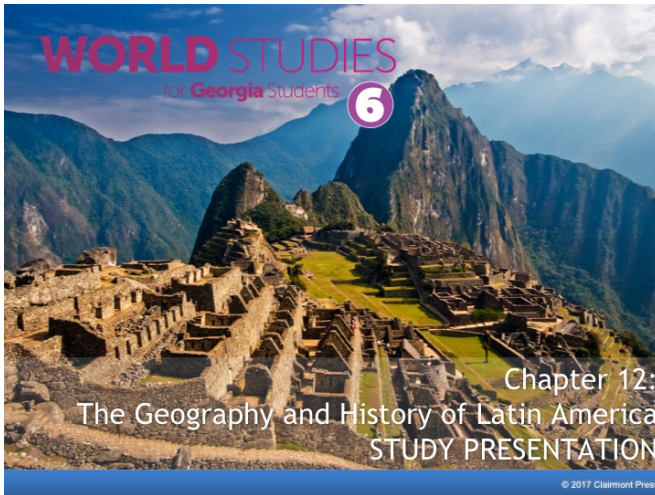


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America**

**Quick Notes**



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**Section 1: The Land and People of Latin America**

➤ Essential Question:

- What are some natural and man-made features of Latin America?

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**Section 1: The Land and People of Latin America**

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- isthmus
- pope

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## Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

### Quick Notes

#### Location and Features of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Latin America is located on both North and South America, and it exists in the western, northern, and southern hemispheres.
- It has the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans to its east and west.
- The region south of Mexico is an **isthmus**, which is a narrow strip of land connecting two landmasses.
- Latin America contains a number of natural features, including rivers, deserts, mountain ranges, and a large rainforest.

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#### Locating Countries of Latin America

- There are 33 countries and 15 territories in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Some of the countries are Mexico, which is south of the United States, Panama, which includes the Panama Canal, and Brazil, which is the largest country in South America and includes the Amazon River and the Amazon Rain Forest.
- There are also many island nations, including Cuba, which is located south of Florida.

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#### The Panama Canal

- The Panama Canal was built in order to allow easy passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- The first to attempt to build the canal was Ferdinand de Lesseps in 1881.
  - He had just finished building the Suez Canal in Egypt.
- However, weather and terrain differences from Egypt resulted in the project stopping in 1889.
- In 1904, construction under the United States began, learning from de Lesseps mistakes and finishing the canal in just 10 years, at roughly the same time as the start of World War I.
- Today, the Panama Canal is one of the most important shipping routes in the world, with 13,000 to 14,000 ships sailing through each year.

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## Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

### Quick Notes

#### Languages of Latin America

- The Spanish and Portuguese spread their language and religion across Central and South America as they conquered indigenous people.
- Spanish is the most common language today, with over 300 million native speakers.
  - Portuguese is the official language of Brazil, with over 200 million native speakers.
- Smaller number of people speak other languages in the region.
  - Dutch, French, and English are official languages of some smaller countries and territories.
  - Some isolated indigenous people of Central America still use their own language, like Quechua, the language of the Incas.
  - There are also some African languages that have survived since the days of slavery.

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#### Religion of Latin America

- The Latin American region is mostly Roman Catholic.
  - In the Roman Catholic Church, all believers are considered united under the leadership and ministry of the **pope**, the Bishop of Rome.
- During the colonial period, Spain, Portugal, and France sent missionaries to the New World to set up missions and churches.
- These missions were made to convert the indigenous people to Christianity while also ministering to the Europeans.
  - Many indigenous people were forced to say they accepted Christianity, but many still practiced their traditional beliefs in secret.
- It is estimated that 40% of the Roman Catholic Church's population is Latin American.

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#### Section 2: From Colonies to Independence

- Essential Question:
  - What was the role of enslaved Africans in the European colonies of Latin America?

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## Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

### Quick Notes

#### Section 2: From Colonies to Independence

- What terms do I need to know?
  - Maya
  - Aztec
  - Inca
  - Columbian Exchange
  - conquistadors
  - Monroe Doctrine

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#### Indigenous People

- Central and South America had amazing ancient cultures.
- The **Maya** civilization developed in Central America on the Yucatán Peninsula, reaching its peak around 2,000 years ago.
  - It had temples, cities, roads, ball fields, and pyramids.
  - They also traded corn, beans, squash, and even chocolate.
- The **Aztec** and **Inca** were around during European exploration.
  - The Aztec Empire was centered around today's Mexico, with its capital, Tenochtitlán, built on an island in a lake.
  - The Inca Empire developed around the Andes Mountains and had over 14,000 miles of roads throughout the mountains and a message system of runners to deliver communications.

