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1 GEOGRAPHY

In this section you will read about the major geographic features of Latin America, and how these features have affected its people and their history.

THINK ABOUT IT

Look at the map of Latin America below. What do you think are Latin America's major geographic features? _____

Important Terms: As you read this section, look for the following terms:

◆ **Latin America**
◆ **Andes Mountains**

◆ **Population Density**
◆ **Single Cash Crop**

SIZE AND LOCATION

◆ The name **Latin America** describes the lands in the Western Hemisphere south of the United States. These countries, stretching over 7,000 miles from north to south, cover a large area between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Latin America is made up of four regions:

1. **Mexico**, the country just south of the United States.
2. **Central America**, the countries which lie between Mexico and Colombia.
3. **West Indies** (or *Caribbean*), the islands located in the Caribbean Sea. They were called the West Indies by European explorers because they thought the islands were part of India.
4. **South America**, the continent south of Central America, made up of many nations.



MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES AND THEIR EFFECTS

MOUNTAINS

The **Andes Mountains**, stretching over 4,500 miles in the western part of South America, are among the highest in the world. The Andes have separated people in different parts of South America from each other. This has resulted in the development of many different cultures. ◆

GRASSLAND PLAINS (PAMPAS)

Mountains and poor soils make much of Latin America's land unproductive. There are a few exceptions, such as the **pampas** of Argentina and Uruguay and the **llanos** of Venezuela. Like the African savannas, the pampas provide much of the fertile soil in Latin America. The rest of the land cannot produce enough to feed the people of the region. Despite this, most people in Latin America work in agriculture.

RAIN FORESTS

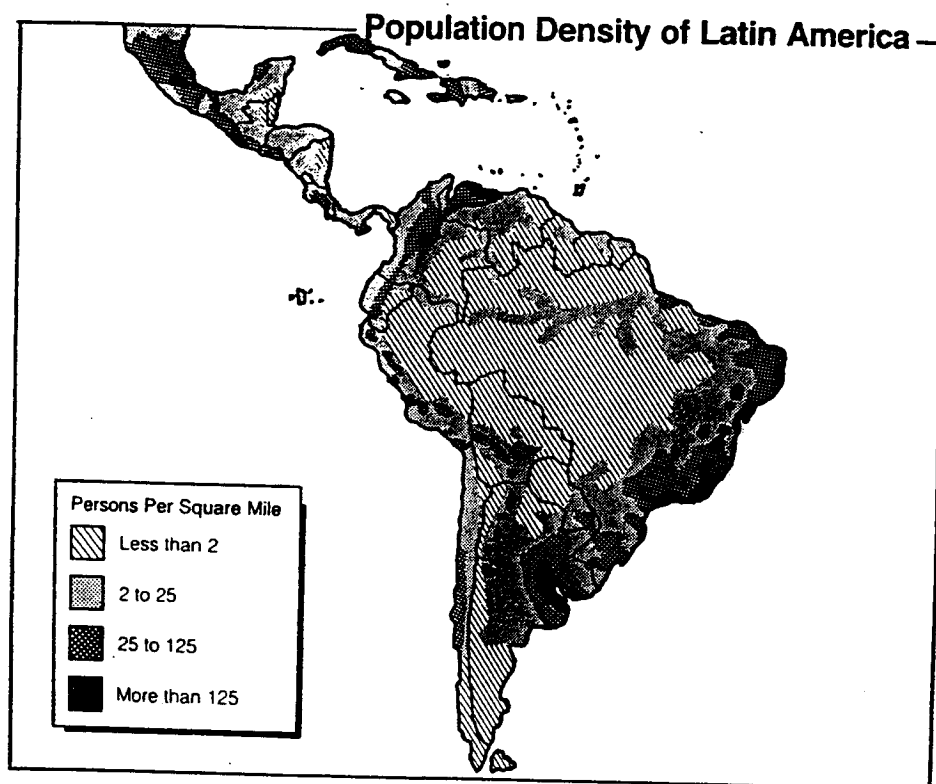
Rain forests are located on the east coast of Central America and the northern part of South America. They have warm, humid climates and receive a great deal of rainfall. Rain forests have made transportation and communication difficult among the peoples of Latin America.

RIVERS

The **Amazon River**, flowing 2,300 miles, is the second longest river in the world. Two other important rivers are the Orinoco and the Rio de la Plata. A large percentage of the Latin America's population lives near these river systems. They provide an important link in the area's transportation system.

CLIMATE

Much of Latin America is warm because it lies near the **equator**. However, because of the mountains and the winds from the oceans, many places in Latin America have a moderate climate. As a result, **population density** (*the average number of people living in an area*) is greatest in the higher elevations where temperatures are comfortably cool. In areas of dense population, food shortages occur, and there is inadequate housing, health and educational services. ◆



RESOURCES

- Some countries like Mexico and Venezuela have large amounts of oil. But other countries lack oil and other resources like coal and iron. This hurts their industrial development. The major crops grown in Latin America are coffee, bananas, sugar and cocoa. Most nations rely on these **single cash crops** (*crops raised for a profit*), making them dependent on changes in world prices. For example, if the world price for cocoa drops sharply, Ecuador—a large exporter of cocoa—will suffer economically.

SUMMING UP: PHYSICAL SETTING

Latin America makes up the largest group of nations in the Western Hemisphere. Its geography and climate explain some of the differences in the way the peoples of Latin America live.

CHECKING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

THINKING IT OVER

Now that you have read the material, were you correct in identifying some major geographic features? (Yes ___ No ___) What features should you add? _____

Directions: Complete each of the following cards. Then answer the multiple choice questions that follow.

LATIN AMERICA

Describe it: _____

Which regions make it up? _____

ANDES

Define it: _____

Major effect on the area: _____

POPULATION DENSITY

Define it: _____

Name a country where it is high: _____

SINGLE CASH CROP

Define it: _____

Importance: _____

- 1 The Orinoco, Amazon, and Nile are names of
 - 1 mountains
 - 2 rivers
 - 3 lakes
 - 4 deserts
- 2 Brazil is a part of which continent?
 - 1 Europe
 - 2 North America
 - 3 South America
 - 4 Australia
- 3 Latin America includes the areas of
 - 1 South America, Central America and Canada
 - 2 Central America, South America, and the West Indies
 - 3 South America and Africa
 - 4 Only South America
- 4 The pampas of South America and the savannas of Africa are examples of
 - 1 river systems
 - 2 grassy plains
 - 3 rain forests
 - 4 mountain ranges
- 5 The greatest population density in Latin America is found in the
 - 1 higher altitudes
 - 2 lowlands
 - 3 deserts
 - 4 rain forests
- 6 Which best describes South America's geography?
 - 1 climatic conditions led to an abundance of food
 - 2 there are no major mountains in South America
 - 3 most South American countries have large reserves of coal and iron
 - 4 much of South America is unsuitable for agriculture

2

HISTORY

In this section you will read about the major historical developments in Latin America, from its earliest native civilizations to its present role in the world community.

THINK ABOUT IT

Complete the first two columns of the chart:

THE HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA

What I Know	What I Want to Learn	What I Have Learned

Important Terms: As you read this section, look for the following terms:

- ◆ Native American Civilizations
- ◆ Encomienda System

- ◆ Mercantilism
- ◆ European Explorations

Sometimes tests have questions about *outlines* and how to organize items. Before you start to read the history of Latin America, the following **Skill Builder** will help you to better understand outlines.

SKILL BUILDER: UNDERSTANDING OUTLINES

What Is an Outline?

An outline is a brief plan in which a topic (or major idea) is broken down into smaller units called sub-topics. The main purpose of an outline is to show the relationships between a topic and its sub-topics. An outline also helps to guide the thinking of the writer.

Keys to Understanding an Outline

To understand an outline, look at its major parts:

Title. The title always tells you the main topic.

