouraged many farmers in Mexico to grow cash crops. A **cash crop** is a crop that farmers grow mainly to sell for a profit. Trucks bring cash crops like fruits and vegetables from Mexico to the United States.

**Industry** Oil is also an important export for Mexico. Many Mexicans work in the oil, mining, and manufacturing industries. These industries are growing.

The fastest-growing industrial centers in Mexico lie along the U.S. border. Because wages are relatively low in Mexico, many U.S. and foreign companies have built factories in Mexico. Mexican workers in these factories assemble goods for export to the United States and other countries. Some Mexican workers also come to the United States to look for jobs that pay more than they can make at home.

**Tourism** Tourism is another important part of Mexico’s economy. Many tourists visit old colonial cities and Maya and Aztec monuments. Coastal cities and resorts such as Cancún and Acapulco are also popular with tourists.

**Reading Check** Summarizing How is the government’s role in the economy changing?

Many people in Mexico are subsistence farmers. They do not own much land and grow only enough food to feed their families. To gain more land, farmers in southern Mexico burn patches of forest. The fires clear the trees and kill weeds, and ash from the fires fertilizes the soil. However, growing the same crops year after year drains valuable nutrients from the soil. The farmers then have to burn new forest land.

In the satellite image here, agricultural fires appear as red dots. As you can see, the fires create a lot of smoke. Wind then blows the smoke great distances. Every few years, when the conditions are right, smoke from agricultural fires in Mexico reaches as far as the southern United States. The smoke can cause health problems for some people.

**Analyzing** What direction was the wind blowing in this image?
Mexico’s Culture Regions

Although all Mexicans share some cultural characteristics, we can divide Mexico into four regions based on regional differences. These four culture regions differ from each other in their population, resources, climate, and other features.

Greater Mexico City

Greater Mexico City includes the capital and about 50 smaller cities near it. With a population of more than 19 million, Mexico City is the world’s second-largest city and one of the most densely populated urban areas. Thousands of people move there every year looking for work.

While this region does provide job and educational opportunities not so easily found in the rest of the country, its huge population causes problems. For example, Mexico City is very polluted. Factories and cars release exhaust and other pollutants into the air. The surrounding mountains trap the resulting smog—a mixture of smoke, chemicals, and fog. Smog can cause health problems like eye irritation and breathing difficulties.

Another problem that comes from crowding is poverty. Wealth and poverty exist side by side in Mexico City. The city has large urban slums. The slums often exist right next to modern office buildings, apartments, museums, or universities.
Central Mexico

North of greater Mexico City lies Mexico’s central region. Many cities in this region were established as mining or ranching centers during the colonial period. Mexico’s colonial heritage can still be seen today in these cities and towns. For example, small towns often have a colonial-style church near a main central square. The central square, or plaza, has served for hundreds of years as a community meeting spot and market area.

In addition to small colonial towns, central Mexico has many fertile valleys and small family farms. Farmers in this region grow vegetables, corn, and wheat for sale, mostly to cities in Mexico.

While central Mexico has always been a mining center, in recent years the region has also attracted new industries from overcrowded Mexico City. As a result, some cities in the region, such as Guadalajara, are growing rapidly.

Northern Mexico

Northern Mexico has become one of the country’s richest and most modern areas. Trade with the United States has helped the region’s economy grow. Monterrey and Tijuana are now major cities there. Many U.S.- and foreign-owned factories called maquiladoras (mah-kee-lah-DORH-ahs) have been built along Mexico’s long border with the United States.
Northern Mexico’s closeness to the border has affected the region’s culture as well as its economy. American television, music, and other forms of entertainment are popular there. Many Mexicans cross the border to shop, work, or live in the United States. While many people cross the border legally, the U.S. government tries to prevent Mexicans and others from crossing the border illegally.

Southern Mexico

Southern Mexico is the least populated and industrialized region of the country. Many people in this region speak Indian languages and practice traditional ways of life. Subsistence farming and slash-and-burn agriculture are common.

However, southern Mexico is vital to the country’s economy. Sugarcane and coffee, two major export crops, grow well in the region’s warm, humid climate. Also, oil production along the Gulf coast has increased in recent years. The oil business has brought more industry and population growth to this coastal area of southern Mexico.

Another place in southern Mexico that has grown in recent years is the Yucatán Peninsula. Maya ruins, beautiful sunny beaches, and clear blue water have made tourism a major industry in this area. Many cities that were just tiny fishing villages only 20 years ago are now booming with new construction for the tourist industry.

Mexico will continue to change in the future. Changes are likely to bring more development. However, maintaining the country’s unique regional cultures may be a challenge as those changes take place.

Reading Check

Comparing and Contrasting
What similarities and differences exist between greater Mexico City and southern Mexico?

Summary and Preview

Mexico has a democratic government and a growing economy. It also has distinct regions with different cultures, economies, and environments. In the next chapter you will learn about the countries to the south of Mexico.

Section 3 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Define What is the term for the practice of burning forest in order to clear land for planting?  
b. Compare and Contrast How is Mexico’s government similar to and different from the government of the United States?

2. a. Identify What is an environmental problem found in Mexico City?  
b. Make Inferences What conditions in Mexico lead some Mexicans to cross the border into the United States?  
c. Develop If you were to start a business in Mexico, what type of business would you start and where would you start it? Explain your decisions.

Critical Thinking

3. Finding Main Ideas Review your notes on Mexico’s economy. Then use a chart like this one to show what parts of the economy are important in each region.

| Greater Mexico City | Central Mexico | Northern Mexico | Southern Mexico |

Focus on Writing

4. Describing Mexico Today Write some details about the four culture regions of Mexico. Which details will you include in your poem?
Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 168–171)

10. a. Define What is the Mexican Plateau? What forms its edges?
b. Contrast How does the climate of Mexico City differ from the climate in the south?
c. Evaluate What do you think would be Mexico’s most important resource if it did not have oil? Explain your answer.

SECTION 2 (Pages 172–176)

11. a. Recall What early civilization did the Spanish conquer when they came to Mexico?
b. Analyze How did Spanish rule influence Mexico’s culture?
c. Evaluate Which war—the war for independence, the Mexican War, or the Mexican Revolution—do you think changed Mexico the most? Explain your answer.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

Unscramble each group of letters below to spell a term that matches the given definition.

1. pmreie—a land with different territories and peoples under a single ruler
2. tflinnaoi—a rise in prices that occurs when currency loses its buying power
3. mogs—a mixture of smoke, chemicals, and fog
4. snipluane—a piece of land surrounded on three sides by water
5. ztosemsi—people of mixed European and Indian ancestry
6. hacs rpoc—a crop that farmers grow mainly to sell for a profit
7. ssnmiosi—church outposts
8. dqamiuarsloa—U.S.- and foreign-owned factories in Mexico
9. ndhcieasa— expanses of farm or ranch land

Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

The physical geography of Mexico includes a high region of plateaus and mountains.

The Spanish conquered the Aztecs and ruled Mexico for about 300 years until the Mexicans gained independence.

Greater Mexico City, one of Mexico’s four culture regions, is the center of Mexico’s government and economy.

Geography’s Impact video series
Review the video to answer the closing question: Do you think emigration from Mexico to the United States hurts or helps Mexico? Why?
SECTION 3 (Pages 178–182)

12. a. **Describe** What are Mexico’s four culture regions? Describe a feature of each.
   
   b. **Analyze** What regions do you think are the most popular with tourists? Explain your answer.
   
   c. **Evaluate** What are two major drawbacks of slash-and-burn agriculture?

**Using the Internet**

13. **Activity: Writing a Description** Colorful textiles, paintings, and pottery are just some of the many crafts made throughout Mexico. Each region in Mexico has its own style of crafts and folk art. Through your online textbook, visit some of the different regions of Mexico and explore their arts and crafts. Pick a favorite object from each region. Learn about its use, its design, how it was made, and the people who made it. Then write a brief paragraph that describes each object and its unique characteristics.

**Social Studies Skills**

14. **Taking Notes** Look back at the information in Section 3 about Mexico’s government and economy. Then use a chart like this one to take notes on the information in your book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recall</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Map Activity**

15. **Mexico** On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

   - Gulf of Mexico
   - Baja California
   - Río Bravo (Río Grande)
   - Tijuana
   - Yucatán Peninsula
   - Mexico City

**FOCUS ON READING AND WRITING**

16. **Predicting** Now you can use your skills in predicting to think about events that might happen in the future. Reread the text in your book about Mexico’s economy. Write three to four sentences about how you think the economy might change in the future.

17. **Writing an “I Am” Poem** Now it is time to write your poem. Title your poem “I am Mexico” and make it six lines long. Use each line to give details about Mexico, such as “I have towering, snowcapped volcanoes.” Make sure at least one line deals with physical geography, one line with history and culture, and one line with Mexico today. Your poem does not need to rhyme, but you should try to use vivid language.
DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 6 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 7 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. What physical features make up much of central Mexico?
   A. plateaus and mountains
   B. peninsulas
   C. beaches and lowlands
   D. sinkholes

2. What early culture in Mexico did the Spanish conquer?
   A. Olmec
   B. Maya
   C. Aztec
   D. conquistador

3. Which of the following was a way in which the Spanish affected Mexico during colonial times?
   A. granted land to the native people
   B. set up missions and taught about Christianity
   C. started the Mexican Revolution
   D. gave away half of Mexico to the United States

4. Where are Mexico’s fastest-growing industrial centers?
   A. on the Gulf coast
   B. in Mexico City
   C. on the Yucatán Peninsula
   D. along the U.S. border

5. What factor helps classify Mexico as a developing country?
   A. high unemployment
   B. few political parties
   C. an economy based on oil and tourism
   D. relatively high living standards

6. Based on the graphs above, which of the following statements is false?
   A. The United States is Mexico’s biggest trading partner.
   B. The United States imports 63% of its goods from Mexico.
   C. 89% of Mexico’s exports go to the United States.
   D. Imports from Japan make up 6% of Mexico’s total imports.

7. Extended Response  Look at the graphs above and the information in Section 3. Then write a brief essay explaining how NAFTA has influenced Mexico.
Teotihuacán, established around 200 B.C., was the first great civilization of ancient Mexico. At its height around the middle of the first millennium A.D., the “City of the Gods” was one of the largest cities in the world. It covered 12 square miles and was home to some 200,000 people. The Pyramid of the Sun, above, was the largest building in Teotihuacán.

For centuries after the fall of Teotihuacán, present-day Mexico was home to a number of great empires, including the highly sophisticated Aztec civilization. The arrival of the Spanish in the early 1500s forever changed life for Mexico’s ancient peoples, and Mexican culture today is dominated by a blend of indigenous and Spanish cultures.

Explore the history of Mexico from ancient to modern times online. You can find a wealth of information, video clips, primary sources, activities, and more at hmhsocialstudies.com.
MEXICO

**Mexico’s Ancient Civilizations**
Watch the video to learn about the great civilizations that arose in ancient Mexico.

**The Arrival of the Spanish**
Watch the video to learn how the arrival of the conquistadors led to the fall of the Aztec Empire.

**Miguel Hidalgo’s Call to Arms**
Watch the video to learn about Miguel Hidalgo’s path from priest to revolutionary leader.

**Mexico in the Modern Era**
Watch the video to learn about the role of oil in the industrialization of Mexico’s economy.
CHAPTER 8

Central America and the Caribbean

Essential Question How have Central America and the Caribbean been shaped by geography and history?

What You Will Learn... In this chapter you will learn about the beautiful physical landscapes of Central America and the Caribbean. You will also study the history of the region along with the people who live there and the way they live today.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography ................. 188
The Big Idea The physical geography of Central America and the Caribbean islands includes warm coastal lowlands, cooler highlands, and tropical forests.

SECTION 2: Central America ....................... 192
The Big Idea Central America’s native traditions and colonial history have created a mixed culture, unstable governments, and uncertain economies.

SECTION 3: The Caribbean Islands ............... 200
The Big Idea The Caribbean islands have a rich history and culture influenced by European colonization.

Focus on Reading & Writing

Understanding Comparison-Contrast When you compare, you look for ways in which things are alike. When you contrast, you look for ways in which things are different. As you read the chapter, look for ways you can compare and contrast information. See the lesson, Understanding Comparison-Contrast, on page R9.

Creating a Travel Guide People use travel guides to learn more about places they want to visit. As you read about Central America and the Caribbean in this chapter, you will collect information about places tourists might visit. Then you will create your own travel guide for visitors to one of these vacation spots.

History The Spanish built forts like this one in Puerto Rico to defend their islands and protect the harbors from pirates.
Many people in the region maintain their traditional cultures. These Kuna women are from Panama.


**Main Ideas**

1. Physical features of the region include volcanic highlands and coastal plains.
2. The climate and vegetation of the region include forested highlands, tropical forests, and humid lowlands.
3. Key natural resources in the region include rich soils for agriculture, a few minerals, and beautiful beaches.

**The Big Idea**

The physical geography of Central America and the Caribbean islands includes warm coastal lowlands, cooler highlands, and tropical forests.

**Key Terms and Places**

- isthmus, p. 188
- Caribbean Sea, p. 188
- archipelago, p. 189
- Greater Antilles, p. 189
- Lesser Antilles, p. 189
- cloud forest, p. 190

**If YOU lived there...**

You live in San José, the capital of Costa Rica. But now you are visiting a tropical forest in one of the country’s national parks. You make your way carefully along a swinging rope bridge in the forest canopy—40 feet above the forest floor! You see a huge green iguana making its way along a branch. A brilliantly colored parrot flies past you.

**What other creatures might you see in the forest?**

**BUILDING BACKGROUND**

Nearly all the countries of Central America and the Caribbean lie in the tropics. That means they generally have warm climates and tropical vegetation. Many people like to visit these countries because of their physical beauty.

**Physical Features**

Sandy beaches, volcanic mountains, rain forests, clear blue water—these are images many people have of Central America and the Caribbean islands. This region’s physical geography is beautiful. This beauty is one of the region’s greatest resources.

**Central America**

The region called Central America is actually the southern part of North America. Seven countries make up this region: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. As you can see on the map, Central America is an isthmus, or a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas. No place on this isthmus is more than about 125 miles (200 km) from either the Pacific Ocean or the Caribbean Sea.

A chain of mountains and volcanoes separates the Pacific and Caribbean coastal plains, and only a few short rivers flow through Central America. The ruggedness of the land and the lack of good water routes make travel in the region difficult.
**The Caribbean Islands**

Across the Caribbean Sea from Central America lie hundreds of islands known as the Caribbean islands. They make up an archipelago (ahr-kuh-pe-luh-goh), or large group of islands. Arranged in a long curve, the Caribbean islands stretch from the southern tip of Florida to northern South America. They divide the Caribbean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean.

There are two main island groups in the Caribbean. The four large islands of Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico make up the Greater Antilles (an-ti-leez). Many smaller islands form the Lesser Antilles. They stretch from the Virgin Islands to Trinidad and Tobago. A third island group, the Bahamas, lies in the Atlantic Ocean southeast of Florida. It includes nearly 700 islands and thousands of reefs.
Many Caribbean islands are actually the tops of underwater mountains and volcanoes. Others began as coral reefs that were gradually pushed up to become flat limestone islands. Colliding tectonic plates have pushed this region’s land up out of the sea over several million years. You can see these tectonic plates on the map above. Notice how the land follows the boundaries of the plates. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur frequently as these plates shift. When such events do occur, they can cause great damage to the region and its people.

