

# Homework #7



**Read Chapter 7 (pages 165 - 185). Answer these questions on notebook paper.**

1. Which mountain range runs down the western side of South America?
2. This river basin is the largest in the world and covers 40 percent of South America. Which river does it belong to?
3. Where are the Pampas located?
4. Name the 4 large bodies of water that surround South America (3 oceans and 1 sea).
5. What is the name of the largest lake (by volume) in South America and where is it located?
6. What is the largest lake in South America (by surface area) and where is it located?
7. List six metals that are natural resources of South America.
8. Which three countries are the main sources of coffee?
9. List five fruits or vegetables grown for cash crops in South America.
10. What percentage of the world's beef is supplied by South America?
11. What percentage of the world's oil comes from South America?
12. Describe the cycle of government that occurs in many South American countries.
13. How was Chile able to establish a consistent government?
14. Look online for the 2024 GDP per capita of: (The US GDP per capita in 2024 was \$85,800)
  - a. Brazil
  - b. Chile
15. Which country in South America has the largest population?
16. What language do Brazilians speak and why?
17. What is the negative aspect of Latin America's culture? What do policymakers blame this problem on?
18. What is the "cultural glue" that unites the people of South America?
19. Why is it important to protect the Amazon rainforest?
20. What are the four main environmental issues in South America?
21. The tango is a dance that originated in South America. Watch the video of a couple dancing the tango. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7\\_ZLN9NLOk&list=PL19V3ctjq8K-khG2mBGfjBTyZMFPvzd6N](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7_ZLN9NLOk&list=PL19V3ctjq8K-khG2mBGfjBTyZMFPvzd6N) Watch the people's feet as they dance. Write one sentence about the tango.
22. Angel Falls in Venezuela is the highest waterfall in the world. Watch a video of the falls <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z-OeMHxTP0> Write a sentence about Angel Falls.
23. Iguazu Falls is located along the Argentina-Brazil border. It is the longest waterfall in the world. Watch a video of the falls <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lfMb20QLXg> Write a sentence about the waterfall.

**Read the information on South America: The Countries on the following map pages.**

- Label the NAME of each country on the map.
- Color over the Line of Demarcation in Red.

**Read the information on South America: The Physical Land on the following map pages.**

- Color each major river system a different color (Amazon, Orinoco, Rio de la Plata)
- On the large map, shade the Andes Mountains brown.
- On the large map, shade the Brazilian Highlands a shade of green.
- On the large map, shade the Guiana Highlands a different shade of green.

# SOUTH AMERICA: THE COUNTRIES

## INDEPENDENT NATIONS

ARGENTINA<sub>A</sub> / BUENOS AIRES<sup>+</sup>

BOLIVIA<sub>B</sub> / LA PAZ, SUCRE<sup>+</sup>

BRAZIL<sub>C</sub> / BRASÍLIA<sup>+</sup>

CHILE<sub>D</sub> / SANTIAGO<sup>+</sup>

COLOMBIA<sub>E</sub> / BOGOTÁ<sup>+</sup>

ECUADOR<sub>F</sub> / QUITO<sup>+</sup>

GUYANA<sub>G</sub> / GEORGETOWN<sup>+</sup>

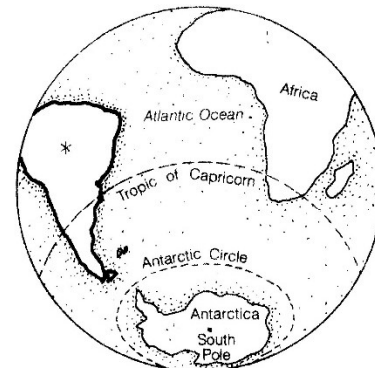
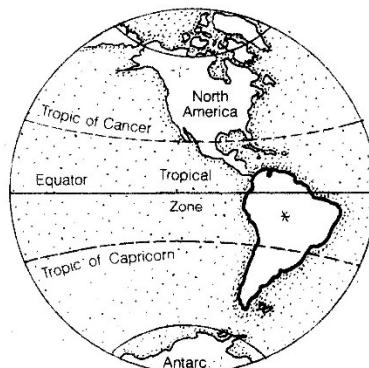
PARAGUAY<sub>H</sub> / ASUNCIÓN<sup>+</sup>