Format. Outlines follow a specific format so you can understand how the topic is broken down. Usually, the first sub-topics are given Roman numerals (I, II, III). When these sub-topics are further divided, they are given capital letters (A, B, C). If the sub-topics are divided again, they are given Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3). As an example, let's see how the first part of the history section in this chapter is organized:

LATIN AMERICA'S HISTORY

We could write about its early history or its modern history. To narrow down the things we wish to cover, we use sub-topics like this one:

I. Pre-Columbian Heritage

The outline now tells you that Latin American history before Columbus will be covered. But what will be written about this early history?

I. Pre-Columbian Heritage

- A. Mayan Civilization
- B. Aztec Empire
- C. Inca Empire

The outline now shows what empires existed before Columbus landed. To tell more about any

of these empires, the outline would include additional sub-topics:

- I. Pre-Columbian Heritage
 - A. Mayan Civilization
 - 1. Government
 - 2. Economy
 - 3. Social Life

Notice how outlining shows you what details help explain or support the "big" ideas or facts.

Interpreting an Outline

Remember that in an outline you start with a large idea and break it down into smaller and smaller units. In our example, each smaller unit also develops the larger concept. Understanding outlines helps you to answer data-based questions on tests, and provides a useful tool to organize your thoughts when writing an essay.

Outline-type questions may appear as follows:

In an outline, one of these is a main topic and the others are sub-topics. Which is the main topic?

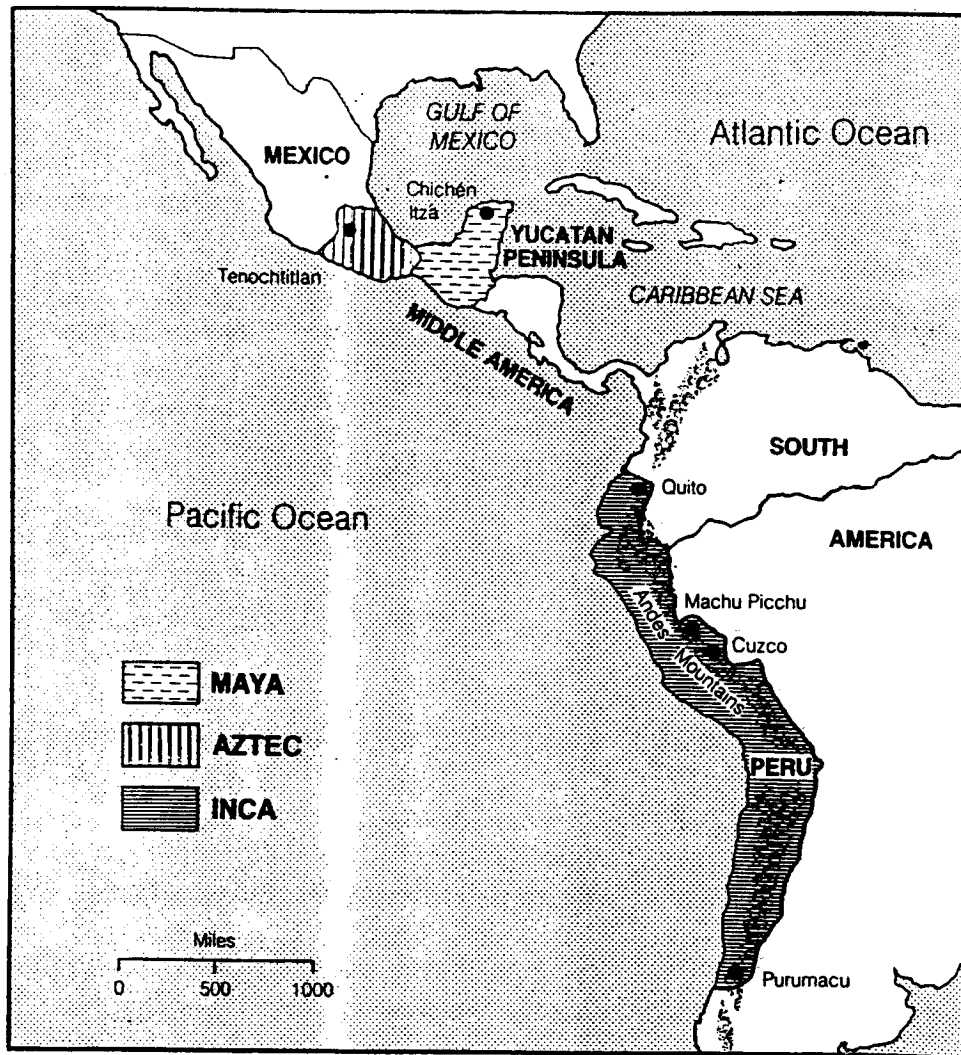
- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Trade Routes Changed | 3 Slavery |
| 2 Effects of Explorations | 4 New Inventions |

Remember that the main topic is the broadest one covering all the smaller ones. In the question above, the main topic is the "Effects of Explorations" because the three other choices are various effects of explorations. Now that you have learned about outlines, it will be easier to follow how this section is organized. After you have read the history section, fill in the blank outline at the end of the section, on page 55.

TIMELINE OF HISTORICAL EVENTS							
1492	1823	1846	1898	1914	1933	1959	1990
Columbus lands in the "New World"	Monroe Doctrine issued	Mexican-American War begins	Spanish-American War begins	Panama Canal opens	U. S. announces Good Neighbor Policy	Fidel Castro comes to power in Cuba	U. S. arrests General Manuel Noriega

PRE-COLUMBIAN HERITAGE

For thousand of years before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Western Hemisphere in 1492, **Native American civilizations** existed there. These civilizations had many important achievements. ◆



MAYAN CIVILIZATION (1500 B.C.-1200 A.D.)

Located in southern Mexico and parts of Central America, the Mayans made contributions in science, astronomy (*study of the stars*), mathematics, sculpture and painting. For example, their calendar was extremely accurate, and had 365 days.

AZTEC EMPIRE 1400-1520

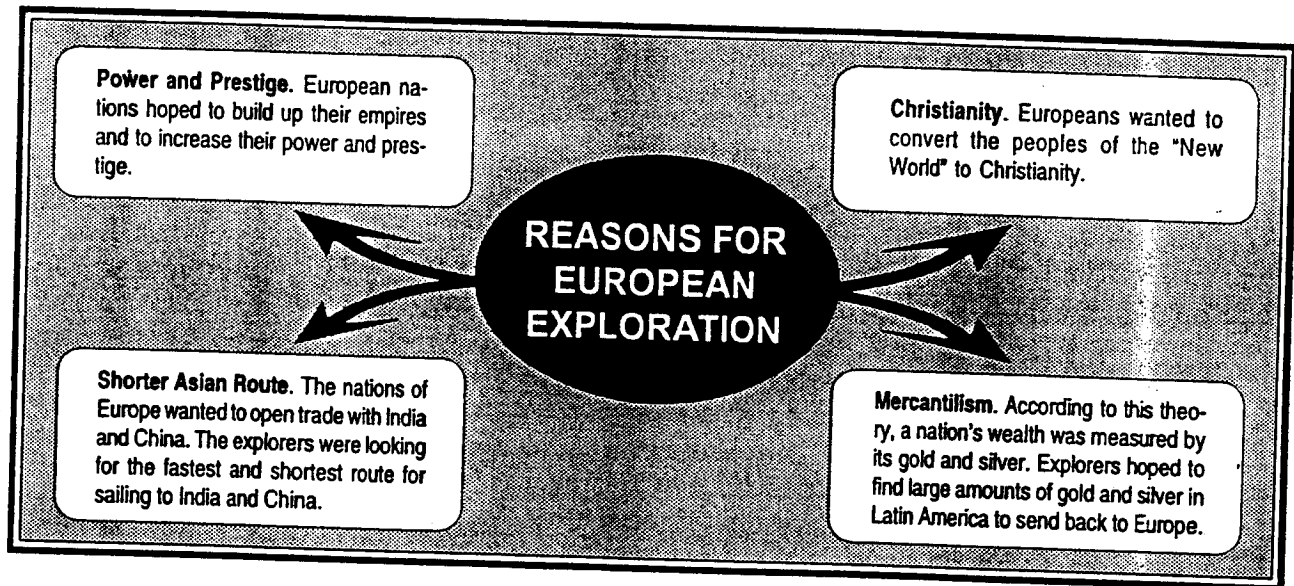
An **empire** is a group of nations or territories controlled by one ruler or country. In Central America and Mexico, the Aztecs conquered other native peoples. The capital of their empire had a population of over 300,000 in the mid-1400s. Religion was an important part of Aztec life. They built great pyramids that still stand in Mexico City.