**Reading Check** Comparing What physical features do Central America and the Caribbean islands have in common?

**Climate and Vegetation**

Central America and the Caribbean islands are generally sunny and warm. Humid tropical and tropical savanna climates are common in the islands and on Central America’s coastal plains. On the Pacific coast, much of the area’s original savanna vegetation has been cleared. It has been replaced by plantations and ranches. The opposite coast, along the Caribbean, has areas of tropical rain forest.

Inland mountain areas contain cool, humid climates. Some mountainous parts of Central America are covered with dense cloud forest. A **cloud forest** is a moist, high-elevation tropical forest where low clouds are common. These forests are home to numerous plant and animal species.
Temperatures in most of Central America and the Caribbean do not change much from day to night or from summer to winter. Instead, the change in seasons is marked by a change in rainfall. Winters in the region are generally dry, while it rains nearly every day during the summers.

From summer to fall, hurricanes are a threat in the region. These tropical storms bring violent winds, heavy rain, and high seas. Most hurricanes occur between June and November. Their winds and flooding can cause destruction and loss of life.

**Reading Check** Generalizing Where would one find the coolest temperatures in the region?

**Resources**

The region’s best resources are its land and climate. These factors make tourism an important industry. They also influence agriculture. Agriculture in the region can be profitable where volcanic ash has enriched the soil. Coffee, bananas, sugarcane, and cotton grow well and are major crops. Timber is exported from the rain forests.

Although its land and climate make good agricultural resources, the region has few mineral resources. Energy resources are also limited. Central America and the Caribbean islands must rely on energy imports, which limits their development.

**Reading Check** Analyzing Why would having few energy resources limit economic development?

**Summary and Preview** Central America and the Caribbean islands share volcanic physical features and a warm, tropical climate good for agriculture. In the next section you will learn about the history and culture of Central America.

**Satellite View**

- Strong hurricane winds spin around a calm center point called the eye.

**Hurricane Isabel**

Hurricanes are rotating storms that bring heavy rain and winds that can reach speeds higher than 155 miles per hour (249 kph). This image shows Hurricane Isabel sweeping through the Caribbean Sea in 2003. Strong hurricanes like this one can shatter houses and hurl cars through the air.

**Analyzing** How can you tell the storm is rotating?

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**Section 1 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. **a. Define** What is an isthmus?
   **b. Explain** How has tectonic activity affected Central America and the Caribbean islands?
2. **a. Describe** What is a cloud forest?
   **b. Make Inferences** Why do temperatures in the region change little from summer to winter?
3. **a. Recall** What crops grow well in the region?
   **b. Evaluate** Do you think tourists who want to go to the beach are more likely to visit Guatemala or the Bahamas? Explain your answer.

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Categorizing** Draw a diagram like the one here. Using your notes, write descriptive phrases about the physical features, climate, and resources of both places.

**Focus on Writing**

5. **Writing about Geography** What information about the physical geography of the region might interest readers of your travel guide? Jot down some ideas.
Central America

If YOU lived there...

You live in El Salvador, in a town that is still living with the effects of a civil war 20 years ago. Your parents and your older neighbors still speak about those years with fear. One effect of the war was damage to the economy. Many people have gone to Mexico to try to make a better life. Now your parents are talking about going there to look for work. But you are not sure.

How do you feel about leaving your home?

BUILDING BACKGROUND  All the countries of Central America were once colonies of European nations. Years of colonial rule made it hard for most of these countries to establish strong economies or democratic governments. Today things are slowly improving.

History

Many countries of Central America have a shared history. This shared history has been influenced by the Maya, the Spanish, and the United States.

Early History

In several Central American countries, the Maya were building large cities with pyramids and temples by about AD 250. The Maya abandoned most of their cities around 900, but the ruins of many ancient cities still stand in the region today. People of Maya descent still live in Guatemala and Belize. In fact, many ancient Maya customs still influence modern life there.

Hundreds of years later, in the early 1500s, most of Central America came under European control. Spain claimed most of the region. Britain claimed what is now Belize and also occupied part of Nicaragua’s coast. The Spanish established large plantations in their colonies to grow crops like tobacco and sugarcane. They made Central American Indians work on the plantations or in gold mines elsewhere in the Americas. In addition, Europeans brought many enslaved Africans to the region to work on plantations and in mines.
Central America Since Independence

The Spanish colonies of Central America declared independence from Spain in 1821, but much of the region remained joined together as the United Provinces of Central America. The countries of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala separated from each other in 1838 to 1839. Panama remained part of Colombia until 1903. Belize did not gain independence from Britain until 1981.

For most countries in Central America, independence brought little change. The Spanish officials left, but wealthy landowners continued to run the countries and their economies. The plantation crops of bananas and coffee supported Central American economies.

In the early to mid-1900s, one landowner in particular, the U.S.-based United Fruit Company, controlled most of the banana production in Central America. To help its business, the company developed railroads and port facilities. This kind of development helped transportation and communications in the region.

Many people resented the role of foreign companies, however. They thought it was wrong that only a few people should own so much land while many people struggled to make a living. In the mid- to late 1900s, demands for reforms led to armed struggles in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Only in recent years have these countries achieved peace.

**READING CHECK** Evaluating How did Spain influence the region’s history?
Culture

Central America’s colonial history has influenced its culture. The region’s people, languages, religion, and festivals reflect both Spanish and native practices.

People and Languages

Most of the people in Central America are mestizos, or people of mixed European and Indian ancestry. Various Indian peoples descended from the ancient Maya live in places such as the Guatemalan Highlands. People of African ancestry also make up a significant minority in this region. They live mostly along the Caribbean coast.

In some countries in Central America, many people still speak the native Indian languages. In places that were colonized by England, English is spoken. For example, it is the official language of Belize. In most countries, however, Spanish is the official language. The Spanish colonization of Central America left this lasting mark on the region.

Close-up

A Market in Guatemala

Villages in Guatemala and all over Central America hold weekly markets. On market day, people come from all around to buy and sell food and other items. The market is also an important gathering spot for the community. Scenes like this one are typical in the region.

The Catholic church is a major influence in most towns.

Patterns on women’s clothing are unique to the village where the woman lives.
Religion, Festivals, and Food

Many Central Americans practice a religion brought to the region by Europeans. Most people are Roman Catholic because Spanish missionaries taught the Indians about Catholicism. However, Indian traditions have influenced Catholicism in return. Also, Protestant Christians are becoming a large minority in places such as Belize.

Religion has influenced celebrations in towns throughout the region. For example, to celebrate special saints’ feast days, some people carry images of the saint in parades through the streets. Easter is a particularly important holiday. Some towns decorate whole streets with designs made of flowers and colorful sawdust.

During festivals, people eat traditional foods. Central America shares some of its traditional foods, like corn, with Mexico. The region is also known for tomatoes, hot peppers, and cacao (kuh-kow), which is the source of chocolate.

**READING CHECK**

Contrasting How is Belize culturally different from the rest of the region?
Central America Today
The countries of Central America share similar histories and cultures. However, they all face their own economic and political challenges today. In 2005 Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua signed the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) with the United States to help increase trade among the countries.

Guatemala
Guatemala is the most populous country in Central America. More than 13 million people live there. About 60 percent of Guatemalans are mestizo and European. About 40 percent are Central American Indians. Many speak Maya languages.

Most people in Guatemala live in small villages in the highlands. Fighting between rebels and government forces there killed some 200,000 people between 1960 and 1996. Guatemalans are still recovering from this conflict.

Coffee, which grows well in the cool highlands, is Guatemala’s most important crop. The country also is a major producer of cardamom, a spice used in Asian foods.

Belize
Belize has the smallest population in Central America. The country does not have much land for agriculture, either. But ecotourism—the practice of using an area’s natural environment to attract tourists—has become popular lately. Tourists come to see the country’s coral reefs, Maya ruins, and coastal resorts.

Honduras
Honduras is a mountainous country. Most people live in mountain valleys and along the northern coast. The rugged land makes transportation difficult and provides little land where crops can grow. However, citrus fruits and bananas are important exports.

El Salvador
In El Salvador, a few rich families own much of the best land while most people live in poverty. These conditions were a reason behind a long civil war in the 1980s. A civil war is a conflict between two or more groups within a country. The war killed many people and hurt the economy.

El Salvador’s people have been working to rebuild their country since the end of the war in 1992. One advantage they have in this rebuilding effort is the country’s fertile soil. People are able to grow and export crops such as coffee and sugarcane.

Nicaragua
Nicaragua has also been rebuilding since the end of a civil war. In 1979, a group called the Sandinistas overthrew a dictator.
Many Nicaraguans supported the Sandinistas, but rebel forces aided by the United States fought the Sandinistas for power. The civil war ended in 1990 when elections ended the rule of the Sandinistas. Nicaragua is now a democracy.

**Costa Rica**

Unlike most other Central American countries, Costa Rica has a history of peace. It also has a stable, democratic government. The country does not even have an army. Peace has helped Costa Rica make progress in reducing poverty.

Agricultural products like coffee and bananas are important to Costa Rica’s economy. Also, many tourists visit Costa Rica’s rich tropical rain forests.

**Panama**

Panama is the narrowest, southernmost country of Central America. Most people live in areas near the Panama Canal. Canal fees and local industries make the canal area the country’s most prosperous region.

The Panama Canal provides a link between the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean. The United States finished building the canal in 1914. For years the Panama canal played an important role in the economy and politics of the region. The United States controlled the canal until 1999. Then, as agreed to in a treaty, Panama finally gained full control of the canal.

**Reading Check**

Drawing Inferences Why do you think Panama might want control of the canal?

**Summary and Preview**

Native peoples, European colonizers, and the United States have influenced Central America’s history and culture. Today most countries are developing stable governments. Their economies rely on tourism and agriculture. In the next section you will learn about the main influences on the Caribbean islands and life there today.

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**Section 2 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. **a. Recall** What parts of Central America did the British claim?
   **b. Analyze** How did independence affect most Central American countries?
   **c. Elaborate** What benefits and drawbacks might there be to the United Fruit Company’s owning so much land?

2. **a. Identify** What language do most people in Central America speak?
   **b. Explain** How have native cultures influenced cultural practices in the region today?

3. **a. Define** What is a civil war, and where in Central America has a civil war been fought?
   **b. Explain** Why might some people practice ecotourism?
   **c. Elaborate** Why is the Panama Canal important to Panama? Why is it important to other countries?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Summarizing** Copy the graphic organizer below. Using your notes, write at least one important fact about each Central American country today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Guatemala</th>
<th>Belize</th>
<th>Honduras</th>
<th>El Salvador</th>
<th>Nicaragua</th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
<th>Panama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Focus on Writing**

5. **Describing Central America** Note details about the history, culture, and life today of people in Central America. Which details will appeal to people who are thinking of visiting the region?
The Panama Canal links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Built in the early 1900s, workers on the canal faced tropical diseases and the dangers of blasting through solid rock. The result of their efforts was an amazing feat of engineering. Today some 13,000 to 14,000 ships pass through the canal each year.

The Panama Canal shortens a trip from the east coast of the United States to the west coast by about 8,000 miles (12,900 km).
Crossing a Continent
The Panama Canal takes ships from sea level, across a mountain range, and back to sea level.

1. Why was Panama a good location for a canal?
2. Why must ships be raised and lowered in order to get through the canal?

Trains help guide large ships through the canal.

These locks act as doors to different compartments of the canal. Underground pumps raise and lower the water in each compartment like an elevator.

ANALYSIS SKILL
ANALYZING VISUALS

1. Why was Panama a good location for a canal?
2. Why must ships be raised and lowered in order to get through the canal?
You are a young sailor on Christopher Columbus’s second voyage to the New World. The year is 1493. Now that your ship is in the Caribbean Sea, you are sailing from island to island. You have seen volcanoes and waterfalls and fierce natives. Columbus has decided to establish a trading post on one of the islands. You are part of the crew who will stay there.

What do you expect in your new home?

The Caribbean Islands

If YOU lived there...

The history of the Caribbean islands includes European colonization followed by independence.

The culture of the Caribbean islands shows signs of past colonialism and slavery.

Today the Caribbean islands have distinctive governments with economies that depend on agriculture and tourism.

The Big Idea

The Caribbean islands have a rich history and culture influenced by European colonization.

Key Terms and Places

dialect, p. 202
commonwealth, p. 203
refugee, p. 203
Havana, p. 204
cooperative, p. 204

taking notes
Use the graphic organizer online to organize your notes on the Caribbean islands.

History

When Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492, he actually discovered the Caribbean islands. These islands now include 13 independent countries. The countries themselves show the influence of those first European explorers.

Early History

Christopher Columbus first sailed into the Caribbean Sea from Spain in 1492. He thought he had reached the Indies, or the islands near India. Therefore, he called the Caribbean islands the West Indies and the people who lived there Indians.

Spain had little interest in the smaller Caribbean islands, but the English, French, Dutch, and Danish did. In the 1600s and 1700s, these countries established colonies on the islands. They built huge sugarcane plantations that required many workers. Most Caribbean Indians had died from disease, so Europeans brought Africans to work as slaves. Soon Africans and people of African descent outnumbered Europeans on many islands.
Independence

A slave revolt led by Toussaint-L’Ouverture (too-sahn loo-ver-toor) eventually helped Haiti win independence from France in 1804. Along with independence came freedom for the slaves in Haiti. Ideas of independence then spread throughout the Americas.

By the mid-1800s, the Dominican Republic had gained independence. The United States won Cuba from Spain, but Cuba gained independence in 1902. The other Caribbean countries did not gain independence until more than 40 years later, after World War II. At that time, the Europeans transferred political power peacefully to most of the islands.

Many Caribbean islands still are not independent countries. For example, the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe are still French possessions. Each has its own elected government and is also represented in the French government. Most people on these islands seem not to wish for independence from their ruling countries.

**Biography**

**Toussaint-L’Ouverture**
(c. 1743–1803)

Toussaint-L’Ouverture was born a slave. A few years after he gained his freedom, a slave revolt broke out in Haiti. Toussaint soon realized the rebels did not have very good leaders, so he went on to form an army of his own. He proved to be an excellent army general. He later became a popular governor of Haiti, gaining the respect of both black and white people on the island.

**Reading Check** Identifying Points of View

Why might an island’s people not be interested in gaining independence?
Culture

Today nearly all Caribbean islands show signs of past colonialism and slavery. These signs can be seen in the region’s culture.

People, Languages, and Religion

Most islanders today are descended either from Europeans or from Africans who came to the region as slaves, or from a mixture of the two. Some Asians also live on the islands. They came to work on plantations after slavery ended in the region.

Languages spoken in the region reflect a colonial heritage. Spanish, English, or French as well as mixtures of European and African languages are spoken on many islands. For example, Haitians speak French Creole. Creole is a dialect, or a regional variety of a language.

The region’s past is also reflected in the religions people practice. Former French and Spanish territories have large numbers of Catholics. People also practice a blend of Catholicism and traditional African religions. One blended religion is Santería.

Festivals and Food

People on the Caribbean islands celebrate a variety of holidays. One of the biggest and most widespread is Carnival. Carnival is a time of feasts and celebration before the Christian season of Lent begins. People usually celebrate Carnival with big parades and fancy costumes. Festivals like Carnival often include great music.

Caribbean food and cooking also reflect the region’s past. For example, slave ships carried foods as well as people to the Caribbean. Now foods from Africa, such as yams and okra, are popular there. Also, in Barbados, people eat a dish called souse, which is made of pigs’ tails, ears, and snouts. This dish was developed among slaves because slaveholders ate the best parts of the pig and gave slaves the leftovers. Another popular flavor on the islands, curry, was brought to the region by people from India who came as plantation workers after slavery ended.

