



World Studies for Georgia Students-Grade 6

Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

Section 1: The Land and People of Latin America

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Latin America is located on two continents: _____ America and _____ America.
2. There is a large body of water on the western side of _____—the Pacific Ocean—which stretches down the entire western side of Central and _____ America.
3. On the eastern side of Mexico, there are two smaller bodies of water— the _____ of Mexico and the _____ Sea.
4. Moving south from _____ on the map, you will find many smaller countries in Central America. This region is an _____, or narrow strip of land connecting two landmasses.
5. The United Nations recognizes 33 _____ and 15 territories in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. In addition to these countries, there are many _____ nations. An important one is _____.
7. As the _____ and _____ conquered the indigenous people, they spread their languages and religion across Central and South America and the Caribbean.
8. _____ is the most common language there today with over 300 million native speakers, although there are many accents and varieties of Spanish depending on location.
9. Portugal ruled _____ from the 1500s until 1822, so _____ is the official language of Brazil.

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10. Some of the _____ people of Central and South America moved into the mountains and into the jungles. This isolated them from the European explorers and colonists, so their _____ survive today.
11. The religion of Latin America is mostly Roman _____.
12. Priests, friars, and monks of the Roman Catholic Church set up _____ all over Latin America to convert the indigenous people to Christianity.
13. As a result of these influences, it is estimated that over 425 million people, or 40 percent of the Roman Catholic Church population, is _____.



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Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

Section 2: From Colonies to Independence

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Central and South America had amazing _____ cultures.
2. The _____ civilization developed Central America on the Yucatán Peninsula.
3. Among the most famous of the indigenous people of Central and South America were the _____ and the _____.
4. The _____ Empire was centered in what is now Mexico. Its capital city, Tenochitlán, was built on an island in a lake where _____ City is today.
5. Further south along the western coast of South America, the _____ Empire developed in the Andes Mountains.
6. This event started an _____ between the Old World (Europe) and the New World (the Americas). This _____ included goods, people, ideas, plants, animals, and diseases.
7. As the Spanish and the Portuguese spread their empires, the indigenous populations began to _____. _____ was a big part of this decline—killing an estimated 50 to 75 percent of the population.
8. In order to meet the demand for goods to be sent back to Europe, the Europeans transported _____ to the New World as enslaved servants to work in mines and on plantations and to do other jobs against their will.
9. _____ and _____ found by conquistadors (conquerors) made Spain and Portugal wealthy. The wealth also made the countries _____.

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10. For about three hundred years, businesses that depended on _____ grew. The laborers—slaves—grew in numbers as the _____ expanded.
11. This labor force helped to build many of the countries of Latin America, but most of the _____ was sent back to Europe.
12. Mexico's move toward _____ from Spain began in 1810, but the rebels failed.
13. Freedom of _____ and _____ of all people were important parts of the Mexican independence movement.
14. Nearly all of South America was free of _____ rule by 1825.
15. Through the remainder of the 19th century, the _____ had a dominant role in many Latin American countries.
16. President James Monroe declared in 1823 that the United States would not tolerate European nations _____ in Latin America. This idea, later called the _____, became an important part of the policy of the US government.



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Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

Section 3: Modern Latin America

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Governments in Latin America often had times of _____ since they gained independence. Many have been ruled by military leaders or _____ (people who rule with total authority, often in a harsh way).
2. _____ systems have spread, however, in the past few decades.
3. One example of a Latin American dictator was Augusto Pinochet of _____.
4. Many believe that Pinochet was able to keep _____ from taking over the country, but others viewed him as a cruel leader who disrespected the _____ of anyone who opposed him.
5. Even though _____ are held in most Latin American countries today, there is widespread _____, and liberal and socialist leaders dominate politics.
6. The war on _____ has been an ongoing battle in the United States and in many Latin American countries.
7. Mexico is working to _____ its police force and fund more opposition to drug _____ (criminal drug-trafficking organizations).
8. _____ has implemented nationwide programs to keep drugs from being a major problem on the small island nation.
9. Unlike Cuba, where education and strict policing have deterred major drug problems, _____ has large organizations that operate throughout the country.

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10. With a turbulent history of _____ between the European and indigenous peoples, the Latin American people have suffered financially.
11. Many areas are so challenged they lack the basics of life: clean _____, basic supplies, housing, electricity, and basic health care.
12. Jobs are mostly found in _____ areas, away from the poor farming regions, but the same _____-level problems persist in cities as well as rural areas.
13. The organization Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas has developed a system to assist struggling _____ move out of severe poverty. Leaders of 15 western hemisphere governments hope to grow _____ throughout the region.
14. However, new immigration laws and changing _____ have changed old patterns of _____ (movement from one locality to another).
15. The increase in _____ on the routes to the United States is another deterrent for families moving to find better jobs and educational opportunities. _____ and other criminals have made it risky for the working poor to move with their families.
16. In South America, regional movement has been _____ affected by free trade agreements and by the numbers of people moving into regions that promote protection of the rights of _____.