INCAN EMPIRE (1000-1530)

The Incas, who lived in the mountains of western South America, controlled a large amount of land. In order to connect the different parts of their empire, the Incas built roads which stretched for thousands of miles. They also constructed great stone buildings, high in the Andes Mountains.

◆ EUROPEAN EXPLORATIONS (1492-1542)

European explorers first came to Latin America, which they called the "New World," while looking for a shorter all-water route to India (in Asia). In time, European nations—mainly Spain and Portugal—took over most of what is now Latin America, and established **colonies** in those lands. There were many reasons for the European exploration of Latin America.



FAMOUS EXPLORERS

European explorers were adventurous and daring; the dangers of sailing into the unknown were great, but so were the rewards—excitement, adventure and riches. Some of the important explorers were:

- **Christopher Columbus (1492).** Columbus is credited with being the first European to come to the Americas. His role in history has become controversial, but everyone recognizes that his voyages had a major impact on the world.
- **Vasco De Balboa (1513).** Balboa, a Spanish explorer, was the first European to discover the Pacific Ocean (while he was exploring near Panama).
- **Ferdinand Magellan (1519).** Magellan, sailing for Spain, organized the first expedition to sail around the world. His voyage proved to many that the world was round.



*Columbus at the court of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain,
who financed his voyages of exploration*

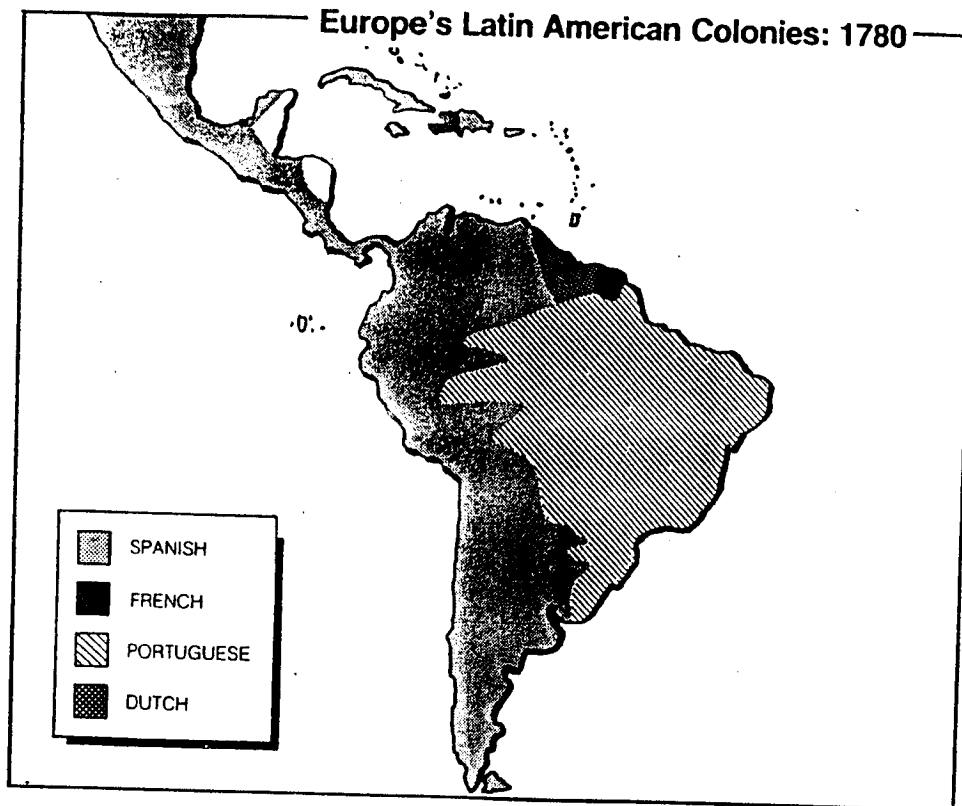
EFFECTS OF EXPLORATION

The European explorations of Latin America had some important results:

- **New inventions.** Improvements were made in map-making, shipbuilding and sailing.
- **Cultural diffusion.** The native peoples and the Europeans exchanged ideas and products. For example, the Spaniards introduced new foods to the Americas—coffee and sugar—and brought back to Europe such foods as potatoes and corn.
- **Slavery.** The Europeans enslaved a large number of native peoples, and also brought enslaved Africans to Latin America.
- **Trade Routes Changed.** More trade took place over the Atlantic Ocean, and less over the Mediterranean Sea. Nations on the Atlantic coast of Europe, such as Spain, Portugal, France and England, became very powerful.

THE COLONIAL PERIOD (1520-1808)

To explore the "New World," Spain used soldiers called **conquistadors**. These conquistadors, with their horses and cannons, proved too powerful for the native peoples of the area. The Aztec Empire was defeated in 1519, the Incas in 1530 and the Mayans in 1546. Once the native peoples were conquered, most of the lands were claimed by Spain and Portugal.



ECONOMIC POLICY

- ◆ Spain and Portugal treated the lands of Latin America as colonies (*a colony is a weak nation controlled by a more powerful one*). According to the theory of **mercantilism**, colonies existed only for the benefit of the “mother country” (the imperialist power). This meant that Spain and Portugal took everything they wanted from Latin America, such as gold and other resources. Wealthy landowners and military rulers held political and economic power in Latin America, because they were given large tracts of land and the native peoples living on the land, as a reward for their loyal service to Spain. This was called the **encomienda system**. Today these large estates are known as haciendas.

SOCIAL CLASSES

Mercantilism and the hacienda system resulted in the people in the colonies being grouped into social classes. The Europeans and **Creoles** (*people born in Latin America of European parents*) had the greatest power and wealth. The people of other social classes (people of mixed European, Indian or African ancestry) had the least power and did most of the hard work.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

The **Catholic Church** was a powerful force in the Latin American colonies. Priests tried to convert the native peoples to Catholicism, taught them skills and protected them from slavery. The Church also became a great landowner and supported the power of the local ruling elites.

INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS

REASONS FOR SEEKING INDEPENDENCE

Between 1803 and 1825, many Latin American colonies revolted against Spain and Portugal and won their independence.



LEADERS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Among the most important leaders who participated in the struggle to achieve independence were:

- **Toussaint L'Ouverture.** He led a rebellion (1803-1804) of enslaved people that overthrew the French in Haiti.
- **Simon Bolivar.** Between 1819 and 1825, he helped bring about independence in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.
- **Jose de San Martin.** He helped liberate Argentina and Chile in the years 1816-1818.



Statue of Simon Bolivar in Caracas, Venezuela

CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE

After independence, few democratic governments were established in Latin America. Many of the governments were run by military leaders, acting as dictators. These leaders stayed in power only as long as the army supported them. In the 20th century, some major revolutions occurred against these dictators. They included:

➤ **Mexico.** In 1910 a civil war broke out against the military dictator, and he was overthrown. By the 1930s a number of changes had improved people's lives—new health and social services, the right to strike, and the encouragement of land reform.

➤ **Cuba.** In 1959 **Fidel Castro** led a revolution overthrowing Cuba's dictator. Castro then declared Cuba a Communist nation, and received support from the Soviet Union. (Further details on Castro and Cuba are on page 61.)



Mexican rebel Pancho Villa

LATIN AMERICA TODAY

In the 1980s and 1990s, many Latin American countries have been promoting social reform and economic modernization. People are migrating to cities in search of work. Almost all of the governments have changed from one-man military dictatorships to democracies with free market economies. You will read more about these developments in the sections on Systems and Concerns.