READING CHECK Generalizing How does Caribbean culture reflect African influences?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creole English</td>
<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jamaica, Bahamas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creole French</td>
<td>Haiti, Dominica, Saint Lucia</td>
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<td>Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Facts about Countries

Languages of the Caribbean

Interpreting Charts What language do people speak in Barbados?
The Caribbean Islands Today

Many Caribbean islands share a similar history. Still, each island has its own economy, government, and culture.

Puerto Rico

Once a Spanish colony, Puerto Rico today is a U.S. commonwealth. A commonwealth is a self-governing territory associated with another country. Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, but they do not have voting representation in Congress.

Overall, Puerto Rico’s economy has benefitted from U.S. aid and investment. Still, wages are lower and unemployment is higher on the island than in the United States. Many Puerto Ricans have moved to the United States for better paying jobs. Today, Puerto Ricans debate whether their island should remain a U.S. commonwealth, become an American state, or become an independent nation.

Haiti

Haiti occupies the western part of the island of Hispaniola. Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, is the center of the nation’s limited industry. Most Haitians farm small plots. Coffee and sugarcane are among Haiti’s main exports.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas. Its people have suffered under a string of corrupt governments during the last two centuries. Violence, political unrest, and poverty have created many political refugees. A refugee is someone who flees to another country, usually for political or economic reasons. Many Haitian refugees have come to the United States.

On January, 12, 2010, a catastrophic earthquake struck close to Port-au-Prince. The quake devastated Haiti, leaving about 230,000 Haitians dead, 300,000 injured, and over a million homeless. Today, many Haitians continue working to rebuild their lives and nation.

Caribbean Music

The Caribbean islands have produced many unique styles of music. For example, Jamaica is famous as the birthplace of reggae. Merengue is the national music and dance of the Dominican Republic. Trinidad and Tobago is the home of steel-drum and calypso music.

Here, a band in the Grenadines performs on steel drums. Steel-drum bands can include as few as 4 or as many as 100 musicians. The instruments are actually metal barrels like the kind used for shipping oil. The end of each drum is hammered into a curved shape with multiple grooves and bumps. Hitting different-sized bumps results in different notes.

Drawing Inferences What role might trade have played in the development of steel-drum music?
Dominican Republic
The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern part of Hispaniola. The capital is Santo Domingo. Santo Domingo was the first permanent European settlement in the Western Hemisphere.

The Dominican Republic is not a rich country. However, its economy, health care, education, and housing are more developed than Haiti's. Agriculture is the basis of the economy in the Dominican Republic. The country's tourism industry has also grown in recent years. Beach resorts along the coast are popular with many tourists from Central and South America as well as from the United States.

Cuba
Cuba is the largest and most populous country in the Caribbean. It is located just 92 miles (148 km) south of Florida. Havana, the capital, is the country's largest and most important city.

Cuba has been run by a Communist government since Fidel Castro came to power in 1959. At that time, the government took over banks, large sugarcane plantations, and other businesses. Many of these businesses were owned by U.S. companies. Because of the takeovers, the U.S. government banned trade with Cuba and restricted travel there by U.S. citizens.

Today the government still controls the economy. Most of Cuba's farms are organized as cooperatives or government-owned plantations. A cooperative is an organization owned by its members and operated for their mutual benefit.

Besides controlling the economy, Cuba's government also controls all the newspapers, television, and radio stations. While many Cubans support these policies, others oppose them. Some people who oppose the government have become refugees in the United States. Many Cuban refugees have become U.S. citizens.
Other Islands

The rest of the Caribbean islands are small countries. Jamaica is the largest of the remaining Caribbean countries. The smallest country is Saint Kitts and Nevis. It is not even one-tenth the size of Rhode Island, the smallest U.S. state!

A number of Caribbean islands are not independent countries but territories of other countries. These territories include the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. The Netherlands and France also still have some Caribbean territories.

Some of these islands have enough land to grow some coffee, sugarcane, or spices. However, most islands’ economies are based on tourism. Hundreds of people on the islands work in restaurants and hotels visited by tourists. While tourism has provided jobs and helped economies, not all of its effects have been positive. For example, new construction sometimes harms the same natural environment tourists come to the islands to enjoy.

Reading Check  Contrasting  How are the governments of Puerto Rico and Cuba different?

Summary and Preview  The Caribbean islands were colonized by European countries, which influenced the culture of the islands. Today the islands have different types of governments but similar economies. Next, you will read about countries in South America that are also located near the Caribbean Sea.

Section 3 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places
1. a. Describe  What crop was the basis of the colonial economy on the Caribbean islands?
   b. Make Inferences  Why do you think most smaller Caribbean countries were able to gain independence peacefully?
2. a. Define  What is a dialect?
   b. Explain  In what ways have African influences shaped Caribbean culture?
3. a. Recall  What is a refugee, and from what Caribbean countries have refugees come?
   b. Make Inferences  Why do you think many Cubans support their government’s policies?
   c. Evaluate  What would be the benefits and drawbacks for Puerto Rico if it became a U.S. state?

Critical Thinking
4. Summarizing  Look over your notes. Then use a diagram like this one to note specific influences on the region and where they came from in each circle. You may add more circles if you need to.

Focus on Writing
5. Telling about the Caribbean Islands  These islands have a fascinating history and a rich culture. Take notes about them for your travel guide.
Interpreting a Climate Graph

Learn
A climate graph is a visual representation of the climate in a certain region. The graph shows the average precipitation and average temperature for each month of the year.

Use the following tips to help you interpret a climate graph:
• The months of the year are labeled across the bottom of the graph.
• The measurements for monthly average temperatures are found on the left side of the graph.
• The measurements for monthly average precipitation are found on the right side of the graph.

Practice
Use the climate graph here to answer the following questions.
1 What four months get the highest amount of precipitation?
2 What months get fewer than two inches of precipitation?
3 What is the average temperature in February?

Apply
Using the Internet, an almanac, or a newspaper, look up the monthly average temperatures and precipitation for your hometown. Then make your own climate graph using that information.
Chapter Review

Visual Summary
Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

The region’s landscapes include warm coastal lowlands and cool highland regions with tropical forests.

Native cultures still influence Central America. Today governments and economies there are changing.

The Caribbean islands have a history of colonial rule. Today many countries’ economies there depend on tourism.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places
Choose one word from each word pair to correctly complete each sentence below.

1. A(n) _________ is a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas. (archipelago/isthmus)
2. A __________ is a self-governing territory associated with another country. (commonwealth/cooperative)
3. A __________ is someone who flees to another country, usually for political or economic reasons. (traditional/refugee)
4. The United States controlled the __________ until 1999. (Caribbean Sea/Panama Canal)
5. The large islands of Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico make up the __________. (Greater Antilles/Lesser Antilles)
6. _______________ is found in the mountainous part of Central America. (Cloud forest/Havana)

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 188–191)
7. a. Describe What process has formed many of the Caribbean islands? Describe the effect this process has on the region today.
   b. Compare and Contrast How are summer and winter similar in Central America and the Caribbean? How are the seasons different?
   c. Elaborate What kinds of damage might hurricanes cause? What damage might earthquakes and volcanic eruptions cause?

SECTION 2 (Pages 192–197)
8. a. Identify In what Central American country is English the official language?
   b. Make Inferences Why do you think people of African ancestry live mainly along the coast?
   c. Elaborate How might recent political conflict have affected development in some countries?
SECTION 3 (Pages 200–205)

9. a. Recall What country was the first to gain independence? Who led the revolt that led to independence?

b. Analyze How does tourism impact the smaller islands of the Caribbean?

c. Evaluate What might be some benefits and drawbacks of working for a cooperative?

Social Studies Skills

Interpreting a Climate Graph Use the climate graph below to answer the questions that follow.

![Climate Graph: Nassau, Bahamas](image)

Source: The Weather Channel Interactive, Inc.

10. What two months get the most rainfall?

11. What is the average temperature in December?

Using the Internet

12. Activity: Taking an Ecotour Ecotourism is all about visiting places to appreciate the environment. Through your online textbook, take your own Internet ecotour of Central America and the Caribbean islands. Visit the Web sites to learn more about some of the people and places you have read about in this chapter. Then create a postcard from a place you visited on your trip.

Map Activity

13. Central America and the Caribbean On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

Guatemala   Caribbean Sea
Panama       Puerto Rico
Havana, Cuba Lesser Antilles

FOCUS ON READING AND WRITING

14. Understanding Comparison-Contrast Look back over the section on physical geography. Then write a paragraph comparing and contrasting Central America with the Caribbean islands. Consider their physical features, climates, landscapes, and resources.

15. Creating a Travel Guide Choose one place in this region to be the subject of your travel guide. Then look over your notes for facts about that place to interest your reader. Your guide should begin with a paragraph describing the outstanding physical features of the place. Your second paragraph should identify interesting details about its history and culture. End with a sentence that might encourage your readers to visit. Include two images in your guide to show off the features of the place you have chosen.
DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. Which country is an example of an isthmus?
   A. Guatemala
   B. Bahamas
   C. Panama
   D. Cuba

2. Which European country established the most colonies in the Greater Antilles?
   A. France
   B. Spain
   C. England
   D. Netherlands

3. Which country has a Communist government?
   A. Cuba
   B. Puerto Rico
   C. Dominican Republic
   D. Haiti

4. Which of the following countries has remained at peace since independence?
   A. Guatemala
   B. El Salvador
   C. Nicaragua
   D. Costa Rica

5. Which of the following sentences about the region’s economy is false?
   A. Coffee and bananas are major export crops.
   B. The region has good energy resources.
   C. The region’s climate, land, and history attract many tourists.
   D. Most countries have limited economic development.

6. On the map above, which letter represents the country where English is spoken?
   A. W
   B. X
   C. Y
   D. Z

7. On the map above, which letters represent countries whose people speak either Spanish or a native language?
   A. W and X
   B. X and Y
   C. Y and Z
   D. X and Z

8. Extended Response Using the map above and your knowledge of Central America, write a description of influences on culture in Central America today.
What You Will Learn...

In this chapter you will learn about the physical geography, history, and cultures of Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. These countries make up the region of Caribbean South America.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography ............................... 212
The Big Idea Caribbean South America is a region with diverse physical features, wildlife, climates, and resources.

SECTION 2: Colombia .............................................. 216
The Big Idea Spanish conquest, valuable resources, and civil war have shaped the history, culture, and economy of Colombia.

SECTION 3: Venezuela and the Guianas ............. 220
The Big Idea European settlement, immigration, and natural resources have greatly influenced the culture and economy of Venezuela and the Guianas.

FOCUS ON READING AND WRITING

Identifying Supporting Details  Supporting details are the facts and examples that provide information to support the main ideas of a chapter, section, or paragraph. At the beginning of each section in this book, there is a list of main ideas. As you read this chapter, look for the details that support each section’s main ideas. See the lesson, Identifying Supporting Details, on page R10.

Writing a Letter  You live in a country in Caribbean South America. Your pen pal in the United States has asked you to write a letter telling her about life in your region. As you read this chapter, collect details to include in your letter. Your friend will want to know about your country as well as the whole region.

History  The architecture of Cartagena, Colombia, reflects the city’s Spanish colonial past.
Culture  Cowboys called llaneros work on the plains of Venezuela.

Geography  Dense rain forest covers much of Suriname.
What You Will Learn…

1. Caribbean South America has a wide variety of physical features and wildlife.
2. The region’s location and elevation both affect its climate and vegetation.
3. Caribbean South America is rich in resources, such as farmland, oil, timber, and rivers for hydroelectric power.

Main Ideas

Caribbean South America is a region with diverse physical features, wildlife, climates, and resources.

Key Terms and Places
Andes, p. 212
cordillera, p. 212
Guiana Highlands, p. 213
Llanos, p. 213
Orinoco River, p. 214

If YOU lived there...

You live in Caracas, Venezuela, but this is your first visit to the great Orinoco River. You’ve heard about the fierce creatures that live in the river, so you think your guide is kidding when he says he’s going to catch a piranha. You’re expecting a monster and are surprised when he pulls up a small orange fish. It has many sharp teeth, but it’s only seven inches long!

What other animals might you see in the region?

Building Background

The narrow Isthmus of Panama joins the continent of South America at its northwestern corner, the country of Colombia. Like the countries of Central America, the five countries in Caribbean South America border the Caribbean Sea. They all vary in landscape, climate, and culture and have large rivers and rugged mountains.

Physical Features and Wildlife

If you were traveling through the region of Caribbean South America, you might see the world’s highest waterfall, South America’s largest lake, and even the world’s largest rodent! As you can see on the map, the geography of this region includes rugged mountains, highlands, and plains drained by huge river systems.

Mountains and Highlands

The highest point in the region is in Colombia, a country larger than California and Texas combined. On the western side of Colombia the Andes (AN-deez) reach 18,000 feet (5,490 m). The Andes form a cordillera (kawr-duhl-YER-uh), a mountain system made up of roughly parallel ranges. Some of the Andes’ snowcapped peaks are active volcanoes. Eruptions and earthquakes shake these mountains frequently.
Lying on the Caribbean coast, Venezuela is located in the middle of the other countries in the region. Venezuela’s highest elevation is in the Guiana Highlands, which stretch into Guyana and Suriname. For millions of years, wind and rain have eroded these highlands’ plateaus. However, some of the steep-sided plateaus are capped by sandstone layers that have resisted erosion. These unusual flat-topped formations are sometimes called tepuis (tay-PWEZ). The tepuis create a dramatic landscape as they rise about 3,000 to 6,000 feet (900 to 1,800 m) above the surrounding plains.

**Plains, Rivers, and Wildlife**

As you look at the map above, notice how much the elevation drops between the highlands and the Andes. This region of plains is known as the Llanos (YAH-nohs). The Llanos is mostly grassland with few trees. At a low elevation and not much vegetation, these plains flood easily.
Flowing for about 1,600 miles (2,575 km), the **Orinoco** (OHR-ee-NOH-koh) **River** is the region’s longest river. Snaking its way through Venezuela to the Atlantic Ocean, the Orinoco and its tributaries drain the plains and highlands. Two other important rivers, the Cauca and the Magdalena, drain the Andean region.

Caribbean South America is home to some remarkable wildlife. For example, hundreds of bird species, meat-eating fish called piranhas, and crocodiles live in or around the Orinoco River. Colombia has one of the world’s highest concentrations of plant and animal species. The country’s wildlife includes jaguars, ocelots, and several species of monkeys.

**Reading Check**  
**Summarizing** What are the region’s major physical features?
Climate and Vegetation

Caribbean South America’s location near the equator means that most of the region has warm temperatures year-round. However, temperatures do vary with elevation. For example, in the Andes, as you go up in elevation, the temperature can drop rapidly—about four degrees Fahrenheit every 1,000 feet (305 m).

In contrast, the vast, flat landscape of the Llanos region has a tropical savanna climate. Here, both the wet and dry seasons provide favorable conditions for grasslands to grow.

Rain forests, another type of landscape, thrive in the humid tropical climate of southern Colombia. This area is a part of the Amazon Basin. Here, rain falls throughout the year, watering the forest’s huge trees. These trees form a canopy where the vegetation is so dense that sunlight barely shines through to the jungle floor.

Reading Check  Analyzing What causes the region’s temperatures to vary?

Resources

Good soil and moderate climates help make most of Caribbean South America a rich agricultural region. Major crops include rice, coffee, bananas, and sugarcane.