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#### The Columbian Exchange

- The **Columbian Exchange** was the exchange of goods, people, ideas, plants, animals, and diseases between Europe and the Americas after Columbus's voyage.
- A goal of Europeans was to increase the wealth of their home countries.
  - Goods and items from the Americas were sent back to Europe to be sold for high prices.
- As the Spanish and Portuguese spread their empires, the indigenous populations began to decline.
  - Disease was a major part of this decline, along with war against the Europeans.
- To meet demands for goods back home, the Europeans transported Africans to the New World as enslaved servants, working in mines, on plantations, and other jobs against their will.

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## Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

### Quick Notes

#### The Pope's Line of Demarcation

- Pope Alexander VI issued an official decree to prevent countries from fighting over the new lands in the Americas.
- After Columbus returned from his voyage, the Spanish monarchs wanted to gain control of the new land.
  - The Pope issued a papal bull in 1493 to give Spain and Portugal claim, though Spain was favored in the dividing lines.
- This papal bull was unpopular with Portugal as well as the other European countries left out.
- The Portuguese and Spanish worked out a treaty to give Portugal more access in 1494.
  - This is what led Portugal to locating and claiming what is known today as Brazil.

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#### African Slavery

- Gold and silver found by **conquistadors** (conquerors) made Spain and Portugal very wealthy.
- The metals were first taken from natives, but as supplies fell, Europeans created mines to locate more.
- Europeans also looked to grow crops that could be sold in Europe.
- Europeans looked to Africa for an abundant work force for their projects.
  - Africans were forced into slavery and worked long hours, had poor housing, and ate little.
  - For 300 years, businesses relied on the use of slavery to grow.
- This labor force helped build many of the Latin American countries, but much of the wealth was sent back to Europe.

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#### Independence Movements

- The American Revolution of 1776 was an example of colonies fighting for their independence.
- Events like that and the French Revolution led to ideas of freedom in Latin America.
- Mexico's move toward independence from Spain began in 1810, and after many failed attempts, they finally gained independence in 1821, with an emphasis on freedom of religion and equality.
- Countries further south began their independence movements too, with Brazil becoming independent in 1822.
  - Nearly all of South America was free from Spanish rule by 1825.
- The United States helped protect Latin America from future European colonization, issuing the **Monroe Doctrine** as a promise in 1823.

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## Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

### Quick Notes

#### Section 3: Modern Latin America

- Essential Question:
  - What is the impact on political and social life resulting from the rule of dictators?

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#### Section 3: Modern Latin America

- What terms do I need to know?
  - dictator
  - drug cartel
  - Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas
  - migration

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#### Dictators and Democracy

- Many countries in Latin America have been ruled by **dictators**, or people who rule with absolute authority, often harshly.
- During the Cold War, the United States feared Soviet influence in the western hemisphere, which resulted in the United States supporting leaders who were not always democratically chosen.
  - However, democratic systems molded after the United States and Europe have spread over the past few decades.
- One example of a Latin American dictator was Augusto Pinochet of Chile, who ruled for 17 years.
  - Some saw him as a leader who kept communists from taking over the country, but others viewed him as a cruel leader who ignored rights of those who opposed him.
- Even though elections are held in most Latin American countries today, there is still widespread poverty.
  - Many leaders oppose the US and win support from citizens by blaming US policies for their problems.

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## Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

### Quick Notes

#### The War on Drugs

- The war on drugs has been an ongoing battle in the United States and Latin America.
  - Drugs like marijuana and heroin have been illegally brought into the United States.
- The Mexican police force is working to restructure itself to better tackle **drug cartels** (criminal drug-trafficking organizations).
  - Over the last few years, the size of the police force has more than doubled and has begun to encourage citizens to be involved in crime control.
- Cuba has also made efforts to keep drugs from being a major problem on the island through a thorough prevention and information program as well as harsh laws.
- Brazil, however, has large organizations that operate throughout the country, and is a major source of drugs found in Europe.

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#### Poverty

- Latin Americans have suffered financially because of the history of inequality between Europeans and indigenous peoples.
  - Non-Europeans in most Latin American countries have always struggled with lower pay and inadequate housing, education, and health care.
- The social status structure tends to be static, meaning there is little change.
- Even in cities, workers deal with low wages and labor-intensive jobs.
- The organization **Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas** has developed a system to assist struggling countries leave severe poverty.
  - This includes empowering smaller businesses, facilitating trade and regional competitiveness, building a modern and inclusive workforce, and encouraging green, sustainable business practices.

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#### Immigration

- Immigrating from another country for a better life is not new, but new immigration laws and economic changes have changed old **migration** (movement from one locality to another) patterns.
- Many in Latin America would move to the United States, searching for new opportunities, but the economic decline of 2007 caused many to instead settle in Mexico.
- An increase in violence along routes to the United States has also caused a shift in migration, with people instead moving to areas that are growing in their own country.
- Because of free trade agreements, increased economic stability, newer technologies and roads, Internet access, improved education, and updated healthcare, many migrants are finding it less necessary to travel out of the country for a better life.

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**Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America**

**Quick Notes**