SUMMING UP: LATIN AMERICA'S HISTORY

Advanced civilizations existed in the Americas long before European explorers came to the continent. Like Africa, the Americas became a prime area for European imperialism. By the 19th century, much of Latin America revolted against European control and achieved independence.

CHECKING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

THINKING IT OVER

Now that you have read the History section, fill in the blanks in the outline on the next page. We have started it for you. (If you need to refresh your memory about outlines, you can re-read the Skill Builder on page 48.)

HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA

I. Pre-Columbian Heritage

A. Mayan Civilization

- B. _____
- C. _____

II. _____

A. Reasons for European Exploration

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

B. Famous Explorers

1. _____
2. _____
3. Ferdinand Magellan

C. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. Trade Routes Changed

III. _____

A. _____

B. Social Classes

C. The Role of the Church

IV. _____

A. Why Latin Americans Fought for Independence

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

B. Leaders in the Struggle for Independence

1. _____
2. _____
3. Jose de San Martin

C. Changes in Government Since Independence

1. _____
2. _____

D. _____

THINKING IT OVER

Return to page 47, where you completed the first two columns of the chart. Complete the third column of that chart, indicating what you have just learned.

Directions: Complete the following cards. Then answer the multiple choice questions that follow.

NATIVE AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS

Name two: _____

Achievements: _____

EUROPEAN EXPLORATIONS

Describe: _____

Reasons: _____

Effects: _____

MERCANTILISM

Definition: _____

Example: _____

ENCOMIENDA SYSTEM

Describe it: _____

Effect: _____

- 1 The Mayans, Aztecs and Mali are
 - 1 past civilizations
 - 2 mountain ranges
 - 3 river systems
 - 4 capital cities
- 2 Which event occurred last?
 - 1 The Inca civilization was defeated by Europeans.
 - 2 Columbus set sail for the "New World."
 - 3 Magellan sailed around the world.
 - 4 Castro took control of Cuba.
- 3 Which statement best describes the role of Fidel Castro?
 - 1 He introduced democracy into Cuba.
 - 2 He sought a greater role for American investors in Cuba.
 - 3 He introduced Communism into Cuba.
 - 4 He is a friend of the United States.
- 4 A term paper about Simon Bolivar, Jose de San Martin and Jomo Kenyatta would probably be about
 - 1 assassinated leaders
 - 2 national independence fighters
 - 3 presidents of Argentina
 - 4 religious leaders
- 5 Balboa, Magellan and da Gama made contributions in the field of
 - 1 religion
 - 2 science
 - 3 exploration
 - 4 politics
- 6 At first, European explorers coming to the Americas were primarily interested in
 - 1 finding gold and silver
 - 2 buying industrial products
 - 3 copying technology
 - 4 establishing schools
- 7 The term "mercantilism" refers to the
 - 1 division of a nation into smaller states
 - 2 unification of a people under a central government
 - 3 use of colonies for the benefit of the mother country
 - 4 use of department stores to market goods
- 8 Which nations played the greatest role in colonizing what is now Latin America?
 - 1 Italy and Russia
 - 2 Great Britain and Austria
 - 3 Spain and Portugal
 - 4 Germany and Greece

3 SYSTEMS

In this section you will read about Latin America's major political institutions, economic development, social structure, major religions and cultural achievements.

THINK ABOUT IT

Democracy and *machismo* are two important terms in this section. Find the meaning of these terms in this section or in the glossary (at the back of the book). They will play an important part in helping you to understand this section.

Democracy: _____

Machismo: _____

Important Terms: As you read this section, look for the following terms:

◆ Capitalism

◆ Catholic Church

GOVERNMENT

Traditionally, political power in Latin America was held by a small group of wealthy landowners. However, in the 1980s and 1990s more and more Latin American nations began introducing democratic governments. In a **democracy**, people have a voice in their government, and power is shared among all citizens. The government protects individual rights. An example of democracy in action is when people vote to elect their government officials. Some Latin American countries are still ruled by **dictators** (*rule by one person with absolute power*), and people's rights are limited. Cuba is an example of a dictatorship. Fidel Castro, a Communist, controls what Cuba's government does. ◆

Although it is not a state, Puerto Rico is a part of the United States. It receives many benefits granted to citizens of the United States, but the people are not permitted to vote in presidential elections. Puerto Rico calls itself a **commonwealth** (*special status under the U.S. Government*).

ECONOMY

Most Latin American nations today have an economic system known as **capitalism**, or the **free enterprise system**. Businesses are owned privately and run for profit. However, only a few people own businesses or land. Most of the people are poor peasant farmers and workers in the growing cities. In the past, many Latin American governments followed a policy called **nationalization** (*taking property away from private owners and foreign-owned businesses, and placing it under government control*). Cuba under Castro in 1959, Venezuela in 1976 and Nicaragua in 1979 all nationalized many of their countries' foreign-owned businesses and private lands. However, some Latin American countries are now reversing nationalization and allowing greater private enterprise. ◆

SOCIETY

- ◆ Traditionally, the family is the center of life in Latin America. In **extended families**, the children, parents and grandparents all live together. In Latin American society, **machismo** is an important concept. Machismo places great emphasis on male pride and honor, and physical and moral strength. Women are sometimes seen as persons to be dominated. In Latin American families, machismo often means the man is the chief provider and makes all the important decisions.

Latin America was traditionally marked by a sharp division between social classes. There was a small, highly-educated, wealthy elite and a large number of poor farmers and workers. It was extremely difficult for a person to move from one social class to the other. Today there are several forces bringing about changes in the social system. Among the forces for change are the movement of people to the cities (**urbanization**) resulting in new employment opportunities, the chance for more education, the influence of television, and the desire of the Catholic Church to encourage change. This is leading to greater opportunities for members of all social classes.

RELIGION

- ◆ Today, most people in Latin America are Catholic, a religion first introduced there by the Spanish and Portuguese. The **Catholic Church** has acted as a unifying force throughout Latin America's history. It has had a great influence on family life. For example, high birth rates can be partly explained by the Church's opposition to birth control devices and to abortion. Recently, many Latin American church leaders have taken an active role in working for greater individual rights, more democracy, and improving the conditions of the poor.

THE ARTS

The art of Latin America can be grouped into two time periods: before and after the arrival of Christopher Columbus. Art in the pre-Columbian era (*the time before Columbus*) served a religious purpose. This type of art can be seen in Mayan temples, which compare in beauty and architectural achievement with the work of the ancient Egyptians.

Post-Columbian art is a blend of European, African and Native American traditions. For example, Latin Americans built huge cathedrals similar to those found in Europe. You can also see this diverse blend of traditions in such Latin American dances as the tango and rumba.

Pictured at right: Aztec statue carved in basalt.



SUMMING UP: LATIN AMERICA'S SYSTEMS

GOVERNMENT: Many Latin American nations have had little experience with democratic government. However, in recent years, there has been a trend toward democracy.

ECONOMY. Most wealth in Latin America is controlled by a small group of people, while the majority are poor. However, in recent years Latin America has experienced economic growth.

SOCIETY. Traditional life in Latin America was centered in the family. Changes are coming about as a result of people moving to cities, modern communications and the influence of the Church.

RELIGION. The Catholic Church, first introduced by Europeans, has been a unifying force and influence in Latin America.

THE ARTS: Pre-Columbian art served religious purposes; post-Columbian art reflects the blending of native American, European and African traditions.

CHECKING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

THINKING IT OVER

After reading this section about Latin America's systems, are there any other important terms you think should be included? What are they? _____

Directions: Complete each of the following cards. Then answer the multiple choice questions that follow.