In addition, the region has other valuable resources, such as oil, iron ore, and coal. Both Venezuela and Colombia have large oil-rich areas. Forests throughout the region provide timber. While the seas provide plentiful fish and shrimp, the region’s major rivers are used to generate hydroelectric power.

Reading Check  Summarizing How do geographic factors affect economic activities in Caribbean South America?

Summary and Preview

In this section you learned that the physical geography of Caribbean South America includes mountains, highlands, plains, and rivers. The region’s location near the equator and its elevation affect the region’s climate. In the next section you will learn about Colombia’s history, people, and economy. You will also learn about the challenges Colombia is facing today, which include a civil war.

Section 1 Assessment  

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Recall Where are the Andes located?
   b. Explain How are the rock formations called tepuis unusual?
   c. Elaborate Why do the Llanos in Colombia and Venezuela flood easily?
2. a. Describe In the Andes, how does the temperature change with elevation?
   b. Make Inferences How does the region’s location near the equator affect its climate?
3. a. Identify What is a major resource in both Venezuela and Colombia?
   b. Explain Which resource provides hydroelectric power?

Critical Thinking

4. Categorizing Use your notes to identify four types of physical features in the region. Write each type in one of the small circles of the diagram.

Focus on Writing

5. Describing Physical Geography Take notes about the physical features, wildlife, climate, vegetation, and resources of the region. After you decide which country you are living in, collect more details about it.
If YOU lived there...

You live in the beautiful colonial city of Cartagena, on the coast of the Caribbean. Your family runs a small restaurant there. You’re used to the city’s wide beaches and old colonial buildings with wooden balconies that overhang the street. Now you are on your way to visit your cousins. They live on a cattle ranch on the inland plains region called the Llanos.

How do you think life on the ranch is different from yours?

BUILDING BACKGROUND  Like most of the countries of Central and South America, Colombia was once a colony of Spain. Colombians gained their independence from Spain in 1819. The new country was then named after the explorer Christopher Columbus.

Colombia’s History

Giant mounds of earth, mysterious statues, and tombs—these are the marks of the people who lived in Colombia more than 1,500 years ago. Colombia’s history begins with these people. It also includes conquest by Spain and, later, independence.

The Chibcha

Have you heard of the legend of El Dorado (el duh-RAH-doh), or the Golden One? That legend about

This gold Chibcha artifact represents the ceremonial raft used by their king.
a land rich in gold was inspired by the Chibcha culture in Colombia. The Chibcha covered their new rulers in gold dust. Then they took each ruler to a lake to wash the gold off. As the new ruler washed, the Chibcha threw gold and emerald objects into the water. A well-developed civilization, they practiced pottery making, weaving, and metalworking. Their gold objects were among the finest in ancient America.

**Spanish Conquest**

In about 1500 Spanish explorers arrived on the Caribbean coast of South America. The Spaniards wanted to expand Spain’s new empire. In doing so, the Spanish conquered the Chibcha and seized much of their treasure. Soon after claiming land for themselves, the Spaniards founded a colony and cities along the Caribbean coast.

One colonial city, Cartagena, was a major naval base and commercial port in the Spanish empire. By the 1600s Spaniards and their descendants had set up large estates in Colombia. Spanish estate owners forced South American Indians and enslaved Africans to work the land.

**Independence**

In the late 1700s people in Central and South America began struggling for independence from Spain. After independence was achieved, the republic of Gran Colombia was created. It included Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela. In 1830 the republic dissolved, and New Granada, which included Colombia and Panama, was created.

After independence, two different groups of Colombians debated over how Colombia should be run. One group wanted the Roman Catholic Church to participate in government and education. On the other hand, another group did not want the church involved in their lives.

Outbreaks of violence throughout the 1800s and 1900s killed thousands. Part of the problem had to do with the country’s rugged geography, which isolated people in one region from those in another region. As a result, they developed separate economies and identities. Uniting these different groups into one country was hard.

**Connecting to History**

**Cartagena’s Spanish Fort**

Imagine you are a Spanish colonist living in Cartagena, Colombia, in the 1600s. Your city lies on the Caribbean coast and has been attacked by English pirates several times. They have stolen tons of silver and gold that were waiting shipment to Spain. How do you protect your city from these pirates? Build an enormous fort, of course! You make sure to design the fort’s walls to deflect the cannonballs that the pirates shoot from their ships. Today this fort still stands on a peninsula outside Cartagena. A statue commemorates one of the heroes that defended the city from attack.

**Drawing Conclusions** Why did the Spanish want to defend Cartagena from the pirates?
Colombia Today

Colombia is Caribbean South America’s most populous country. The national capital is Bogotá, a city located high in the eastern Andes. Although Colombia is rich in culture and resources, more than 40 years of civil war have been destructive to the country’s economy.

People and Culture

Most Colombians live in the fertile valleys and river basins among the mountain ranges, where the climate is moderate and good for farming. Rivers, such as the Cauca and the Magdalena, flow down from the Andes to the Caribbean Sea. These rivers provide water and help connect settlements located between the mountains and the coast. Other Colombians live on cattle ranches scattered throughout the Llanos. Few people live in the tropical rainforest regions in the south.

Because the physical geography of Colombia isolates some regions of the country, the people of Colombia are often known by the region where they live. For example, those who live along the Caribbean coast are known for songs and dances influenced by African traditions.

Colombian culture is an interesting mix of influences:

- Music: traditional African songs and dances on the Caribbean coast and South American Indian music in remote areas of the Andes
- Sports: soccer, as well as a traditional Chibcha ring-toss game called tejo
- Religion: primarily Roman Catholicism
- Official language: Spanish
- Ethnic groups: 58 percent mestizo; also Spanish, African, and Indian descent

Economy

Colombia’s economy relies on several valuable resources. Rich soil, steep slopes, and tall shade trees produce world-famous Colombian coffee. Other major export crops include bananas, sugarcane, and cotton. Many farms in Colombia produce flowers that are exported around the world. In fact, 80 percent of the country’s flowers are shipped to the United States.

Colombia’s economy depends on the country’s valuable natural resources. Recently oil has become Colombia’s major export. Other natural resources include iron ore, gold, and coal. Most of the world’s emeralds also come from Colombia.
Civil War

Civil war is a major problem in Colombia today. Many different groups have waged war with each other and with Colombia’s government. For more than 40 years, these heavily armed militant groups have controlled large areas of the country.

One of these groups is an army of guerrillas, or members of an irregular military force. These guerrillas want to overthrow the government. The guerrillas, as well as other militant groups, have forced farmers off their land and caused thousands of Colombians to flee the country. All of these groups are also involved in growing crops of the illegal coca plant. This plant is used to make cocaine, a dangerous drug.

Because of the instability caused by civil war, the future of Colombia is uncertain. However, the Colombian government has passed new laws that make it harder for the guerrillas and other militant groups to operate freely. In addition, the United States provides assistance to Colombia’s government. Colombia is one of the top recipients of U.S. foreign aid.

Reading Check Drawing Conclusions
How do you think civil war affects daily life in Colombia?

Summary and Preview
Colombia’s history includes the Chibcha, Spanish conquest, and independence. Today, Colombia’s people are dealing with a long civil war. Next, you will learn about Colombia’s neighbor, Venezuela.

Section 2 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places
1. a. Recall Who were the Chibcha?
   b. Draw Conclusions Why did Spain want land in Colombia?
2. a. Describe What factors make Colombia ideal for growing coffee?
   b. Interpret In what part of the country do most Colombians live?
   c. Predict How might Colombia solve the problem of guerrillas trying to control the country?

Critical Thinking
3. Analyzing Using your notes, write a sentence about the topic of each box in a diagram like this one.

Focus on Writing
4. Writing about Colombia What information about the history, culture, and daily life of Colombia might your pen pal like to learn? Add these details to your notes.
You’ve come from your home in eastern Venezuela to visit the nearby country of Suriname. Your visit is full of surprises. As you walk along the streets of the country’s capital, Paramaribo, people are not speaking Spanish, but Dutch, English, and some languages you don’t even recognize. You see Hindu temples and Muslim mosques alongside Christian churches.

**Why is Suriname so different from Venezuela?**

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** Venezuela, like Colombia, was once a Spanish colony, but the Guianas were colonized by other nations—Great Britain, the Netherlands, and France. When these countries gained independence, British Guiana became Guyana and Dutch Guiana became Suriname.

**History and Culture of Venezuela**

Venezuela was originally the home of many small tribes of South American Indians. Those groups were conquered by the Spanish in the early 1500s. Though Venezuela became independent from Spain in the early 1800s, those three centuries of Spanish rule shaped the country’s history and culture.

**Spanish Settlement and Colonial Rule**

The Spanish came to Venezuela hoping to find gold and pearls. They forced the native Indians to search for these treasures, but they finally realized there was little gold to be found. Then the Spanish turned to agriculture, once again forcing the Indians to do the work. They grew indigo (IN-di-goh), a plant used to make a deep blue dye. Because the work was very hard, many of the Indians died. Then the Spanish began bringing enslaved Africans to take the Indians’ places. Eventually, some of the slaves escaped, settling in remote areas of the country.
Independence and Self-Rule

Partly because the colony was so poor, some people in Venezuela revolted against Spain. Simon Bolivar helped lead the fight against Spanish rule. Bolivar is considered a hero in many South American countries because he led wars of independence throughout the region. Bolivar helped win Venezuelan independence from Spain by 1821. However, Venezuela did not officially become independent until 1830.

Throughout the 1800s Venezuelans suffered from dictatorships and civil wars. Venezuela’s military leaders ran the country. After oil was discovered in the early 1900s, some leaders kept the country’s oil money for themselves. As a result, the people of Venezuela did not benefit from their country’s oil wealth.

People and Culture

The people of Venezuela are descended from native Indians, Europeans, and Africans. The majority of Venezuelans are of mixed Indian and European descent. Indians make up only about 2 percent of the population. People of European descent tend to live in the large cities. People of African descent tend to live along the coast. Most Venezuelans are Spanish-speaking Roman Catholics, but the country’s Indians speak 25 different languages and follow the religious practices of their ancestors.

Venezuelan culture includes dancing and sports. Venezuela’s national dance, the joropo, is a lively foot-stomping couples’ dance. Large crowds of Venezuelans attend rodeo events. Baseball and soccer are also popular throughout Venezuela.

**READING CHECK**  
**Summarizing** How did the Spanish contribute to Venezuela’s history?
FOCUS ON READING
In the paragraphs under Venezuela Today, what details support the main idea that oil production plays a large role in Venezuela’s economy and government?

Venezuela Today
Many Venezuelans make a living by farming and ranching. However, most wealthy Venezuelans have made money in the country’s oil industry. In addition, Venezuela’s government has also benefited from oil wealth.

Agriculture and Ranching
Rural areas of Venezuela are dotted by farms and ranches. Northern Venezuela has some small family farms as well as large commercial farms. Llaneros (yah-NAY-rohs)—or Venezuelan cowboys—herd cattle on the many ranches of the Llanos region. However, some small communities of Indians practice traditional agriculture.

Economy and Natural Resources
In the 1960s Venezuela began earning huge sums of money from oil production. This wealth allowed part of the population to buy luxuries. However, the vast majority of the population still lived in poverty. Many of Venezuela’s poor people moved to the cities to try to find work. Some settled on the outskirts in communities of shacks. They had no running water, sewers, or electricity.

Venezuela’s wealth attracted many immigrants from Europe and other South American countries. These immigrants, like most other Venezuelans, suffered in the 1980s when the price of oil dropped sharply. Without the money provided by high oil prices, the economy couldn’t support the people. Oil prices recovered in the 1990s, and the Venezuelan economy continues to be based on oil production.

As you can see on the map on the next page, the Orinoco River basin and Lake Maracaibo (mah-rah-KY-boh) are rich in oil. Venezuela is the only South American member of the Organization of Petroleum

The Feast of Corpus Christi
One day each summer, men dressed as devils dance in the streets of the Venezuelan town of San Francisco de Yare. On this day, people here honor the Roman Catholic feast day of Corpus Christi. Spanish settlers brought the tradition of dressing up as devils to Venezuela. This tradition includes the making of elaborate, colorful masks that the dancers wear. These masks usually resemble pigs or jaguars. Dancing through the town’s streets to the beat of drums, the dancers shake musical instruments called maracas. They believe their dancing, music, and scary masks will keep evil away from their town.

Culturizing How do some Venezuelans celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi?
Exporting Countries (OPEC). The member countries in this organization attempt to control world oil production and keep oil prices from falling too low.

The Guiana Highlands in the southeast are rich in other minerals, such as iron ore for making steel. Gold is also mined in remote areas of the highlands. Dams on tributaries of the Orinoco River produce hydroelectricity.

Caracas (kah-RAH-kahs) is Venezuela’s capital and the economic and cultural center of the country. It is a large city with a modern subway system, busy expressways, and tall office buildings. Still, neither Caracas nor Venezuela has escaped poverty.

Caracas is encircled by slums, and many Venezuelans living in the rural areas of the country are also poor.

**Government**

After years of suffering under military dictatorships, the people of Venezuela elected their first president in 1959. Since then, Venezuela’s government has dealt with economic turmoil and political protests.

In 2002 Venezuela’s president, Hugo Chavez, started to distribute the country’s oil income equally among all Venezuelans. Before Chavez’s presidency, only a small percentage of wealthy Venezuelans benefited from the country’s oil income.
Millions of Venezuelans went on strike to protest the president’s actions. A **strike** is a group of workers stopping work until their demands are met. The strike lasted for about two months. The protesters wanted Chavez to resign, but he refused. As a result of the strike, Venezuela’s economy suffered and oil exports fell dramatically.

Many Venezuelans opposed to President Chavez called for a **referendum**, or recall vote. The referendum was defeated. In 2006 about 63 percent of Venezuelans re-elected Chavez president. In his second term, Chavez adopted new **policies** aimed at bringing an end to poverty, illiteracy, and hunger. Chavez has also supported changing his nation’s constitution to end presidential term limits. Many Venezuelans fear that Chavez has grown too powerful and might rule indefinitely.

**Reading Check**  Identifying Cause and Effect  What effect did the workers’ strike have on Venezuela’s economy?

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**The Guianas**

The countries of Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana are together known as the Guianas (gee-AH-nuhz). Dense tropical rain forests cover much of this region, which lies east of Venezuela.

**Guyana**

Guyana (gy-AH-nuh) comes from a South American Indian word that means “land of waters.” About one-third of the country’s population lives in Georgetown, the capital. Nearly all of Guyana’s agricultural lands are located on the flat, fertile plains along the coast. Guyana’s most important agricultural products are rice and sugar.

Guyana’s population is diverse. About half of its people are descended from people who migrated to Guyana from India. These immigrants came to Guyana to work on the country’s sugar plantations. Most Guyanese today farm small plots of land or run small businesses. About one-third of the population is descended from...
former African slaves. These people operate large businesses and hold most of the government positions.

**Suriname**
The resources and economy of Suriname (soohr-uh-NA-HM) are similar to those of Guyana. Like Guyana, Suriname has a diverse population. The country’s population includes South Asians, Africans, Chinese, Indonesians, and Creoles—people of mixed heritage. The capital, Paramaribo (pah-rah-MAH-ree-boh), is home to nearly half of the country’s people.

**French Guiana**
French Guiana (gee-A-nuh) is a territory of France and sends representatives to the government in Paris. French Guiana’s roughly 200,000 people live mostly in coastal areas. About two-thirds of the people are of African descent. Other groups include Europeans, Asians, and South American Indians. The country depends heavily on imports for its food and energy.

