

Latin America Geography Study Guide

1. Sierra Madre Mountains run through Mexico and the Andes Mountains run through the western side of South America.
2. The Panama Canal connects what two bodies of water? Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean
3. What is the second driest place on earth that is created by a rain shadow effect from the Andes Mountains? Atacama Desert
4. What is the largest country in Latin America? Brazil
5. Which Latin American country has the smallest population? Cuba
6. What environmental issue is caused because it lies in a bowl-shaped valley that is surrounded by mountains and volcanoes? Air Pollution in Mexico City
7. What is a cause of the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest? Deforestation due to cattle ranching and farming
8. What environmental issue causes Lake Maracaibo's shore to drop 3 inches a year? Oil Pollution in Venezuela
9. How does the Andes Mountains affect trade in South America? It makes it difficult and limits the amount of trade that may occur.
10. How has Venezuela's location helped with trade with other countries? Venezuela is allowed to have ports on two major bodies of water, the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.
11. Why is the Amazon River important to South America? It provides a major trade route and creates fertile areas for farming.
12. Why is Latin America called the "hollow continent"? The majority of the people live on the coast because of historical and geographical reasons.
13. How does Cuba's lack of natural resources affect their trade? Cuba has to import more products

14. Define Mestizos. [Mix of European and Native American ancestry.](#)
15. Define Mulattoes. [Mix of European and African American ancestry](#)
16. Define Criolles. [Europeans born in the New World.](#)
17. What is one cause for the blending of cultures in Latin America and the Caribbean? [One cause for the blending of cultures in Latin America is due to the intermarriage of different ethnic groups.](#)
18. Why is the term "Latin America" called *Latin America*? [Latin America is referred to as *Latin America* because the major languages of this region came from the Latin language.](#)
19. Which country had the most significant impact on the languages and religions in Latin America? [Spain](#)
20. What are two primary languages in Latin America, and what language are they based on? [Spanish and Portuguese; they are based on the Latin language.](#)
21. Spain, Portugal, France, and England spread their languages and religions by means of cultural _____ [Diffusion](#) _____.
22. What regions make up the term *Latin America*? [Central America, Caribbean, and South America](#)
23. The economic level achieved by a person, family, or country is referred to as what? [Standard of living](#)
24. An illiterate person is most likely to not have what? [A high standard of living](#)

Remember to study past units for BLAST FROM THE PAST 😊