DEMOCRACY

Definition: _____

Example: _____

CAPITALISM

Definition: _____

Example: _____

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MACHISMO

Definition: _____

Characteristics: _____

CATHOLIC CHURCH

What is it? _____

Importance: _____

- 1 Which statement is true about a democracy?
 - 1 It can only exist in a highly industrialized society.
 - 2 It exists only in the United States.
 - 3 Democratic governments protect people's basic rights.
 - 4 A democracy has only one political party.
- 2 In Latin America, political power has traditionally been in the hands of
 - 1 farmers and hunters
 - 2 factory workers and artists
 - 3 landowners and military leaders
 - 4 scientists and religious leaders
- 3 The major occupation for most workers in Latin America today is
 - 1 skilled factory work
 - 2 agricultural work
 - 3 computer repairs
 - 4 government service
- 4 Which group in Latin America would benefit the most from land reform?
 - 1 wealthy landowners
 - 2 church officials
 - 3 peasant farmers
 - 4 government workers
- 5 The spread of the Catholic religion throughout Latin America is an example of
 - 1 national security
 - 2 socialism
 - 3 cultural diffusion
 - 4 machismo
- 6 The role of the Catholic Church in Latin America can best be described as
 - 1 having much influence on daily life
 - 2 becoming active in trade talks
 - 3 being confined only to religious activities
 - 4 being controlled by national governments
- 7 In Latin America, military governments and the importance of the Catholic Church can trace their roots to
 - 1 early native American civilizations
 - 2 English military traditions
 - 3 Spanish colonial rule
 - 4 African influence
- 8 The main source of unity in Latin American nations has traditionally been
 - 1 the Catholic Church
 - 2 the influence of Islam
 - 3 the hacienda system
 - 4 economic prosperity

4

IMPORTANT PEOPLE

In this section you will read about some people who have played a key role in shaping Latin America's history.

THINK ABOUT IT

How many famous people from Latin America can you name? _____

Who are they? _____



THE LATIN AMERICAN TIMES



Volume 7

Number 21

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Until 1492, Europeans had no knowledge of the Americas, and Native Americans had no knowledge of Europe, Asia or Africa. Christopher Columbus brought the Western and Eastern Hemispheres into contact with each other, giving birth to our modern world. In 1492, Columbus set out in search of a new sailing route to the East Indies. Believing he had reached India, he called the native peoples Indians. His "discovery" brought about great changes in the world — opening the Americas to Europeans, introducing them to new foods and knowledge about other peoples, and making Europeans rich. But the meeting also sadly led to the conquest and destruction of Native American civilizations.



— opening the Americas to Europeans, introducing them to new foods and knowledge about other peoples, and making Europeans rich. But the meeting also sadly led to the conquest and destruction of Native American civilizations.

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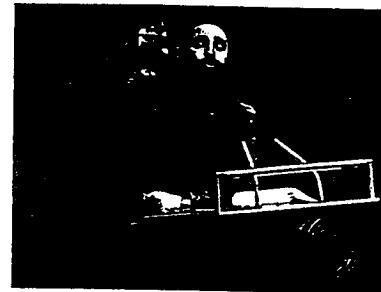
SIMON BOLIVAR

Simon Bolivar is one of Latin America's best known fighters for independence. He is honored with the title "The Liberator," and statues of Bolivar are found throughout the northern regions of Latin America. As a young man, he fought for Venezuelan independence from Spain. Next, Bolivar led an army across the Andes Mountains and defeated the Spanish army in Colombia. In 1822, he helped Jose de San Martin defeat the Spanish forces in Peru and Bolivia. He died in 1830, never fully achieving his dream of a union between Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, similar to that of the United States. Although his "Gran Colombia" dream did become a reality for eight years, it was unable to hold together.

FIDEL CASTRO

In the Cuban Revolution of 1959, Fidel Castro and his guerrilla forces overthrew Cuba's military dictator. Once in power, he nationalized (took control of) the banks and other foreign-owned businesses, turning Cuba into the Western Hemisphere's first Communist nation. The Soviet Union had helped to support the Cuban economy, but cut its aid in 1990. As a result, after 30 years of Communism, the Cuban economy is on the brink of collapse. Food and basic consumer goods are rationed. Castro is determined to keep the Communist system in Cuba, whatever the costs. Some Cubans side with Castro, whom they see as a symbol of national independence, while others oppose his policies.

Food and basic consumer goods are rationed. Castro is determined to keep the Communist system in Cuba, whatever the costs. Some Cubans side with Castro, whom they see as a symbol of national independence, while others oppose his policies.



JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR

Perez de Cuellar was a member of Peru's diplomatic service, and rose to become the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1982. He worked tirelessly on missions around the world to prevent ethnic, religious and border conflicts from developing into full-fledged wars. De Cuellar played an important role in attempting to avoid war in the Persian Gulf, and was a key supporter of U.S. actions. He also helped obtain the release of Western hostages in the Middle East. His term as Secretary-General of the U.N. ended in 1991.



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SUMMING UP: IMPORTANT PEOPLE

Latin American leaders, such as Simon Bolivar in the past and Fidel Castro today, have greatly influenced events in Latin America and the world.

CHECKING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

THINKING IT OVER

Which famous people connected with Latin America can you now add to your list?

Directions: Complete the following cards. Then answer the multiple choice questions that follow.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Time Period: _____

Achievements: _____

Impact: _____

SIMON BOLIVAR

Time Period: _____

Achievements: _____

Impact: _____

FIDEL CASTRO

Time Period: _____

Achievements: _____

Impact: _____

JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR

Time Period: _____

Achievements: _____

Importance: _____

- 1 Simon Bolivar and Nelson Mandela are similar in that they
 - 1 fought for their people's freedom
 - 2 ran for political office
 - 3 put an end to the policy of apartheid
 - 4 achieved independence for their countries from Spain
- 2 Jomo Kenyatta, Simon Bolivar and Toussaint L'Ouverture are best known as
 - 1 economic theorists
 - 2 military geniuses
 - 3 political leaders
 - 4 guerrilla fighters
- 3 Which has been a characteristic of Cuba under Fidel Castro?
 - 1 an official foreign policy of friendship with the United States
 - 2 many different political parties
 - 3 public ownership of businesses and industries
 - 4 the absence of a written constitution
- 4 Which economic system was introduced into Cuba by Fidel Castro?
 - 1 Communism
 - 2 mercantilism
 - 3 interdependence
 - 4 feudalism

5 CONCERNS

In this section you will read about some of the important events between the United States and Latin America. In addition, you will learn about some major problems and concerns facing Latin America today.

THINKABOUTIT

Below are some statements about U.S.-Latin American relations. Read each statement and then indicate whether you think the statement is true (T) or false (F):

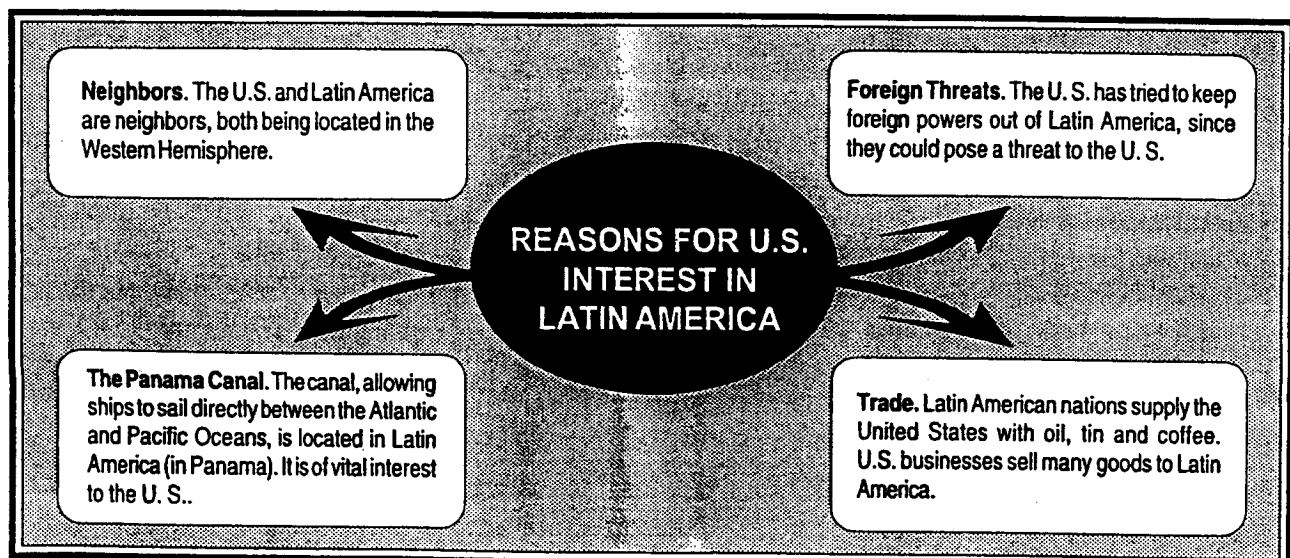
- ___ The Monroe Doctrine was issued to protect the Panama Canal.
- ___ President Wilson created the "Big Stick Policy" to protect American sailors.
- ___ Under the Good Neighbor Policy, the U.S. agreed not to interfere in Latin America's internal affairs.
- ___ The Bay of Pigs Invasion happened in Panama.