**READING CHECK** **Contrasting** How is French Guiana different from the rest of the Guianas?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** In this section, you learned that Venezuela’s history was largely shaped by Spanish settlement. Today Venezuela’s economy is based on oil. You also learned that to the east, the Guianas are home to a diverse population. In the next chapter, you will learn about the history and people of Atlantic South America.

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**Section 3 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Recall** What did Spanish settlers hope to find in Venezuela?
b. **Explain** Who led Venezuela’s revolt against Spain?
2. a. **Describe** What does the landscape of Caracas include?
b. **Explain** How is oil important to Venezuela’s economy?
c. **Elaborate** Why did some Venezuelans go on strike?
3. a. **Describe** What are Guyana’s agricultural lands and products like?
b. **Contrast** How is population of the Guianas different from that of Colombia and Venezuela?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Identifying Cause and Effect** Using your notes on Venezuela’s natural resources and this diagram, list the effects of oil production on Venezuela’s people, economy, and government.

**FOCUS ON WRITING**

5. **Writing about Venezuela and the Guianas** Collect details about Venezuela and the Guianas for your letter. What is interesting about these cultures?
Using Latitude and Longitude

Learn
The pattern of imaginary lines that circle the globe in east-west and north-south directions is called a grid. Geographers measure the distances between the lines of the grid in degrees.

Look at the diagram to the right. As you can see, lines that run east to west are lines of latitude. These lines measure distance north and south of the equator. Lines that run north to south are lines of longitude. These lines measure distance east and west of the prime meridian.

Practice
Look at the world map to the right. Use these guidelines to read latitude and longitude.

1. Pick a city on the map.
2. To find the latitude of the city you picked, first look at the equator. From there, look at the city’s location. Then find the closest line of latitude to see how many degrees the city is north or south of the equator.
3. To find the longitude of the city, first look at the prime meridian. Then find the closest line of longitude to see how many degrees the city is east or west of the prime meridian.

Apply
Using an atlas, find a map of the United States and a map of the world. On the map of the United States, find the line of latitude that is located near your hometown. Then look at a world map and follow this line of latitude across the world. Which countries share the same latitude as your hometown?
**Chapter Review**

**Visual Summary**

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

Caribbean South America’s physical features include rivers, plains, mountains, and the world’s highest waterfall. A country rich in history and culture, Colombia is enduring a civil war today. Venezuela is an oil-rich nation that has a population of mostly mixed Indian and European descent.

**Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places**

For each statement below, write T if it is true and F if it is false.

1. The Andes is a river system.
2. The Orinoco River flows 1,300 miles (2,100 km) through Venezuela.
3. Caribbean South America’s location near the equator means that the region is very cold.
4. The Chibcha were the first people to settle Colombia.
5. Colombian culture includes traditional African songs and dances.
6. Most Venezuelans are of mixed Indian and European descent.
7. Venezuela gained its independence from France.
8. Venezuela’s economy depends on oil production.

**Comprehension and Critical Thinking**

**SECTION 1** (Pages 212–215)

9. a. **Recall** What is the region’s longest river?

   b. **Analyze** How does the temperature vary in the Andes?

   c. **Evaluate** Why do you think it would be hard to live in the rain forest of Colombia?

**SECTION 2** (Pages 216–219)

10. a. **Describe** How did the Chibcha treat their ruler?

    b. **Draw Conclusions** What created a problem for all Colombians after independence?

    c. **Elaborate** Why do most Colombians live in fertile valleys and river basins?

**SECTION 3** (Pages 220–225)

11. a. **Define** What is a strike?
SECTION 3 (continued)

b. Draw Conclusions Why did people from India immigrate to Guyana?

c. Predict Do you think Venezuela’s government will continue to use oil wealth to help the country’s people? Explain your answer.

Using the Internet

12. Activity: Writing a Journal Entry Ride with the llaneros! Pack your bags and prepare for a trek through the South American countryside. Explore the vast grasslands, visit villages, and learn about the life and work of the cowboys, or llaneros, of the Venezuelan plains. Through your online textbook, research and take notes that will help you describe your adventure. Use the interactive template to write your journal entry. Describe what you have learned about the people and places you visited.

Social Studies Skills

13. Using Latitude and Longitude Look at the physical map in Section 1. Find the lines of latitude and longitude. What line of latitude, shown on the map, runs through both Venezuela and Colombia? Which country in Caribbean South America is partly located on the equator?

Map Activity

14. Caribbean South America On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

Llanos Andes
Guiana Highlands Orinoco River
Lake Maracaibo

FOCUS ON READING AND WRITING

15. Identifying Supporting Details Look back over Section 2 on Colombia. Then make a list of details you find to support the section’s main ideas. Make sure you include details about the Spanish conquest, independence, culture, resources, and civil war.

16. Writing a Letter By now you have information about the region and the country you have chosen to live in. Begin your letter to your pen pal by describing the most interesting physical and cultural features of the whole region. Then write a second paragraph telling your pen pal about the special physical and cultural features of the country you’ve chosen to live in. Try to keep your pen pal interested in reading by including fascinating details and descriptions.
**Volcanoes of Colombia**

Based on the map above, active volcanoes are located in Colombia’s

- A. rivers.
- B. mountains.
- C. plains.
- D. coastal areas.

The physical geography of the Guianas includes

- A. dense rain forests.
- B. deserts.
- C. the Orinoco River.
- D. the Andes.

**Extended Response** Look at the table of the world’s oil exporters and the map of Venezuela’s major resources in Section 3. Write a paragraph explaining why oil is Venezuela’s most important resource. Identify at least two reasons.
What You Will Learn... In this chapter you will learn about the plains and rain forest of Atlantic South America. You will also study the histories of the different countries and how different influences have shaped their cultures. In addition, you will learn about life, landscapes, and issues in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay today.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography .......................... 232
The Big Idea The physical geography of Atlantic South America includes large river systems, plains and plateaus, and the Amazon rain forest.

SECTION 2: Brazil ............................................. 236
The Big Idea The influence of Brazil’s history can be seen today all over the country in its people and culture.

SECTION 3: Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay ... 242
The Big Idea Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay have been influenced by European immigration, a tradition of ranching, and large urban populations.

Focus on Reading and Writing

Using Context Clues As you read, you may find some unknown words. You can usually figure out what a word means by using context clues. Look at the words and sentences around the unknown word—its context—to figure out the definition. See the lesson, Using Context Clues, on page R11.

Creating a Web Site You are a Web designer at a travel agency. Read this chapter and then use what you learn to create a Web site about Atlantic South America. The goal of your Web site will be to convince viewers to visit the region.

Essential Question How have the nations of Atlantic South America addressed economic and environmental challenges?

Geography Skills

Place Brazil and Argentina are South America’s largest countries.
1. Identify What city lies on the Amazon River?
2. Analyze What would be some benefits of the location of Buenos Aires?

Culture During Carnival, Brazilians celebrate with music, dancing, and costumes.
**Geography** The Amazon Basin covers a huge forested region in northern Brazil.

**History** Colonial buildings, such as the Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires, reflect the region’s colonial heritage.
What You Will Learn…

Main Ideas
1. Physical features of Atlantic South America include large rivers, plateaus, and plains.
2. Climate and vegetation in the region range from cool, dry plains to warm, humid forests.
3. The rain forest is a major source of natural resources.

The Big Idea
The physical geography of Atlantic South America includes large river systems, plains and plateaus, and the Amazon rain forest.

Key Terms and Places
Amazon River, p. 232
Rio de la Plata, p. 233
estuary, p. 233
Pampas, p. 233
deforestation, p. 235
soil exhaustion, p. 235

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the physical geography of Atlantic South America.

Building Background
While rugged mountains and highlands dominate the landscape of Caribbean South America, much of the Atlantic region is made up of broad interior plains. Landscapes in this region range from tropical rain forest to temperate, grassy plains.

Physical Features
The region of Atlantic South America includes four countries: Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. This large region covers about two-thirds of South America. Brazil alone occupies nearly half of the continent. Most of the physical features found in South America are found in these four countries.

Major River Systems
The world’s largest river system, the Amazon, flows eastward across northern Brazil. The Amazon River is about 4,000 miles (6,440 km) long. It extends from the Andes Mountains in Peru to the Atlantic Ocean. Hundreds of tributaries flow into it, draining an area that includes parts of most South American countries.

Because of its huge drainage area, the Amazon carries more water than any other river in the world. About 20 percent of the water that runs off Earth’s surface flows down the Amazon. Where it meets the Atlantic, this freshwater lowers the salt level of the Atlantic for more than 100 miles (160 km) from shore.
Atlantic South America: Physical

The Paraná (pah-rah-NAH) River drains much of the central part of South America. Water from the Paraná River eventually flows into the Río de la Plata (REE-oh day lah PLAH-tah) and the Atlantic Ocean beyond. The Río de la Plata is an estuary. An estuary is a partially enclosed body of water where freshwater mixes with salty seawater.

**Plains and Plateaus**

As you can see on the map, this region’s landforms mainly consist of plains and plateaus. The Amazon Basin in northern Brazil is a giant, flat floodplain. South of the Amazon Basin are the Brazilian Highlands, a rugged region of old, eroded mountains, and another area of high plains called the Mato Grosso Plateau.

Farther south, a low plains region known as the Gran Chaco (graehn CHAH-koh) stretches across parts of Paraguay and northern Argentina. In central Argentina are the wide, grassy plains of the Pampas. South of the Pampas is Patagonia—a region of dry plains and plateaus. All of these southern plains rise in the west to form the high Andes Mountains.

**Focus on Reading**

Where can you find the definition of Pampas?

**Reading Check**

Summarizing What are the region’s major landforms and rivers?
The Amazon Rain Forest

The Amazon rain forest covers more than one-third of South America. Seen from the air, it looks like a big green carpet. The top level of tree branches is called the canopy. Most action in the forest takes place in the canopy, but plenty of life also exists below.

People have cleared parts of the rain forest for farming, ranching, and logging.

Parts of the forest are flooded for half the year, and trees stand in water up to 40 feet (12 m) deep.

Animals such as monkeys and sloths can spend their entire lives in the canopy.
Climate and Vegetation

Atlantic South America has many climates. Generally, cool climates in southern and highland areas give way to tropical, moist climates in northern and coastal areas.

In southern Argentina Patagonia has a cool, desert climate. North of Patagonia, rich soils and a humid subtropical climate make parts of the Pampas good for farming. Farther north in Argentina, the Gran Chaco has a humid tropical climate. There, summer rains can turn some parts of the plains into marshlands.

North of Argentina, in Brazil, a large part of the central region has a tropical savanna climate with warm grasslands. The northeastern part of the country has a hot, dry climate, while the southeast is cooler and more humid.

In northern Brazil the Amazon Basin’s humid tropical climate supports the world’s largest tropical rain forest. Rain falls almost every day in this region. The Amazon rain forest contains the world’s greatest variety of plant and animal life.

Natural Resources

The Amazon rain forest is one of the region’s greatest natural resources. It provides food, wood, rubber, plants for medicines, and other products. In recent years deforestation, or the clearing of trees, has become an issue in the forest.

The region’s land is also a resource for commercial farming, which is found near coastal areas of Atlantic South America. In some areas, however, planting the same crop every year has caused soil exhaustion, which means the soil is infertile because it has lost nutrients needed by plants.

Atlantic South America also has good mineral and energy resources such as gold, silver, copper, iron, and oil. Dams on some of the region’s large rivers also provide hydroelectric power.

Reading Check  Summarizing  What resources does the rain forest provide?

Summary and Preview

Physical features of Atlantic South America include great river systems and plains. The Amazon rain forest makes up a huge part of the region. Next you will learn about Brazil, the country of the Amazon.

Section 1 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Define  What is an estuary?
   b. Explain  How does the Amazon River affect the Atlantic Ocean at the river’s mouth?
   c. Elaborate  What benefits do you think the rivers might bring to Atlantic South America?

2. a. Recall  What kind of climate does Patagonia have?
   b. Make Inferences  Why are temperatures in the south generally cooler than temperatures in the north?

3. a. Identify  What resources does the rain forest provide?
   b. Analyze  What is one benefit and one drawback of practicing commercial agriculture in the rain forest?
   c. Elaborate  Soil exhaustion might lead to what kinds of additional problems?

Critical Thinking

4. Categorizing  Look back over your notes. Then use a table like this one to organize the physical geography of Atlantic South America by country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus on Writing

5. Describing Physical Geography  Jot down notes about the physical features, climate and vegetation, landscapes, and resources of this area. Identify one or two images you could use for your Web site.
If YOU lived there...

You live in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil’s second-largest city. For months your friends have been preparing for Carnival, the year’s biggest holiday. During Carnival, people perform in glittery costumes and there is dancing all day and all night in the streets. The city is packed with tourists. It can be fun, but it is hectic! Your family is thinking of leaving Rio during Carnival so they can get some peace and quiet, but you may stay in Rio with a friend if you like.

Would you stay for Carnival? Why or why not?

BUILDING BACKGROUND  Carnival is a tradition that is not unique to Brazil, but it has come to symbolize certain parts of Brazilian culture. Brazilian culture differs from cultures in the rest of South America in many ways. Brazil’s unique history in the region is responsible for most of the cultural differences.

History

Brazil is the largest country in South America. Its population of more than 188 million is larger than the population of all of the other South American countries combined. Most Brazilians are descended from three groups of people who contributed in different ways throughout Brazil’s history.

Colonial Brazil

The first people in Brazil were American Indians. They arrived in the region many thousands of years ago and developed a way of life based on hunting, fishing, and small-scale farming.

In 1500 Portuguese explorers became the first Europeans to find Brazil. Soon Portuguese settlers began to move there. Good climates and soils, particularly in the northeast, made Brazil a large sugar-growing colony. Colonists brought a third group of people—Africans—to work as slaves on the plantations. Sugar plantations made Portugal rich, but they also eventually replaced forests along the Atlantic coast.
Other parts of Brazil also contributed to the colonial economy. Inland, many Portuguese settlers created cattle ranches. In the late 1600s and early 1700s, people discovered gold and precious gems in the southeast. A mining boom drew people to Brazil from around the world. Finally, in the late 1800s southeastern Brazil became a major coffee-producing region.

**Brazil Since Independence**

Brazil gained independence from Portugal without a fight in 1822. However, independence did not change Brazil’s economy much. For example, Brazil was the last country in the Americas to end slavery.

Since the end of Portuguese rule, Brazil has been governed at times by dictators and at other times by elected officials. Today the country has an elected president and legislature. Brazilians can participate in politics through voting.

**People and Culture**

The people who came to Brazil over the years brought their own traditions. These traditions blended to create a unique Brazilian culture.

**People**

More than half of Brazilians consider themselves of European descent. These people include descendants of original Portuguese settlers along with descendants of more recent immigrants from Spain, Germany, Italy, and Poland. Nearly 40 percent of Brazil’s people are of mixed African and European descent. Brazil also has the largest Japanese population outside of Japan.

Because of its colonial heritage, Brazil’s official language is Portuguese. In fact, since Brazil’s population is so huge, there are more Portuguese-speakers in South America than there are Spanish-speakers, even though Spanish is spoken in almost every other country on the continent. Other Brazilians speak Spanish, English, French, Japanese, or native languages.

**Focus on Reading**

What context clues in this paragraph help you understand the meaning of descent?