PERU<sub>I</sub> / LIMA<sup>+</sup>

SURINAME<sub>J</sub> / PARAMARIBO<sup>+</sup>

URUGUAY<sub>K</sub> / MONTEVIDEO<sup>+</sup>

VENEZUELA<sub>L</sub> / CARACAS<sup>+</sup>



South America lies almost entirely east of North America, and most of it is within the tropics. Seasonal changes south of the Equator occur at opposite times from those in the Northern Hemisphere (e.g., January is the warmest month). South America is much closer to Antarctica than any other continent.

## FOREIGN POSSESSIONS

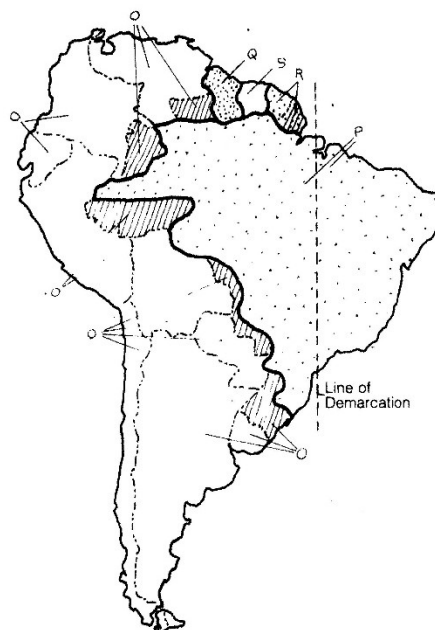
FALKLAND ISLANDS<sub>M</sub> / STANLEY<sup>+</sup>

FRENCH GUIANA<sub>N</sub> / CAYENNE<sup>+</sup>

South America, the fourth-largest continent (6,900,000 sq.mi., 17,871,000 km<sup>2</sup>), has a population of 345 million. The continent is a study in extremes: affluent cities and wretched slums; Stone Age cultures and ultra-modern urban areas; densely populated coastal areas and virtually empty interiors; rich deposits of natural resources but no practical way to access them; and the greatest disparity of all—the gulf between the extraordinary wealth of the elite and the desperate poverty of the masses.

Most of these nations are struggling with stagnant economies and overburdened by massive foreign debt, a serious problem compounded by a population explosion that is in large measure due to the influence of the Roman Catholic Church. The Church arrived shortly after the conquistadors and converted the native Indian population to the religion and culture of the European invaders. Natives were forced to work in the mines, farms, and settlements; vast numbers died in the process. Just as they destroyed the Aztec civilization in Mexico, a handful of heavily armed Spaniards conquered the flourishing 500-year-old Inca civilization. Descendants of the Incas are still the majority in Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia. The continent's earliest inhabitants are believed to have migrated from North America some 20,000 years ago. It may have taken another 10,000 years for them to reach the southern tip of the continent. Well over half of all South Americans are mestizos (of mixed Indian and European ancestry, who speak Spanish and are western oriented); mulattos (of mixed black and European backgrounds); and pure-blooded Indians and blacks. The remainder are of European descent. There were few Indians on the east coast, and they were nearly wiped out by the colonialists. Africans were imported as replacements for the decimated native population. Settlers in Argentina and Uruguay encouraged European immigration instead of resorting to slavery, and today the population in those countries is largely white. When slavery was abolished in the Guianas, and blacks left the plantations, the British and Dutch looked to India and southeast Asia for a new source of labor. Guyana and Suriname are now dominated by the descendants of those Asian indentured workers.