Important Terms: As you read this section, look for the following terms:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| ◆ Monroe Doctrine | ◆ Cuban Revolution |
| ◆ Good Neighbor Policy | ◆ Deforestation |
| ◆ Organization of American States | ◆ NAFTA |

U.S.- LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

Since the establishment of the United States, relations between the United States and Latin America have been of major importance. There are many reasons for this ongoing interest.



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CONFLICT AND COOPERATION WITH THE U. S.

Relations between the U.S. and its Latin American neighbors have been marked by periods of conflict and periods of cooperation.

- ◆ ➤ **The Monroe Doctrine.** In 1823, the United States issued the Monroe Doctrine, warning European nations against establishing new colonies in North and South America. It established the U. S. as the major power in the Western Hemisphere, and helped Latin American countries to keep their independence. The Monroe Doctrine has been the basis for most of U.S. policy in Latin America. Many Latin American leaders opposed the Monroe Doctrine, believing that the United States should stay out of Latin America's affairs and mind its own business.
- **The Mexican-American War (1846-1848).** This war started as a border dispute. By winning, the U.S. acquired a large part of Mexican land that eventually became the states of California, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada. The war caused much ill will towards the U.S. in Latin America.



➤ **The Spanish-American War (1898).** This war began when the U.S. battleship *Maine*, on a visit to Havana harbor in Cuba, was blown up. Although it was never determined who set the blast, it led to a war between the United States and Spain. The United States claimed to enter the war to free Cuba from harsh Spanish rule. The war ended with a U.S. victory, resulting in the U.S. assuming informal control over Cuba and taking over Puerto Rico.

➤ **The "Big Stick" Policy (early 1900s).** The U.S. under President Theodore Roosevelt was often involved in the affairs of Latin America. As an extension of the Monroe Doctrine, he sent troops to countries that had debts or had trouble keeping order. He also built the **Panama Canal**, so that ships could sail quickly from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific.

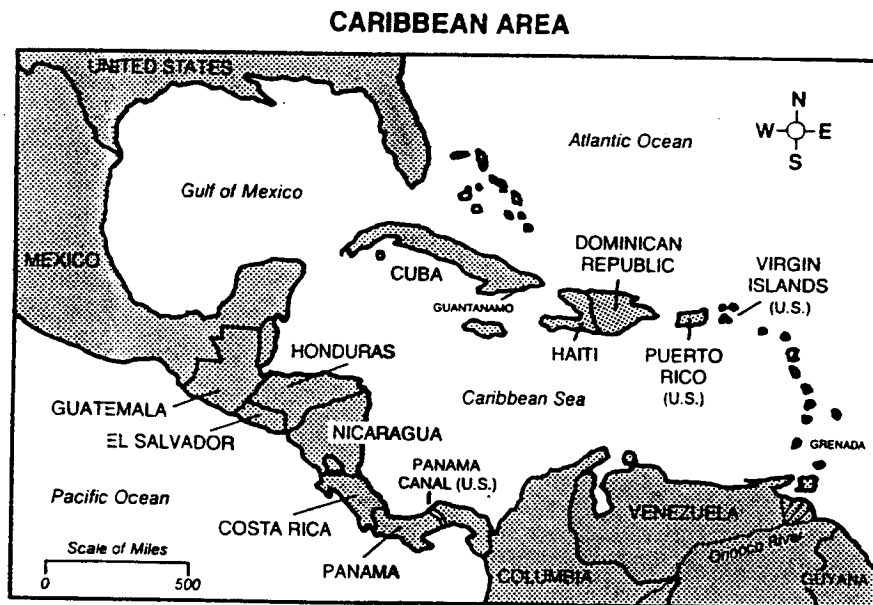
- ◆ ➤ **Good Neighbor Policy (1933-1945).** Relations improved when President Franklin Roosevelt established a policy in which the United States agreed not to interfere in Latin American affairs.

➤ **Organization of American States (1948).** This organization, known as the O.A.S., was created to solve disputes between countries in the Americas. It continues to be a place where nations in the Americas can peacefully settle disagreements and discuss their mutual problems.

➤ **Relations after World War II (1960-present).** Later U.S. relations with Latin America were focused on attempts to stop the spread of Communism from Cuba (see following paragraph). The United States sent military forces or military aid to several Latin American countries, including the Dominican Republic, Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Grenada, to fight Communist rebels. The United States also gave economic assistance to many countries.

COMMUNISM IN CUBA

The **Cuban Revolution of 1959** was a major concern for the Latin American countries and for the United States. **Fidel Castro** overthrew the dictator of Cuba and established a Communist government under his leadership. Once in power, Castro nationalized foreign-owned banks and industries. In 1961 the United States attempted to overthrow Castro by supporting an invasion by Cuban refugees. After the invasion failed, it was discovered that Soviet nuclear missiles were being secretly placed in Cuba, aimed at U.S. cities. This caused the **Cuban Missile Crisis**. Under an imposed U.S. blockade, the missiles were withdrawn. However, relations between Cuba and its North and South American neighbors have remained unfriendly.



THE WAR ON DRUGS

Latin American countries such as Mexico, Colombia and Peru are producers and distributors of cocaine and marijuana, which are illegally brought to the U. S. The U. S. has taken active steps in Latin America to curb drug production. These include giving military aid to Colombia, and the invasion of Panama to oust military dictator **Manuel Noriega**, who may have been helping the drug trade. However, it is difficult to stop these illegal activities because the drug suppliers in Latin America are very powerful and many Latin Americans depend on the sale of drugs for their income. Most experts believe the key to drug control is to cut the use of drugs in the United States.

PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Three major economic problems facing Latin America are:

OVERBORROWING

In the past, some Latin American countries borrowed heavily from other countries to obtain capital for investment. This resulted in large debts. Many of these countries were unable repay their loans, creating a serious problem. Recently, indebted nations like Mexico, Argentina and Brazil have agreed to a series of requirements, such as reducing inflation and opening up their economies to foreign investment, in return for lower interest rates and new long-term loans from major banks.

OVERPOPULATION

The population is growing so rapidly in some parts of Latin America that every 30 years the number of people doubles. This growth has created many new problems. It uses up any gains Latin Americans make in productivity. It is driving people from rural areas to cities looking for jobs and a better way of life, and leads to severe overcrowding in the cities.

◆ DEFORESTATION

Deforestation is caused by clearing the lands of the rain forest to increase the amount of land available to grow crops. Unfortunately, this has resulted in the opposite effect. After the trees are cut down and crops are planted and harvested for a year or two, the soil becomes dry and barren. Since it cannot be used again for planting, the farmers have to move to a new location and cut down more trees. Deforestation has had global effects, since these forests produce a large portion of the world's oxygen supply.