**Focus on Culture**

**Soccer in Brazil**

To Brazilians, soccer is more than a game. It is part of being Brazilian. Professional stars are national heroes. The national team often plays in Rio de Janeiro, home of the world’s largest soccer stadium. Some fans beat drums all through the games. But it is not just professional soccer that is popular. People all over Brazil play soccer—in cleared fields, on the beach, or in the street. Here, boys in Rio practice their skills.

**Analyzing**

Why do you think soccer is so popular in Brazil?
Religion
Brazil has the largest population of Roman Catholics of any country in the world. About 75 percent of Brazilians are Catholic. In recent years Protestantism has grown in popularity, particularly among the urban poor. Some Brazilians practice macumba (mah-KOOM-bah), a religion that combines beliefs and practices of African and Indian religions with Christianity.

Festivals and Food
Other aspects of Brazilian life also reflect the country’s mix of cultures. For example, Brazilians celebrate Carnival before the Christian season of Lent. The celebration mixes traditions from Africa, Brazil, and Europe. During Carnival, Brazilians dance the samba, which was adapted from an African dance.

Immigrant influences can also be found in Brazilian foods. In parts of the country, an African seafood dish called vatapá (vah-tah-PAH) is popular. Many Brazilians also enjoy eating feijoada (fay-ZHWAH-dah), a stew of black beans and meat.

Brazil Today
Brazil’s large size creates opportunities and challenges for the country. For example, Brazil has the largest economy in South America and has modern and wealthy areas. However, many Brazilians are poor.

While some of the same issues and characteristics can be found throughout Brazil, other characteristics are unique to a particular region of the country. We can divide Brazil into four regions based on their people, economies, and landscapes.

The Southeast
Most people in Brazil live in the southeast. São Paulo is located there. Almost 19 million people live in and around São Paulo. It is the largest urban area in South America and the fourth largest in the world. São Paulo is considered a megacity, or a giant urban area that includes surrounding cities and suburbs.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil’s second-largest city, lies northeast of São Paulo. Almost 12 million people live there. The city was the capital of Brazil from 1822 until 1960. Today Rio de Janeiro remains a major port city. Its spectacular setting and exciting culture are popular with tourists.
In addition to having the largest cities, the southeast is also Brazil’s richest region. It is rich in natural resources and has most of the country’s industries and productive farmland. It is one of the major coffee-growing regions of the world.

Although the southeast has a strong economy, it also has poverty. Cities in the region have huge slums called favelas (fah-ve-lahz). Many people who live in favelas have come to cities of the southeast from other regions of Brazil in search of jobs.

The Northeast

Immigrants to Brazil’s large cities often come from the northeast, which is Brazil’s poorest region. Many people there cannot read, and health care is poor. The region often suffers from droughts, which make farming and raising livestock difficult. The northeast has also had difficulty attracting industry. However, the region’s beautiful beaches do attract tourists.

Other tourist attractions in northeastern Brazil are the region’s many old colonial cities. These cities were built during the days of the sugar industry. They have brightly painted buildings, cobblestone streets, and elaborate Catholic churches.

The Interior

The interior of Brazil is a frontier land. Its abundant land and mild climate could someday make it an important area for agriculture. For now, few people live in this region, except for those who reside in the country’s capital, Brasília.

In the mid-1950s government officials hoped that building a new capital city in the Brazilian interior would help develop the region. Brasília has modern buildings and busy highways. More than 2 million people live in Brasília, although it was originally designed for only 500,000.

The Amazon

The Amazon region covers the northern part of Brazil. Manaus, which lies 1,000 miles (1,600 km) from the mouth of the Amazon, is a major port and industrial city. More than 1 million people live there. They rely on the river for transportation and communication.

Isolated Indian villages are scattered throughout the region’s dense rain forest. Some of Brazil’s Indians had little contact with outsiders until recently. Now, logging, mining, and new roads are bringing more people and development to this region.
Deforestation in the Amazon

Deforestation is changing the landscape of the Amazon rain forest. This satellite image shows new roads and cleared areas where people have taken resources from the forest.

Many people depend on the industries that result in deforestation. For example, people need wood for building and making paper. Also, farmers, loggers, and miners need to make a living. However, deforestation in the Amazon also threatens the survival of many plant and animal species. It also threatens hundreds of unique ecosystems.

Making Inferences What do you think might be some effects of building roads in the rain forest?

This new development provides needed income for some people. But it destroys large areas of the rain forest. It also creates tensions among the Brazilian Indians, new settlers, miners, and the government.

Critical Thinking

4. Finding Main Ideas Review your notes on Brazil. Then, write a main idea statement about each region. Use a graphic organizer like this one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Southeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Amazon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Writing about Brazil What information about the history, people, and culture of Brazil will draw readers to the country? What regions do you think they would like to visit? List details and ideas for possible images for your Web site.
Connecting Ideas

Learn
You have already used several types of graphic organizers in this book. Graphic organizers are drawings that help you organize information and connect ideas.

One type of graphic organizer is a word web. A word web like the one at right helps you organize specific facts and details around a main topic. Notice that information gets more detailed as it gets farther away from the main topic.

Practice
Use the word web here to answer the following questions. You may also want to look back at the information on Brazilian culture in your textbook.

1. How can a graphic organizer help you connect ideas?
2. What is the main topic of this word web?
3. What three main ideas does this graphic organizer connect?

Apply
Copy the graphic organizer shown here in your notebook. Use the information on Brazilian culture in your textbook to fill in the blank circles with additional details about the main topic.
What You Will Learn…

You live in Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. On weekends you like to visit the old part of the city and admire its beautiful buildings. You also enjoy walking along the banks of the Río de la Plata and watching fishers bring in their catch. Sometimes you visit the parks and beaches along the banks of the river.

How do you think the river has influenced Montevideo?

BUILDING BACKGROUND

The southern countries of Atlantic South America—Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay—have all been influenced by their locations and European culture. Neither Spanish influence nor Indian culture is as strong in the southern part of South America as in other parts of the continent.

Argentina’s History and Culture

Like most of South America, Argentina was originally home to groups of Indians. Groups living in the Pampas hunted wild game, while farther north Indians built irrigation systems for farming. However, unlike most of South America, Argentina has very few native peoples remaining. Instead, Argentina’s culture has been mostly influenced by Europeans.

Early History

The first Europeans to come to Argentina were the Spanish. In the 1500s Spanish conquerors spread from the northern part of the continent into southern South America in search of silver and gold. They named the region Argentina. *Argentina* means “land of silver” or “silvery one.”
The Spanish soon built settlements in Argentina. The Spanish monarch granted land to the colonists, who in turn built the settlements. These landowners were also given the right to force the Indians living there to work.

During the colonial era, the Pampas became an important agricultural region. Argentine cowboys, called *gauchos* (GOW-chohz), herded cattle and horses on the open grasslands. Although agriculture is still important on the Pampas, very few people in Argentina live as gauchos today.

In the early 1800s Argentina fought for independence from Spain. A period of violence and instability followed. Many Indians were killed or driven away by fighting during this time.

**Modern Argentina**

As the Indians were being killed off, more European influences dominated the region. New immigrants arrived from Italy, Germany, and Spain. Also, the British helped build railroads across the country. Railroads made it easier for Argentina to transport agricultural products for export to Europe. Beef exports, in particular, made the country rich.

Argentina remained one of South America’s richest countries throughout the 1900s. However, the country also struggled under dictators and military governments during those years.

Some political leaders, like Eva Perón, were popular. But many leaders abused human rights. During the “Dirty War” in the 1970s, they tortured and killed many accused of disagreeing with the government. Both the country’s people and its economy suffered. Finally, in the 1980s, Argentina’s last military government gave up power to an elected government.

**Biography**

**Eva Perón**

(1919–1952)

Known affectionately as Evita, Eva Perón helped improve the living conditions of people in Argentina, particularly the poor. As the wife of Argentina’s president, Juan Perón, Evita established thousands of hospitals and schools throughout Argentina. She also helped women gain the right to vote. After years of battling cancer, Evita died at age 33. All of Argentina mourned her death for weeks.

**Analyzing** Why was Eva Perón able to help many people?
People and Culture

Argentina’s historical ties to Europe still affect its culture. Most of Argentina’s roughly 40 million people are descended from Spanish, Italian, or other European settlers. Argentine Indians and mestizos make up only about 3 percent of the population. Most Argentines are Roman Catholic.

Beef is still a part of Argentina’s culture. A popular dish is parrilla (pah-REE-yah), which includes grilled sausage and steak. Supper is generally eaten late.

**READING CHECK**

Generalizing What kind of governments did Argentina have in the 1900s?

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Argentina Today

Today many more of Argentina’s people live in **Buenos Aires** (BWAY-nohs EYE-rayz) than in any other city. Buenos Aires is the country’s capital. It is also the second-largest urban area in South America. Much of Argentina’s industry is located in and around Buenos Aires. Its location on the coast and near the Pampas has contributed to its economic development.

The Pampas are the country’s most developed agricultural region. About 11 percent of Argentina’s labor force works in agriculture. Large ranches and farms there produce beef, wheat, and corn for export to other countries.

Argentina’s economy has always been affected by government policies. In the 1990s government leaders made economic reforms to help businesses grow. Argentina joined **Mercosur**—an organization that promotes trade and economic cooperation among the southern and eastern countries of South America. By the late 1900s and early 2000s, however, heavy debt and government spending brought Argentina into an economic crisis.
The economic crisis caused a political crisis. As a result, during 2001, Argentina’s government changed hands four times as its leaders tried to solve the problems. By 2003 the economy had stabilized somewhat, but thousands of people’s lives had changed forever. The crisis caused many people who once had professional careers to lose their jobs and join the informal economy. The informal economy is a part of the economy based on odd jobs that people perform without government regulation through taxes. Today many Argentines are still searching for ways to improve their economy.

**READING CHECK** Comparing and Contrasting

What are some similarities and differences between Buenos Aires and the Pampas?

### Uruguay

Tucked between Argentina and Brazil lies Uruguay. Its capital, Montevideo (mawn-tay-vee-DAY-oh), is located on the north shore of the Río de la Plata, not far from Buenos Aires. Uruguay has always been influenced by its larger neighbors.

Portugal claimed Uruguay during the colonial era, but the Spanish took over in the 1770s. By that time, few Uruguayan Indians remained. A few years later, in 1825, Uruguay declared independence from Spain. Since then, military governments have ruled Uruguay off and on. In general, however, the country has a strong tradition of respect for political freedom. Today Uruguay is a democracy.

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As in Argentina, people of European descent make up the majority of Uruguay’s population. Only about 12 percent of the population is mestizo, Indian, or of African descent. Roman Catholicism is the main religion in the country. Spanish is the official language, but many people also speak Portuguese because of Uruguay’s location near Brazil.

More than 90 percent of Uruguay’s people live in urban areas. More than a third of Uruguayans live in and near Montevideo. The country has a high literacy rate. In addition, many people there have good jobs and can afford a wide range of consumer goods and travel to Europe. However, many young people leave Uruguay to explore better economic opportunities elsewhere.


Economy

Just as Uruguay’s culture is tied to its neighbors, its economy is tied to the economies of Brazil and Argentina. In fact, more than half of Uruguay’s foreign trade is with these two Mercosur partners. Beef is an important export. As in Argentina, ranchers graze livestock on inland plains.

Agriculture, along with some limited manufacturing, is the basis of Uruguay’s economy. Uruguay has few mineral resources. One important source of energy is hydroelectric power. Developing poor rural areas in the interior, where resources are in short supply, is a big challenge.

Reading Check Compare In what ways is Uruguay similar to Argentina?

Paraguay

Paraguay shares borders with Bolivia, Brazil, and Argentina. It is a landlocked country. **Landlocked** means completely surrounded by land with no direct access to the ocean. The Paraguay River divides the country into two regions. East of the river is the country’s most productive farmland. Ranchers also graze livestock in some parts of western Paraguay.

Paraguay was claimed by Spanish settlers in the mid-1530s. It remained a Spanish colony until 1811, when it won independence. From independence until 1989, Paraguay was ruled off and on by dictators. Today the country has elected leaders and a democratic government.

Focus on Reading Where can you find the definition of landlocked?

Paraguay

- Paraguay shares borders with Bolivia, Brazil, and Argentina. It is a landlocked country.
- **Landlocked** means completely surrounded by land with no direct access to the ocean.
- The Paraguay River divides the country into two regions.
- East of the river is the country’s most productive farmland.
- Ranchers also graze livestock in some parts of western Paraguay.

Paraguay was claimed by Spanish settlers in the mid-1530s. It remained a Spanish colony until 1811, when it won independence. From independence until 1989, Paraguay was ruled off and on by dictators. Today the country has elected leaders and a democratic government.

Location Paraguay and Uruguay are bordered by much larger countries.
1. Name What river forms Uruguay’s border with Argentina?
2. Analyze Based on the map, why do you think Uruguay is more economically developed than Paraguay?
**People**

A great majority—about 95 percent—of Paraguayans are mestizos. Indians and people of mostly European descent make up the rest of the population. Paraguay has two official languages. Almost all people in Paraguay speak both Spanish and Guarani (gwah-ruh-NEE), an Indian language. As in Uruguay, most people are Roman Catholic.

Paraguay’s capital and largest city is Asunción (ah-soon-SYOHN). The city is located along the Paraguay River near the border with Argentina.

**Economy**

Much of Paraguay’s wealth is controlled by a few rich families and companies. These families and companies have tremendous influence over the country’s government.

Agriculture is an important part of the economy. In fact, nearly half of the country’s workers are farmers. Many of these farmers grow just enough food to feed themselves and their families. They grow crops such as corn, cotton, soybeans, and sugarcane. Paraguay also has many small businesses but not much industry.

Paraguay’s future may be promising as the country learns how to use its resources more effectively. For example, the country has built large hydroelectric dams on the Paraná River. These dams provide more power than Paraguay needs, so Paraguay is able to sell the surplus electricity to Brazil and Argentina.

**READING CHECK**

Contrast How are the people of Paraguay different from the people of Argentina and Uruguay?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW**

The people of Paraguay, Argentina, and Uruguay share some aspects of their European heritage. Their economies are also closely tied. In the next chapter you will learn about these countries’ neighbors to the west.
The Gaucho Martín Fierro

by José Hernández

About the Reading José Hernández spent part of his childhood on Argentina’s Pampas. The gauchos lived freely on the plains there, herding cattle. In 1872 he published an epic poem about his days as an Argentine cowboy. The passage below is an excerpt.

AS YOU READ Notice the emotion with which Hernández writes.

Even the poorest gaucho had a string of matching horses; he could always afford some amusement, and people were ready for anything . . . Looking out across the land you’d see nothing but cattle and sky.

When the branding-time came round that was work to warm you up! What a crowd! lassoing the running steers and keen to hold and throw them . . .

What a time that was! in those days surely there were champions to be seen . . .

And the games that would get going when we were all of us together! We were always ready for them, as at times like those a lot of neighbors would turn up to help out the regular hands.

Guided Reading

1. Identifying Points of View Hernández had happy memories of his days as a gaucho. What words and phrases demonstrate how Hernández felt?

2. Analyzing Although few people still work as gauchos, they are popular subjects in Argentine literature. What aspects of gaucho life do you think modern readers find appealing?
Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

For each group of terms below, write a sentence that shows how all the terms in the group are related.

1. estuary
   Rio de la Plata
   Buenos Aires

2. megacity
   favelas
   aspects

3. gauchos
   Pampas

4. soil exhaustion
   deforestation
   Amazon River

5. Rio de Janeiro
   São Paulo
   Manaus

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 232–235)

6. a. Recall What kind of climate does the Amazon Basin have?
   b. Contrast How are northern Brazil and southern Argentina different?
   c. Elaborate How might the region’s major physical features have influenced development and daily life in Atlantic South America?

