

Chapter 9 Assessment

VISUAL SUMMARY PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA

Landforms

Major Mountain Ranges: Andes, Sierra Madres

Major Rivers: Orinoco, Amazon, Paraná

Major Plains: pampas of Argentina and Uruguay, llanos of Colombia and Venezuela, cerrado of Brazil



Resources

- Latin America has important mineral and energy resources.
- Venezuela and Mexico have major oil reserves.



Climate and Vegetation

- The variety of climate and vegetation in Latin America is caused by the great distance from north to south, variations in elevation, and ocean currents.
- Latin America has many rain forests.



Human-Environment Interaction

- Two techniques that farmers have used in the region are slash-and-burn and terraced farming.
- Cities in Latin America have grown at a rapid pace, and the region is now highly urbanized.
- Tourism has both advantages and disadvantages for the region.



Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.

1. Andes Mountains
2. llanos
3. pampas
4. Orinoco River
5. Amazon River
6. rain forest
7. slash-and-burn
8. terraced farming
9. push factors
10. infrastructure

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.

11. What two countries does the Orinoco River drain?
12. Where are the Andes Mountains located?
13. What agricultural technique involves using ashes to fertilize the soil?
14. What characteristics do the pampas and llanos have in common?
15. What are some of the problems that afflict cities throughout the region?
16. Which river drains the largest rain forest in the region?
17. What are some factors that are pushing farmers off the land and into the cities?
18. Which is the northernmost of the great rivers of South America?
19. What farming technique is especially useful in mountainous regions?
20. What are the main products of the pampas?

Main Ideas

Landforms and Resources (pp. 201–206)

1. How have the Andes Mountains affected settlement in South America?
2. What are the two main purposes for which the plains and grasslands of the region are used?
3. What are the three major island groups of the Caribbean?
4. What Caribbean island is rich in natural gas, and what impact has this had on the economy?

Climate and Vegetation (pp. 207–209)

5. In what part of the region are savannas most common?
6. How do the vertical climate zones of Latin America affect agriculture?
7. What is the dominant vegetation of the Amazon river basin?

Human-Environment Interaction (pp. 210–213)

8. What is the main disadvantage of the slash-and-burn method of growing crops?
9. What factors tend to pull people into the cities from their farms?
10. What are some of the disadvantages of tourism in the region?

Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes

Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

Landforms	
Resources	

- Where are most of the mountains of South America located?
- What are some examples of mineral and energy resources found in abundance in Latin America?

2. Geographic Themes

- LOCATION** Where are some of the largest plains found in Latin America?
- REGION** What are the settlement patterns of South America in terms of the interior and the coast?

3. Identifying Themes

Based on landforms and climate, which areas of Latin America would be the least agriculturally productive? Which of the five themes are reflected in your answer?

4. Drawing Conclusions

What factors must people in the region consider when they are deciding whether to move from the country to the city?

5. Making Comparisons

What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of tourism to a community?

Additional Test Practice,
pp. S1–S37



Geographic Skills: Interpreting Maps

The Tributaries of the Amazon

Use the map to answer the following questions.

- MOVEMENT** In what general direction do the Amazon and its tributaries flow?
- PLACE** Into which ocean does the Amazon empty?
- REGION** What countries are drained by the Amazon and its tributaries?



GeoActivity

Create your own sketch map of the physical geography of Latin America. Combine the information from this map with the information from the landforms map on page 203.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Use the links at classzone.com to do research on the most rapidly growing cities in Latin America. Focus on the impact that rapid growth has on the residents of a city.

Writing About Geography Write a report of your findings. Include a map that shows the fastest growing cities. Combine it with a chart that lists common problems of rapid growth.