MEXICO AND FREE TRADE IN NORTH AMERICA

- Free trade means eliminating **tariffs** (*taxes on goods sold from one country to another*). Mexico
- ◆ reached an agreement — known as **NAFTA** (North American Free Trade Agreement) — which has created a free trade area with the U.S. and Canada. As a result, many tariffs between Mexico and the U.S. have been reduced or eliminated. Additional agreements set up special rules to protect workers and the environment in Mexico. Supporters of NAFTA say it will allow Americans to export more goods to Mexico. Opponents say that because labor costs are lower in Mexico, U.S. manufacturers will move their operations there, causing a loss of American jobs. Other Latin American countries, such as Chile, may soon join NAFTA.

ANALYSIS

If you were a member of the U.S. Congress, would you have supported or opposed NAFTA?
☐ Yes ☐ No. Explain your answer:

SUMMING UP: CONCERNS

Latin American nations have been greatly affected by U.S. policies. Among the most serious concerns facing many Latin Americans today are economic development, overpopulation, the growing and sale of illegal drugs, a low standard of living, and NAFTA.

CHECKING YOUR UNDERSTANDING**THINKING IT OVER**

Which statements were you correct on, and which ones did you get wrong?

- ☐ The Monroe Doctrine was issued to protect the Panama Canal.
- ☐ President Wilson created the "Big Stick Policy" to protect American sailors.
- ☐ Under the Good Neighbor Policy, the U.S. agreed not to interfere in Latin America's internal affairs.
- ☐ The Bay of Pigs Invasion happened in Panama.

Directions: Complete each of the following cards. Then answer the multiple choice questions.

MONROE DOCTRINE

What was it? _____

Main purpose: _____

Importance: _____

GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

What was it? _____

Main purpose: _____

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
(O.A.S.)**

What is it? _____

Purpose: _____

CUBAN REVOLUTION

Describe it: _____

Result: _____

DEFORESTATION

What is it? _____

Result: _____

NAFTA

What is it? _____

Possible effects: _____

- 1 The United States sees Cuba as a threat because Cuba
 - 1 refuses to sell sugar to industrialized nations
 - 2 maintains a Communist government
 - 3 supports the foreign policy of Canada
 - 4 prevents trade among countries in Latin America
- 2 Which is a major problem facing many Latin American nations today?
 - 1 the threat of an invasion by the United States
 - 2 illegal immigrants moving into Latin American nations
 - 3 a decline in the birth rate throughout Latin America
 - 4 inability to repay foreign debts
- 3 Which U.S. policy refused to allow European nations to establish new colonies in Latin America?
 - 1 Good Neighbor Policy
 - 2 "Big Stick" policy
 - 3 creation of the O.A.S.
 - 4 Monroe Doctrine
- 4 The U.S. "Good Neighbor" policy sought to
 - 1 improve U.S.-Canadian relations
 - 2 expand the Monroe Doctrine
 - 3 encourage better U.S.-Latin American relations
 - 4 limit illegal drugs coming into the U.S.
- 5 A major goal of the Organization of American States (OAS) is to
 - 1 provide a place to discuss mutual problems in Latin America
 - 2 preserve democracy in Cuba
 - 3 promote Communism in developing nations
 - 4 prevent U.S. investments in Latin America
- 6 In an outline, one of these is the main topic; the other three are subtopics. Which is the main topic?
 - 1 Problems of Economic Development
 - 2 Overpopulation
 - 3 Deforestation
 - 4 Overborrowing

SUMMARIZING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Complete the following paragraphs by writing in the proper words from the Word Game box.

W o r d G a m e	AMAZON AZTECS SIMON BOLIVAR FIDEL CASTRO	CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS COMMUNISM EQUATOR THE WEST INDIES	MAYANS MERCANTILISM MONROE DOCTRINE PORTUGAL
--	---	---	---

The lands of Mexico, Central America, [] and South America make up an area known as Latin America. This area has several important rivers; the longest is the [] river. The climate is quite hot, because much of the region lies near the [].

Before the arrival of [] in 1492, several great native civilizations existed in the area: [], [] and Incas. However, European explorations changed the region forever. A major reason for European interest in Latin America was its belief in the economic system known as [], in which colonies exist for the benefit of the mother country. Much of Latin America's language and cultural heritage came from Spain and []. These two nations established the largest number of colonies in the area. By the 1800s, people like [] led uprisings against European control, and successfully gained independence for Latin American countries.

In 1823, the United States issued the [] to protect its interests in the region, warning European nations against establishing new colonies in Latin America. Since that time, the United States has continued to show a great interest in the area, fearing other nations like Cuba under the leadership of [] might also turn to [].

Directions: Fill in the blanks in the two visual organizers below, based on the information you have learned in this chapter.

PROBLEMS FACING LATIN AMERICA

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

DESCRIBING HISTORICAL EVENTS

Directions: Describe fully an important historical event you learned about in this chapter. Complete the chart by filling in the information called for in each box.

WHO issued it?

WHEN was it issued?

THE MONROE DOCTRINE

WHAT was its main purpose?

WHY was it issued?

RESULTS:

1.

2.

3.

4.

THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS

TEST HELPER

The information in this Test-Helper section will help prepare you to answer questions dealing with the problems faced by developing nations.

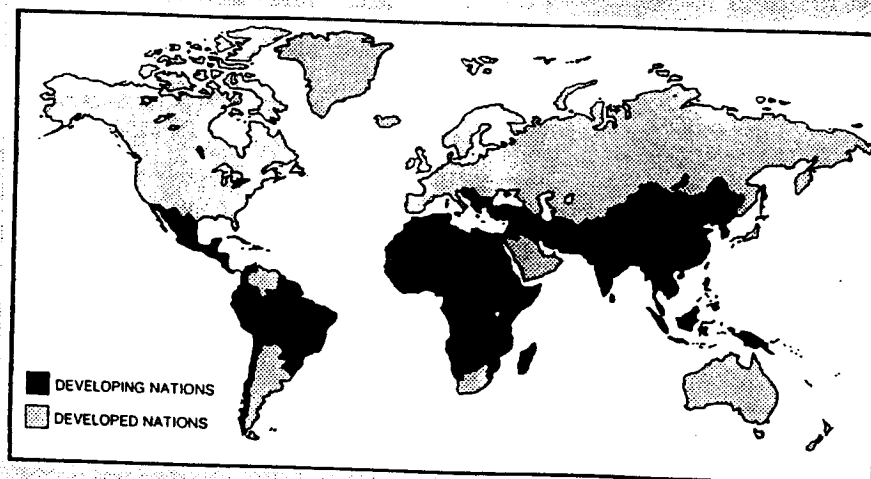
WHAT IS A "DEVELOPING NATION"?

One way to look at a country is to measure either what its total economy produces, or its income per person. Countries having a high level are called **developed nations**, while those trying to make more effective use of their resources are called **developing nations**. You can better understand the difference between a developed and a developing country by examining the following chart.

COMPARING THE U.S. WITH SOME DEVELOPING NATIONS (1991)

	U.S. No. America	Zaire Africa	Haiti Latin Am.	Bangladesh South Asia	S. Yemen Middle East
Per Capita Income	\$16,441	\$275	\$300	\$113	\$310
Autos	139,000,000	24,000	34,000	41,000	150,000
Telephones	134,000,000	245,000	38,000	143,000	63,000
Life Expectancy	75.5	55.5	55.5	53.5	48
Doctors	528,000	705	803	12,306	406
Literacy Rate	99%	55%	23%	29%	25%
Imports	\$492 billion	\$0.756 bil.	\$0.344 bil.	\$3.6 bil.	\$7.1 bil.
Exports	\$363 billion	\$1.1. bil.	\$0.183 bil.	\$1.3 bil.	\$38 bil.

Sometimes developing countries are referred to as **Third World Nations**. Most of these nations are located in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



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MAJOR PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS

LOW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

In most of these countries, the majority of the people are peasant farmers, working by hand. For example, in Bangladesh about 74% of the people are farmers, while in the U.S. only 4% are. Because of machinery and fertilizers, one U.S. farmer can grow much more food than a Bangladesh farmer.