SECTION 2 (Pages 236–241)

7. a. Describe What parts of Brazilian culture reflect African influences?
   b. Analyze What factors lead people from the northeast of Brazil to move to the southeast?
   c. Evaluate Is deforestation of the Amazon rain forest necessary? Explain your answer. What arguments might someone with a different opinion use?
SECTION 3 (Pages 242–247)

8. a. Describe  How is Argentina’s culture different from other South American countries?

   b. Contrast  What is one difference between Uruguay and Paraguay?

   c. Predict  As Argentina’s economy improves, what might happen to its informal economy?

Social Studies Skills

9. Connecting Ideas  Draw a graphic organizer to help you organize information about the economy in Atlantic South America. One has been started for you below. You will need to add more ovals to contain the information.

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Using the Internet

10. Activity: Creating a Poster  The Amazon River is the world’s second-longest river. Through your online textbook, explore the many aspects of the river, including its wildlife, the rain forest it cuts through, the people who live alongside it, and the environmental issues surrounding it. Use the information you find and the interactive template provided to create a poster about the amazing Amazon River.

Map Activity

11. Atlantic South America  On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

   São Paulo  Pampas  Patagonia
   Paraná River  Río de la Plata  Amazon River

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Focus on Reading and Writing

12. Using Context Clues  Look through the chapter and pick out two difficult words that you had to figure out by using context clues. Then, note the context clues you used to help you figure out the definitions of the difficult words.

13. Creating a Web Site  You can create a real Web site or a paper version of a Web site. First, look back through your notes and choose key ideas about each country to include. In designing your site, first include a home page that briefly describes the region. Indicate links for pages about each of the countries in the region. Each of your country pages should include one short paragraph and one image. Remember to keep the pages simple—too much text might overwhelm your readers and send them off to another site!
Standardized Test Prep

DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. In which country do most people speak Portuguese?
   A. Brazil
   B. Argentina
   C. Uruguay
   D. Paraguay

2. What major river flows through northwestern Brazil?
   A. Río de la Plata
   B. Uruguay River
   C. Paraná River
   D. Amazon River

3. Which of the following statements about Argentina is true?
   A. Most people are mestizos.
   B. Most people in Argentina live on the Pampas.
   C. Argentina is a member of Mercosur.
   D. Argentina has had a stable government and economy since 2000.

4. Which of the following was an effect of the “Dirty War” in Argentina?
   A. The country’s economy suffered.
   B. Eva Perón became a popular political leader.
   C. Many Indians were killed on the Pampas.
   D. People elected military leaders to rule their country.

5. What is the most important part of the economy of Paraguay?
   A. mining
   B. agriculture
   C. manufacturing
   D. logging

6. Based on the graph above, which of the following statements is false?
   A. Brazil’s urban population is increasing while the rural population is decreasing.
   B. By 1960 more people in Brazil lived in urban areas than in rural areas.
   C. In 1950 more people in Brazil lived in rural areas than in urban areas.
   D. Brazil’s total population is growing.

7. Based on the graph above, about how many people lived in urban areas of Brazil in 1990?
   A. 20 million
   B. 135 million
   C. 110 million
   D. 40 million

8. Extended Response  Study the graph above and the information in your book about Brazil today. Then write a brief essay explaining how urban and rural landscapes in Brazil are changing. You will also want to discuss the causes and effects of this change.
 chapter 11
Pacific South America

Essential Question How has political unrest shaped the nations of Pacific South America?

What You Will Learn...
In this chapter you will learn about the Andes mountains that dominate the physical geography of Pacific South America. You will also study the history and culture of the region. In addition, you will learn about some of the struggles and progress happening today in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography .................. 254
The Big Idea The Andes dominate Pacific South America's physical geography and influence the region's climate and resources.

SECTION 2: History and Culture ................. 260
The Big Idea Native cultures and Spanish colonization have shaped the history and culture of Pacific South America.

SECTION 3: Pacific South America Today ........ 264
The Big Idea The countries of Pacific South America are working to overcome challenges of poverty and political instability.

Focus on Reading and Speaking
Making Inferences An inference is a kind of guess. Sometimes an author does not give you complete information, and you have to make an inference. As you read, try to fill in gaps in information. Make guesses about things the writer does not tell you directly. See the lesson, Making Inferences, on page R12.

Interviewing Interviews with experts are a great way to learn new information. As you read about Pacific South America, you will identify questions for an interview. Then, with a partner, you will create a script for an interview about the region. One of you will play the role of the interviewer, and one will play the regional expert.

Geography Skills
Location The countries of Pacific South America lie on the western side of South America.

1. Identify Which country is landlocked?
2. Analyze How do you think Chile’s shape affects life in that country?

Physical Geography The Andes are the second-highest mountain range in the world. These peaks are in a national park in Chile.
**History** Early cultures made beautiful gold and silver art.

**Culture** Many people who live in the Andes still wear traditional dress and speak native languages. These women are from Peru.
What You Will Learn…

1. The Andes are the main physical feature of Pacific South America.
2. The region’s climate and vegetation change with elevation.
3. Key natural resources in the region include lumber, oil, and minerals.

Main Ideas

The Andes dominate Pacific South America’s physical geography and influence the region’s climate and resources.

Key Terms and Places

altiplano, p. 255
strait, p. 255
Atacama Desert, p. 257
El Niño, p. 257

The Big Idea

Building Background

Although most of the countries of Pacific South America lie along the coast, their landscapes are dominated by the rugged mountain range called the Andes. These mountains influence climates in the region. Ocean winds and currents also affect coastal areas here.

Physical Features

The countries of Pacific South America stretch along the Pacific coast from the equator, for which the country of Ecuador is named, south almost to the Arctic Circle. One narrow country, Chile (CHEE-lay), is so long that it covers about half the Pacific coast by itself. Not all of the countries in Pacific South America have coastlines, however. Bolivia is landlocked. But all of the countries in this region do share one major physical feature—the high Andes mountains.

Mountains

The Andes run through Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. Some ridges and volcanic peaks in the Andes rise more than 20,000 feet (6,800 m) above sea level. Because two tectonic plates meet at the region’s edge, earthquakes and volcanoes are a constant threat. Sometimes these earthquakes disturb Andean glaciers, sending ice and mud rushing down mountain slopes.
Llamas graze on the high, dry altiplano. The climate on the altiplano is too dry for trees to grow.

Landslides in the Andes differ from south to north. In southern Chile, rugged mountain peaks are covered by ice caps. In the north, the Andes are more rounded than rugged, and there the range splits into two ridges. In southern Peru and Bolivia these ridges are quite far apart. A broad, high plateau called the **altiplano** lies between the ridges of the Andes.

**Water and Islands**

Andean glaciers are the source for many tributaries of the Amazon River. Other than the Amazon tributaries, the region has few major rivers. Rivers on the altiplano have no outlet to the sea. Water collects in two large lakes. One of these, Lake Titicaca, is the highest lake in the world that large ships can cross.

At the southern tip of the continent, the Strait of Magellan links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. A **strait** is a narrow body of water connecting two larger bodies of water. The large island south of the strait is Tierra del Fuego, or “land of fire.”

Chile and Ecuador both control large islands in the Pacific Ocean. Ecuador's volcanic Galápagos Islands have wildlife not found anywhere else in the world.

**READING CHECK** **Contrasting** How do the Andes differ from north to south?
Climate and Vegetation

Climate, vegetation, and landscapes all vary widely in Pacific South America. We usually think of latitude as the major factor that affects climate. However, in Pacific South America, elevation has the biggest effect on climate and vegetation.

Elevation

Mountain environments change with elevation. For this reason, we can identify five different climate zones in the Andes. You can see these different climate zones on the diagram above.

The lowest zone includes the hot and humid lower elevations near sea level. Crops such as sugarcane and bananas grow well there. This first zone is often found along the coast, but it is also found inland in eastern Ecuador and Peru and northern Bolivia. These regions are part of the Amazon basin. They have a humid tropical climate with thick, tropical rain forests.

As elevation increases, the air becomes cooler. The second elevation zone has moist climates with mountain forests. This zone is good for growing coffee. In addition, many of Pacific South America’s large cities are located in this zone.

Higher up the mountains is a third, cooler zone of forests and grasslands. Farmers grow potatoes and wheat there. Many people in Pacific South America live and farm in this climate zone.
At a certain elevation, the climate becomes too cool for trees to grow. This fourth climate zone above the tree line contains alpine meadows with grasslands and hardy shrubs. The altiplano region between the two ridges of the Andes lies mostly in this climate zone.

The fifth climate zone, in the highest elevations, is very cold. No vegetation grows in this zone because the ground is almost always covered with snow and ice.

**Deserts**

Pacific South America also has some climates that are not typical of any of the five climate zones. Instead of hot and humid climates, some coastal regions have desert climates.

Northern Chile contains the **Atacama Desert**. This desert is about 600 miles (965 km) long. Rain falls there less than five times a century, but fog and low clouds are common. They form when a cold current in the Pacific Ocean chills the warmer air above the ocean’s surface. Cloud cover keeps the air near the ground from being warmed by the sun. As a result, coastal Chile is one of the cloudiest—and driest—places on Earth.

In Peru, some rivers cut through the dry coastal region. They bring snowmelt down from the Andes. Because they rely on melting snow, some of these rivers only appear at certain times of the year. The rivers have made some small settlements possible in these dry areas.

**El Niño**

About every two to seven years, this dry region experiences **El Niño**, an ocean and weather pattern that affects the Pacific coast. During an El Niño year, cool Pacific water near the coast warms. This change may cause extreme ocean and weather events that can have global effects.

As El Niño warms ocean waters, fish leave what is usually a rich fishing area. This change affects fishers. Also, El Niño causes heavy rains, and areas along the coast sometimes experience flooding. Some scientists think that air pollutants have made El Niño last longer and have more damaging effects.

**Natural Resources**

The landscapes of Pacific South America provide many valuable natural resources. For example, forests in southern Chile and in eastern Peru and Ecuador provide lumber. Also, as you have read, the coastal waters of the Pacific Ocean are rich in fish.
In addition, the region has valuable oil and minerals. Ecuador in particular has large oil and gas reserves, and oil is the country’s main export. Bolivia has some deposits of tin, gold, silver, lead, and zinc. Chile has copper deposits. In fact, Chile exports more copper than any other country in the world. Chile is also the site of the world’s largest open pit mine.

Although the countries of Pacific South America have many valuable resources, one resource they do not have much of is good farmland. Many people farm, but the region’s mostly cool, arid lands make it difficult to produce large crops for export.

**READING CHECK**

**Categorizing** What types of resources do the countries of Pacific South America have?

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**Summary and Preview**

The Andes are the main physical feature of Pacific South America. Next, you will learn how the Andes have affected the region’s history and how they continue to affect life there today.

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**Section 1 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. **Identify** What is the main physical feature of Pacific South America?
2. **Define** What is **El Niño**, and what are some of its effects?
3. **Identify** What country in this region has large oil reserves?
4. **Identify** What is the main physical feature of Pacific South America?
5. **Define** What is **El Niño**, and what are some of its effects?
6. **Identify** What country in this region has large oil reserves?
7. **Define** What is **El Niño**, and what are some of its effects?
8. **Identify** What is the main physical feature of Pacific South America?
9. **Define** What is **El Niño**, and what are some of its effects?
10. **Identify** What country in this region has large oil reserves?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Categorizing** Review your notes on climate. Then use a diagram like this one to describe the climate and vegetation in each of the five climate zones.

5. **Describing Physical Geography** Note information about the physical features, climate and vegetation, and resources of Pacific South America. Write two questions and answers you can use in your interview.
Interpreting an Elevation Profile

Learn
An elevation profile is a diagram that shows a side view of an area. This kind of diagram shows the physical features that lie along a line from point A to point B. Keep in mind that an elevation profile typically exaggerates vertical distances because vertical and horizontal distances are measured differently on elevation profiles. If they were not, even tall mountains would appear as tiny bumps.

Practice
Use the elevation profile above to answer the following questions.

1. What place does this elevation profile measure?
2. What is the highest point, and what is its elevation?
3. How can you tell that the vertical distance is exaggerated?

Apply
Look at the physical map of Pacific South America in Section 1 of this chapter. Choose a latitude line and create your own elevation profile for the land at that latitude. Be sure to pay attention to the scale and the legend so that you use correct measurements.
If **YOU** lived there...

You live in Cuzco, the capital of the Inca Empire. You are required to contribute labor to the empire, and you have been chosen to work on a construction project. Hauling the huge stones will be difficult, but the work will be rewarding. You can either choose to help build a magnificent temple to the sun god or you can help build a road from Cuzco to the far end of the empire.

**Which project will you choose? Why?**

**BUILDING BACKGROUND**  Before Spanish conquerors arrived in the early 1500s, a great American Indian empire ruled this region. Cuzco was the Inca capital. The Incas were such skilled engineers and builders that many of their forts and temples still stand today.

**History**

Thousands of years ago, people in Pacific South America tried to farm on mountainsides as steep as bleachers. Other people tried to farm where there was almost no rain. These early cultures learned how to adapt to and modify their environments.

**Early Cultures**

Peru’s first advanced civilization reached its height in about 900 BC in the Andes. These people built stone terraces into the steep mountainside so they could raise crops. In coastal areas, people created irrigation systems to store water and control flooding.

Agriculture supported large populations, towns, and culture. In the Bolivian highlands one early culture, the Tiahuanaco (tee-uh-wuh-NAH-koh), made huge stone carvings near a lakeshore. In another civilization on the coast, people scratched outlines of animals and other shapes into the surface of the Peruvian desert. These designs, known as the Nazca lines, are so large they can only be recognized from the sky.
The Inca Empire

Eventually, one group of people came to rule most of the region. By the early 1500s, these people, the Incas, controlled an area that stretched from northern Ecuador to central Chile. The Inca Empire was home to as many as 12 million people.

The huge Inca Empire was highly organized. Irrigation projects turned deserts into rich farmland. Thousands of miles of stone-paved roads connected the empire. Rope suspension bridges helped the Incas cross the steep Andean valleys.

As advanced as their civilization was, the Incas had no wheeled vehicles or horses. Instead, relay teams of runners carried messages from one end of the empire to the other. Working together, a team of runners could carry a message up to 150 miles (240 km) in one day. The runners did not carry any letters, however, because the Incas did not have a written language.

Spanish Rule

In spite of its great organization, however, the Inca Empire did not last long. A new Inca ruler, on his way to be crowned king, met the Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro. Pizarro captured the Inca king, who ordered his people to bring enough gold and silver to fill a whole room. These riches were supposed to be a ransom for the king's freedom. Instead, Pizarro ordered the Inca king killed. Fighting broke out, and by 1535 the Spaniards had conquered the Inca Empire.

The new Spanish rulers often dealt harshly with the South American Indians of the fallen Inca Empire. Many Indians had to work in gold or silver mines or on the Spaniards' plantations. A Spanish viceroy, or governor, was appointed by the king of Spain to make sure the Indians followed the Spanish laws and customs that had replaced native traditions.
Independence
By the early 1800s, people in Pacific South America began to want independence. They began to revolt against Spanish rule. Creoles, American-born descendants of Europeans, were the main leaders of the revolts. The success of the revolts led to independence for Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia by 1825.

READING CHECK Evaluating How did Inca civilization influence the history of the region?