In the early 19th century, revolutionary fever swept the continent. European powers were too weakened by domestic wars to prevent their colonies from breaking away. New nations were formed under democratic constitutions, but the presence of actual democracies has been exceedingly rare. For nearly two centuries, extremely wealthy and influential families have been able to maintain enormous landholdings by encouraging dictatorial or military rule. Although the trend is now toward democratically elected governments, in the absence of meaningful land reform, these emerging democracies will have to contend with political unrest bred by the widespread poverty.



## 18TH CENTURY EUROPEAN COLONIES

SPAIN.

PORTUGAL.

GREAT BRITAIN.

FRANCE.

NETHERLANDS.

In 1494, two years after Columbus discovered the New World, the Pope sought to avoid future conflict by drawing the "Line of Demarcation" down what was then believed to be the center of South America. He gave Portugal the right to all lands east of the line, and Spain received everything to the west. Later, Portugal was permitted to expand the Brazilian colony westward. Neither nation wanted the swampy coast and rugged forests of the northeast. That region was later claimed by the British (Guyana), Dutch (Suriname), and French (French Guiana), none of whom respected the Pope's territorial decrees in South America—or anywhere else. The diagonal lines on the map above represent lands that Brazil would acquire from its neighbors.



# SOUTH AMERICA: THE PHYSICAL LAND

CN: (1) Use a dark or bright color for the major rivers (A, C, E, F and G). Use lighter colors for their tributaries (B, D, H).  
(2) Color the highest peak in each west coast nation gray.  
(3) Color the major land regions on the small map below.

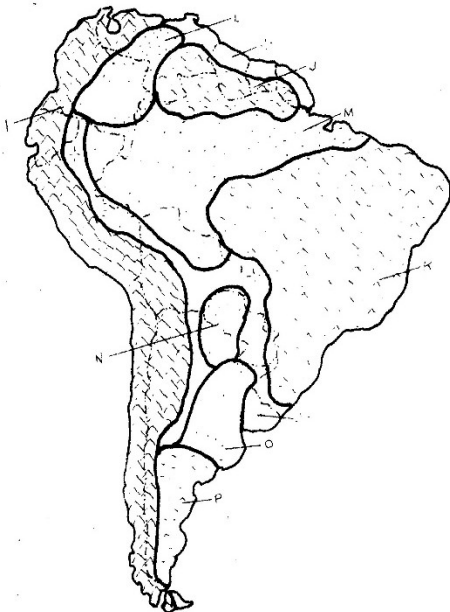
## MAJOR RIVER SYSTEMS

AMAZON<sup>A</sup>  
TRIBUTARIES<sup>B</sup>  
ORINOCO<sup>C</sup>  
TRIBUTARIES<sup>D</sup>  
RÍO DE LA PLATA<sup>E</sup>  
PARANÁ<sup>F</sup>  
PARAGUAY<sup>G</sup>  
URUGUAY<sup>H</sup>  
TRIBUTARIES<sup>H</sup>

## LAND REGIONS

ANDES MOUNTAINS<sup>I</sup>  
GUIANA HIGHLANDS<sup>J</sup>  
BRAZILIAN HIGHLANDS<sup>K</sup>  
CENTRAL PLAINS<sup>L</sup>  
LLANOS<sup>L</sup>  
SELVAS<sup>M</sup>  
GRAN CHACO<sup>N</sup>  
PAMPAS<sup>O</sup>  
PATAGONIA<sup>P</sup>

Separating the highlands in the east from the Andes in the west are the Central Plains. The Llanos are grassy cattle-grazing regions of Colombia and Venezuela. The Selvas, the rain forests of the Amazon River Basin, cover parts of Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia. The Gran Chaco, a generally dry and scrubby region of Bolivia, much of Paraguay, and part of Argentina, is known for the amazingly hard quebracho trees. The large, fertile, grassy Pampas region is Argentina's breadbasket. Patagonia is a cold, wind-swept land of deserts in southern Argentina.