LACK OF A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Most developing nations lack skilled workers because many of their people cannot read and write. To become skilled workers, peasants would have to go to school instead of working. Then there might be even less food to go around. There is also a shortage of schools and teachers.

LACK OF CAPITAL FOR INVESTMENT

Most developing countries lack the money to buy modern machinery and build needed roads, bridges and communications systems to make their workers more productive.

POPULATION GROWTH

Advances in medicine have greatly reduced the death rate in the Third World, but birth rates are still high. Families traditionally have many children to help with farm and housework. Birth rates are also high because many couples do not know about modern birth control methods. Agricultural gains are used up by the increased population. As a result, living standards do not rise.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY

Developing countries often suffer from ethnic, religious and class tensions. In Africa, different tribal groups clash. In many Latin American countries, a small group is wealthy and the rest of the people are very poor. In the Middle East and Southeast Asia, religious differences cause constant unrest.

STRATEGIES USED TO OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS

THE GREEN REVOLUTION

Many developing countries tried to improve farm production by using modern science and technology. New fertilizers, pesticides, and better irrigation were introduced; this is called the Green Revolution. Some spectacular results were achieved. However, many Third World farmers could not afford to buy the fertilizers and machinery, and they lacked training in how to use them.

POPULATION CONTROL

Many developing nations have created programs to limit birth rates. The Chinese government encourages people to have only one child. In Latin America and other parts of the world, population control programs meet with great problems because of traditions, religion and lack of education.

THE FREE-MARKET APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the free market became the most popular approach to economic development. With free markets, foreign goods and investments enter a developing country with little interference by the home government. Foreign money is attracted to developing countries because labor costs are low, giving them an advantage over manufacturers in the developed world.

TESTING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Directions: Answer all of the multiple choice questions in this part by circling the number of the word or expression that best completes the statement or answers the question. Then answer the essay questions.

Three items have been omitted from the following outline. For each blank space, select the item which best completes that blank.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Climate | 3 Physical Features |
| 2 Natural Resources | 4 Central America |

Latin America's Physical Setting

1 I Regions

- A South America
- B _____
- C West Indies
- D Mexico

2 II _____

- A Mountains
- B Rain Forest
- C Rivers

3 III _____

- A Fertile Grasslands
- B Minerals

4 An important effect of geography on Latin American nations has been the development of

- 1 Communism as the best economic system
- 2 strong anti-democratic feelings
- 3 isolation from one another
- 4 hostile treatment by other nations of the world

5 Which U.S. policy sought to end foreign interference in Latin America's affairs?

- 1 "Big Stick" Policy
- 2 Good Neighbor Policy
- 3 Cuban blockade
- 4 Monroe Doctrine

6 Which person is correctly paired with his country?

- 1 Desmond Tutu - United States
- 2 Fidel Castro - Cuba
- 3 Nelson Mandela - Brazil
- 4 Simon Bolivar - Mexico

7 Which statement best illustrates the concept of machismo?

- 1 A husband stays home to help care for the children.
- 2 A wife decides how to spend the family earnings.
- 3 The father is the only family decision-maker.
- 4 A father and son work together.

8 Which statement best illustrates the existence of cultural diffusion?

- 1 Most Latin Americans speak Spanish.
- 2 Latin Americans enjoy sports.
- 3 The Aztecs built large pyramids.
- 4 There are frequent military takeovers in Latin America.

9 The economic system found in most Latin American nations today is

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 communism | 3 socialism |
| 2 capitalism | 4 imperialism |

10 References to debt payments, human rights violations, and deforestation are most closely associated with

- 1 the ancient civilizations of Latin America
- 2 the policies introduced by Fidel Castro
- 3 the civil war that took place in Nicaragua
- 4 current problems in Latin America

ESSAYS

In the chapter on Africa, you learned how to answer **Part A** of one kind of essay question. You are now ready to learn how to answer **Part B** of this kind of question. The **Part B** section requires that you write an essay based on the information you have already provided in your **Part A** answer. **Part B** asks you to prove your understanding of the opening statement by giving information that supports it. Often, students who know the necessary information to support the general statement do poorly on the essay section because they do not know how to *organize* their essays.

To help you organize your Part B answer, try to imagine your answer as a cheeseburger consisting of a top bun, slices of cheese, patties of meat, and a bottom bun.

- The "top bun" is the *topic sentence* (the first sentence you write). You just restate the opening statement that introduced the Part B question.
- The "cheese slice" is the *bridge sentence*. It helps the reader to go from the first section of your essay to the next.
- Then come the "patties of meat." These meat patties are *the information you used in Part A*.
- The bottom "bun" comes last. It is a *restating of the opening statement*. The one difference is that it is introduced with such words as "therefore" or "in conclusion, one can see that..."

Let's answer a sample essay question to show how this approach works:

Developing nations share similar problems that hinder their economic growth and development.

Problems

High birth rate
Unskilled labor force

Lack of investment capital
Unstable social conditions

Part A

Choose *one* problem listed above: _____

State how this is a problem for many Latin American countries. _____

Choose *another* problem listed above: _____

State how this is a problem for many Latin American countries. _____

Part B

In your part B answer, you should use information you gave in Part A. However, you may also include different or additional information in your Part B answer.

Write an essay explaining how Latin America nations share common problems that hinder their economic growth and development.

Your Part A answer should look something like this:

Choose *one* problem listed above: High birth rate

State how this is a problem for many Latin American countries. It means more people have to be fed.

Choose *another* problem listed above: Lack of investment capital.

State how this is a problem for many Latin American countries. If a country does not have money it cannot buy modern machinery.

You are now ready to write your **Part B** essay answer. Using the "cheeseburger" method, it should look something like this:

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Topic Sentence: *Many developing nations share similar problems that hinder their economic growth and development.*

Notice that this topic sentence is *identical to the opening statement* in the question. All you have done is restate the introduction to the question. The opening statement is easy to recognize, since it is always in **bold print**.

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Bridge Sentence: *This can be shown by looking at the problem of high birth rates and a lack of investment capital.*

The bridge sentence connects the main idea in the topic sentence with specific information you are going to use. It helps the reader follow your thoughts by pointing out the connection. There are other bridge sentences that you can use, such as *The following examples support this statement* -or- *First, I will look at the problem of..... Second, I will look at the problem of*

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Main Essay Sentences:

One problem for many Latin American countries is the high birth rate, which adds to the population. This increase means more people have to be fed, more homes have to be built, and more resources have to be used.

Another problem for many Latin American countries is the lack of investment capital. If a country does not have money, it cannot buy modern machinery nor can it build roads, bridges, and communications systems.

Notice that the meat patties are a *restatement of the information you have given in Part A*. They explain the topic sentence with examples and facts. You may also add extra information to give a fuller explanation.

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Ending Sentence: *In conclusion, we can see that many developing nations share similar problems that hinder their economic growth and development.*

Notice that this ending sentence is identical to the opening statement, except that it is expressed as a conclusion. It reminds the reader of what you have just explained. There are other ways of writing this. For example: *Therefore, we can see that* -or- *Thus, we can see that*

Let's test your understanding of the "cheeseburger" method. Here is another sample essay question:

38

The way people live in an area is often greatly influenced by its geographic features.

Geographic Features

Mountains
Rain Forests
Resources

Rivers
Coastline
Climate

Part A

Select *two* features from the list For *each* feature you selected, identify one geographic effect of this feature on the way people live in **Africa** or **Latin America**.

FEATURE	EFFECT
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____

Part B

In your part B answer, you should use information you gave in Part A. However, you may also include different or additional information in your Part B answer.

Write an essay explaining how the way in which people live in Africa or Latin America is often influenced by that region's geographic features.

(While you are writing in your answers to **Part A** of the question, use those same answers to fill in various parts of the "cheeseburger" — the Topic Sentence, the Bridge Sentence, etc.)

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