Culture
Spanish and native cultures have both left their marks on Pacific South America. Most people in the region speak Spanish, and Spanish is the official language in all of the countries of the region.

However, people in many parts of the region also maintain much of their native culture. Millions of South American Indians speak native languages in addition to or instead of Spanish. In Bolivia, two native languages are official languages in addition to Spanish.

The people and customs of Pacific South America also reflect the region’s Spanish and Indian heritage. For example, Bolivia’s population has the highest percentage of South American Indians of any country on the continent. Many Bolivian Indians follow customs and lifestyles that have existed for many centuries. They often dress in traditional styles—full skirts and derby hats for the women and colorful, striped ponchos for the men.

Another part of the region’s culture that reflects Spanish and Indian influences is religion. Most people in Pacific

Regions Spanish is an official language throughout the region, but many people speak native languages instead.
1. Interpreting Graphs Where do more people speak native languages than Spanish?
2. Analyze Why do you think many people do not speak Spanish?
South America practice the religion of the Spanish—Roman Catholicism. Some people in the Andes, however, also still practice ancient religious customs. Every June, for example, people participate in a festival that was celebrated by the Incas to worship the sun. During festivals people wear traditional costumes, sometimes with wooden masks. They also play traditional instruments, such as wooden flutes.

**Reading Check** Generalizing What traditional customs do people in the region still practice today?

**Summary and Preview** Pacific South America was home to one of the greatest ancient civilizations in the Americas—the Inca. The Spanish conquered the Incas. Today the region’s culture still reflects Inca and Spanish influences. Next, you will learn more about the governments and economies of Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, and Chile today.

**Section 2 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. **a. Recall** What ancient empire built paved roads through the Andes?
   **b. Explain** What role did Creoles play in the history of Pacific South America?
   **c. Predict** How might the Inca Empire have been different if the Incas had had wheels and horses?

2. **a. Recall** What country has the highest percentage of South American Indians in its population?
   **b. Make Generalizations** What aspects of culture in Pacific South America reflect Spanish influence, and what aspects reflect Indian heritage?

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Sequencing** Look over your notes on the region’s history. Then draw a graphic organizer like the one here and use it to put major historical events in chronological order.

**Focus on Speaking**

4. **Taking Notes on History and Culture** What information about the history and culture is important? Add two more questions, plus answers, to your notes.
Pacific South America Today

If YOU lived there...

You are at a political rally in Valparaíso, Chile. Your family owns a vineyard nearby, so government policies about the economy affect you personally. You listen carefully to the speakers at the rally. Some politicians are in favor of more free trade with countries in North America. Others speak about different issues, such as housing and education.

What would you like to ask the politicians?

BUILDING BACKGROUND All the countries of Pacific South America have faced similar issues in recent years. These include poverty, unstable governments, economic development, and how to encourage development and still protect the environment. Several of these countries are making progress, while others still have problems.

Ecuador Today

In recent decades, the countries of Pacific South America have all experienced periods of political instability. Ecuador, in particular, has faced recent instability. Widespread poverty is a constant threat to a stable government in this country.

Government

Ecuador has been a democracy since 1979. Still, the country has experienced great political instability and corruption. From 1996–2007, the country had nine different presidents. In 2004, Ecuadorian president Lucio Gutiérrez fired the majority of the nation’s supreme court judges because they did not support him. Soon after, to quiet his political opponents, Gutiérrez declared a state of emergency. In response, the Ecuadorian Congress forced Gutiérrez from power in 2005. In 2006, Ecuadorians elected Rafael Correa president. In 2009, Correa was the first Ecuadorian president to be re-elected in more than 30 years.
**Economic Regions**

Ecuador has three different economic regions. One region, the coastal lowlands, has agriculture and industry. The country’s largest city, Guayaquil (gwy-ah-KEEL), is located there. It is Ecuador’s major port and commercial center.

The Andean region of Ecuador is poorer. Quito, the national capital, is located there. Open-air markets and Spanish colonial buildings attract many tourists to Quito and other towns in the region.

A third region, the Amazon basin, has valuable oil deposits. The oil industry provides jobs that draw people to the region. Oil is also Ecuador’s main export. But the oil industry has brought problems as well as benefits. The country’s economy suffers if the world oil price drops. In addition, some citizens worry that drilling for oil could harm the rain forest.

**Bolivia Today**

Like Ecuador, Bolivia is a poor country. Poverty has been a cause of political unrest in recent years.

**Government**

After years of military rule, Bolivia is a democracy. Bolivia’s government is divided between two capital cities. The supreme court meets in Sucre (soo-kray), but the congress meets in La Paz. Located at about 12,000 feet (3,660 m), La Paz is the highest capital city in the world. It is also Bolivia’s main industrial center.

In the early 2000s, many Bolivians disagreed with their government’s plans for fighting poverty. National protests forced several presidents to resign. Then in 2005, Bolivians elected an indigenous leader, Evo Morales, as president. Re-elected president in 2009, Morales continues to work to improve the lives of Bolivia’s poor.

**Economy**

Bolivia is the poorest country in South America. In the plains of eastern Bolivia there are few roads and little money for investment. However, foreign aid has provided funds for some development. In addition, the country has valuable resources, including metals and natural gas.

**Connecting to Economics**

**The Informal Economy**

Many people in the countries of Pacific South America are part of the informal economy. Street vendors, like the ones shown here in Quito, are common sights in the region’s cities. People visit street vendors to buy items like snacks, small electronics, or clothing. The informal economy provides jobs for many people. However, it does not help the national economy because the participants do not pay taxes. Without income from taxes, the government cannot pay for services.

**Reading Check**

Generalizing Why has Ecuador’s government been unstable?

Analyzing Why might political revolts slow development?

Analyzing How does the informal economy affect taxes?
**Settlements around Lima**

Lima has three main types of settlements. The wealthier people tend to live in houses and apartments in town. Poor people live mostly in slums or in recently built “young towns.”

**Peru Today**

Peru is the largest and most populous country in Pacific South America. Today it is making some progress against political violence and poverty.

**Lima**

Peru’s capital, Lima (LEE-muh), is the largest city in the region. Nearly one-third of all Peruvians live in Lima or the nearby port city of Callao (kah-YAH-oh). Lima has industry, universities, and government jobs, which attract many people from the countryside to Lima.

Lima was the colonial capital of Peru, and the city still contains many beautiful old buildings from the colonial era. It has high-rise apartments and wide, tree-lined boulevards. However, as in many big urban areas, a lot of people there live in poverty.

In spite of the poverty, central Lima has few slum areas. This is because most poor people prefer to claim land on the outskirts of the city and build their own houses. Often they can get only poor building materials. They also have a hard time getting water and electricity from the city.

Settlements of new self-built houses are called “young towns” in Lima. Over time, as people improve and add to their houses, the new settlements develop into large, permanent suburbs. Many of the people in Lima’s young towns are migrants from the highlands. Some came to Lima to escape violence in their home villages.
Government
In the 1980s and 1990s, a terrorist group called the Shining Path was active. This group carried out deadly attacks because it opposed government policies. Some 70,000 people died in violence between the Shining Path and government forces, and Peru’s economy suffered. However, after the arrest of the group’s leaders, Peru’s government began making progress against political violence and poverty. The country has an elected president and congress.

Resources
Peru’s resources are key factors in its economic progress. Some mineral deposits are located near the coast, and hydroelectric projects on rivers provide energy. Peru’s highlands are less developed than the coastal areas. However, many Peruvian Indians grow potatoes and corn there.

READING CHECK Identifying Cause and Effect  How did the Shining Path affect Peru?

Chile Today
Like Peru, Chile has ended a long violent period. Chile now has a stable government and a growing economy.

Government
In 1970 Chileans elected a president who had some ideas influenced by communism. A few years later he was overthrown and died in a U.S.-backed military coup (KOO). A coup is a sudden overthrow of a government by a small group of people. In the years after the coup, military rulers tried to crush their political enemies. Chile’s military government was harsh and often violent. It imprisoned or killed thousands of people.

In the late 1980s Chile’s military dictatorship weakened and Chileans created a new, democratic government. In 2006 Chileans elected their first female president, Michelle Bachelet, and in 2010 they elected business leader Sebastián Piñera president.

FOCUS ON READING What can you infer about the reason for the end of the military government?
Resources and Economy

Chile's economy is the strongest in the region. Poverty rates have decreased, and Chile’s prospects for the future seem bright. Small businesses and factories are growing quickly. More Chileans are finding work, and wages are rising.

About one-third of all Chileans live in central Chile. This region includes the capital, Santiago, and a nearby seaport, Valparaíso (bahl-pah-rah-EE-soh). Its mild Mediterranean climate allows farmers to grow many crops. For example, grapes grow well there, and Chilean fruit and wine are exported around the world.

Farming, fishing, forestry, and mining form the basis of Chile’s economy. Copper mining is especially important. It accounts for more than one-third of Chile’s exports.

Chile’s economic stability was rocked by a massive earthquake that struck on February 27, 2010. The quake killed about 500 Chileans and caused about $30 billion of damage to buildings, homes, and streets. Today, Chile's people and government continue to rebuild their nation.

**REVIEWING IDEAS, TERMS, AND PLACES**

1. **a. Identify** What is Ecuador's largest city?  
   **b. Make Generalizations** Why have Ecuadorians been unhappy with their government in recent years?

2. **a. Identify** What are Bolivia's two capital cities?  
   **b. Analyze** Why might Bolivia's economy improve in the future?

3. **a. Recall** Why did many Peruvians move to Lima from the highlands in the 1980s?  
   **b. Elaborate** What challenges do you think people who move to Lima from the highlands face?

4. **a. Define** What is a coup?  
   **b. Make Inferences** What might happen to Chile’s economy if the world price of copper drops?

5. **Solving Problems** Review your notes. Then, in a diagram like the one here, write one sentence about each country, explaining how that country is dealing with poverty or government instability.

6. **Thinking about Pacific South America Today**  
   Add questions about each country in Pacific South America to your notes. How might you answer these questions in your interview? Write down the answer to each question.
Review the video to answer the closing question:
*Why do descendants of the Incas still live in the difficult high altitudes of the Andes?*

**Comprehension and Critical Thinking**

**SECTION 1 (Pages 254–258)**

10. **a. Describe** What are climate and vegetation like on the altiplano?
   **b. Compare and Contrast** What are two differences and one similarity between the Atacama Desert and the altiplano?
   **c. Evaluate** What elevation zone would you choose to live in if you lived in Pacific South America? Why would you choose to live there?

**SECTION 2 (Pages 260–263)**

11. **a. Describe** How did the Incas organize their huge empire?
   **b. Analyze** How have Spanish and native cultures left their marks on culture in Pacific South America?
   **c. Elaborate** Why do you think Pizarro killed the Inca king even though he had received riches as ransom?
SECTION 3 (Pages 264–268)

12. a. **Identify** What country in Pacific South America has the healthiest economy?
   
   b. **Analyze** What problems in Ecuador and Bolivia cause political unrest?
   
   c. **Evaluate** What would be some benefits and drawbacks of moving from the highlands to one of Lima’s “young towns”?

**Using the Internet**

13. **Activity: Analyzing Climate** Chile has steep mountains, volcanoes, a desert, a rich river valley, and thick forests. These diverse areas contain many different climates. Click on the links given in your online textbook to explore the many climates of Chile. Then test your knowledge by taking an online quiz.

**Social Studies Skills**

**Interpreting an Elevation Profile** Use the elevation profile on the Social Studies Skills page to answer the following questions.

14. What is the purpose of an elevation profile?

15. Where can you find the vertical measurements on an elevation profile?

16. What horizontal distance does the elevation profile measure?

17. What is the elevation of the Amazon basin?

**Map Activity**

18. **Pacific South America** On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

   - Strait of Magellan
   - Santiago, Chile
   - Quito, Ecuador
   - Atacama Desert
   - Andes
   - La Paz, Bolivia

**FOCUS ON READING AND SPEAKING**

**Making Inferences** Use the information in this chapter to answer the following questions.

19. What is an inference?

20. What can you infer about the size of the population in the Atacama Desert? What clues led you to make this inference?

21. **Presenting an Interview** Now that you have questions and answers, work with a partner to write an interview script. Read through your script several times so that you know it well enough to sound natural during the interview. Remember to use a lively tone as you speak so that your audience will pay attention.
DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. The main mountain range located in Pacific South America is called the
   A. altiplano.
   B. Andes.
   C. Strait of Magellan.
   D. Pampas.

2. Which of the following conditions is a result of El Niño?
   A. increased greenhouse gases
   B. more fish in a usually poor fishing area
   C. drought on the Pacific coast
   D. warmer waters near the Pacific coast

3. What early culture had a huge empire in Pacific South America in the early 1500s?
   A. Inca
   B. Aztec
   C. Tiahuanaco
   D. Nazca

4. Which of the following statements about culture in Pacific South America is false?
   A. Most people speak Spanish.
   B. Chile has a higher percentage of Indians than any other country in South America.
   C. Religion in the region often combines Catholic and ancient native customs.
   D. Wooden flutes and drums are traditional instruments.

5. Which country’s main export is oil?
   A. Bolivia
   B. Chile
   C. Ecuador
   D. Peru

6. Based on the graph above, what one product is Chile’s main export to the United States?
   A. fish
   B. wood
   C. fruit
   D. copper

7. What has been a major cause of political unrest in the region?
   A. dissatisfaction with economic policies
   B. arrest of the leaders of the Shining Path
   C. development of “young towns” in Peru
   D. high unemployment in Chile

8. Extended Response Using the graph above and your knowledge of Pacific South America today, compare and contrast the economic situations in each of the four countries.
Describing a Place

What are the physical features of a country? What is the weather like? What drives the economy? The answers to questions like these are often cold, hard facts and statistics. But they can bring life to a description of a place.

1. Prewrite
Identify a Topic and Big Idea
- Choose one of the topics above to write about.
- Turn your topic into a big idea, or thesis. For example, your big idea might be, “Cuba’s government greatly influences life in the country.”

TIP Precise Language Describe your place with specific nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. For example, rather than writing “Buenos Aires is big,” write “Buenos Aires is the largest city in Argentina.”

Gather and Organize Information
- Look for information about your place in the library or on the Internet. Organize your notes in groupings such as physical features, economy, or culture. Decide which facts about the place you are describing are most important or unique.

2. Write
Use a Writer’s Framework

A Writer’s Framework

Introduction
- Start with an interesting fact or question.
- Identify your big idea and provide any necessary background information.

Body
- Write at least one paragraph for each category.
  Include facts that help explain each detail.
- Write about each detail in order of importance.

Conclusion
- Summarize your description in your final paragraph.

3. Evaluate and Revise
Review and Improve Your Paper
- Re-read your paper and use the questions below to identify ways to revise your paper.
- Make the changes needed to improve your paper.

Evaluation Questions for a Description of a Place
1. Do you begin with an interesting fact or question?
2. Does your introduction identify your big idea? Do you provide background information to help your readers better understand your idea?
3. Do you have at least one paragraph for each category?
4. Do you use order of importance to organize the details of your description?
5. Are there more details you would like to know about your place? If so, what are they?

4. Proofread and Publish
Give Your Description the Finishing Touch
- Make sure you used commas correctly when listing more than two details in a sentence.
- Check your spelling of the names of places.
- Share your description with classmates or with students in another social studies class.

5. Practice and Apply
Use the steps and strategies outlined in this workshop to write your description of a place. Share your description with classmates. With your classmates, group the descriptions by country and then identify the places you would like to visit.

Assignment
Write a paper describing one of these places in the Americas:
- a city
- a country