South America shares a common geology with Africa, from which it separated nearly 200 million years ago (p. 2). Like North America, ice cream cone-shaped South America is broad in the north and narrow in the south. Both continents have three regions: ancient highlands in the east; younger and taller mountains in the west; and a wide plain in the center. In South America, the ancient highlands are the rugged Guiana Highlands in the northeast and the densely populated Brazilian Highlands in the eastern bulge. The Andes are the world's longest and second-tallest mountain range (after the Himalayas). They extend 4,500 mi. (7,200 km) down the western edge of the continent, from the Caribbean to Cape Horn. The upper elevations have an eternal snow cover, even at the Equator. Mt. Aconcagua (22,831 ft., 6,960 m) is the tallest of nearly 40 Andean peaks that are higher than North America's Mt. McKinley (20,320 ft., 6,195 m). The Andes are still growing as the eastward-moving Nazca tectonic plate grinds under the South American plate (p. 2). This is a region of geologic volatility, part of the Pacific Rim's "Ring of Fire" (p. 2).

Dominating the Central Plains is the mighty Amazon River Basin of rivers, streams, and rainforests. The river is the world's largest, and its length of 4,000 mi. (6,400 km) is second only to the Nile. From headwaters in the Peruvian Andes, the Amazon wends its way across the continent, transporting 20% of the world's total river water. The flow is so great that fresh water can be detected in the Atlantic 50 mi. (80 km) from the river's mouth. Parts of the river basin remain unexplored. Primitive tribes live there in total isolation. The Amazon was named after the mythical Greek female warriors by a European explorer who claimed he saw women fighting among the native tribes. The rainforest (selva), which is the world's largest, is being destroyed at an alarming rate. This forest has been called the "earth's lungs," but trees actually perform the reverse function: they take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Scientists are concerned that the elimination of vast regions of oxygen-producing vegetation, along with the smoke from the burning brush, will add to the "greenhouse effect." The Amazon Basin has over 100,000 species of plants and animals; many are unique to the region and are in danger of extinction because of habitat destruction. South America, in general, is rich in distinctively different plant and animal life because of its relative isolation. The continent's native animals tend to be small; the tapir, which is the largest, is no bigger than a pony.

The continent's two other important river systems are the Orinoco and the Río de la Plata. The Orinoco begins in the Guiana Highlands and makes a wide arc as it drains the grasslands of Colombia and Venezuela on its way to the Atlantic. The Río de la Plata system includes many rivers that provide essential transportation routes for Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The Paraná, Paraguay, and Uruguay are the principal rivers of the system. They empty into the Atlantic through an estuary (an ocean inlet) called the Río de la Plata. Buenos Aires and Montevideo are located on opposite banks of this estuary. Brazil and Paraguay have completed the world's largest hydroelectric plant at the Itaipú Dam on the Paraná River. In the same region, separating Brazil and Argentina, are the Iguazu Falls, the world's largest. Depending on the seasonal flow of the Iguazu River, there are as many as 275 separate falls in this spectacular complex.

The continent's two major lakes are Maracaibo and Titicaca. The latter, the largest, is in the Andes between Peru and Bolivia. At a height of over 12,000 ft. (3,659 m), it is the world's highest navigable lake. It is also known for the sailboats that are woven from reeds growing along its shore. Even more remarkable are the floating islands woven from the same reeds. Houses sit on these islands.

On a narrow strip of land along the coast of Peru and northern Chile are some of the world's driest deserts. Parts of the 600 mi. (960 km) Atacama Desert in Chile have never had recorded rainfall. This aridity, unusual on an ocean shore, is due to the interaction of the cold waters of the Humboldt (Peru) Current (p. 59) and the Andes Mountains. Tropical ocean storms are cooled as they pass over the current, and they release their moisture before reaching the coast. The Andes block storms from the east. Further up the coastline (beyond the range of the Humboldt Current) is one of the world's wettest regions, the Pacific coast of Colombia. South America does not have the temperature extremes of North America, although it does have a steamy equatorial region, Andean glaciers, hot deserts in Argentina, and the cold southern tip of Tierra del Fuego. Temperatures on the southeast coast are moderated by the warm Brazil Current (p. 59).



