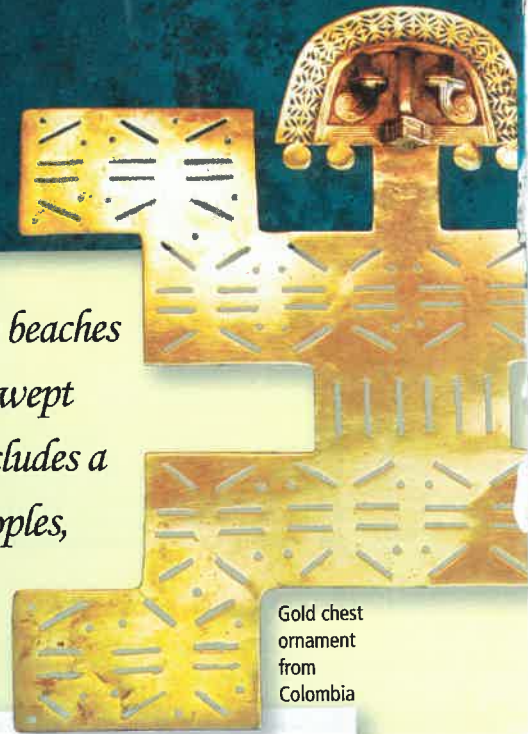


South America



Head llanero on a Venezuela ranch

South America extends from the sunny beaches of the Caribbean Sea to the cold windswept shores of Cape Horn. The continent includes a marvelous variety of environments, peoples, plant life, and animals. Modern meets ancient in South America.



Gold chest ornament from Colombia

¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás? (Hello! How are you?) My name is Jorge, and I live in Armenia, a city in west-central Colombia. I live with my family and our big black dog, Rocca. Our house surrounds a courtyard where we grow flowers.

My father is a merchant and a farm owner. Our hacienda is in the country. About 60 people work for my father there, growing coffee, plantains, yucca, and fruits like strawberries and oranges. We also raise chickens and pigs. My dad has a fleet of trucks to carry our produce into the city for sale to groceries and restaurants.

I go to a big school. It has hundreds of kids, both boys and girls, in grades 1 through 12. I drive myself to school. You can drive in Colombia at 15 years old, and my dad let me have an old car. In school I am studying Spanish, French, and English, as well as science, math, and history. On many weekends we go to the farm and eat fresh fruit and swim in the large pool—the weather is warm all year round. In the summer, I like to go to the ocean at Cartagena and swim.

My favorite holiday is Christmas, when our whole family gathers. We have a big barbecue—a whole stuffed pig cooked in a large pit. One year, though, we had an earthquake after New Year's that lasted for 40 seconds. It was strange, because the earthquake moved like a wave. Some areas like the downtown were completely destroyed, while other areas, like my neighborhood, were not much affected.



Section 1

Natural Environments

HOLT Geography's Impact Video Series

Watch the video to understand the impact of deforestation in the Amazon Basin.

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are the major landforms and rivers of South America?
2. What climates, plants, and animals are found in South America?
3. What natural resources does the continent have?

Reading Strategy

VISUALIZING INFORMATION Previewing the visuals in this section will help you understand the material you are about to read. What do the visuals on this page and the next four pages tell you about the natural environments of South America? Write your answers on a sheet of paper. As you read, write down additional information you learn that connects the visuals to the material in the section.

IDENTIFY

Llanos
Gran Chaco
Pampas
El Niño
La Niña

DEFINE

tepuís
tree line
tar sands

LOCATE

Andes
Altiplano
Lake Titicaca
Guiana Highlands
Brazilian Highlands
Amazon River
Patagonia
Tierra del Fuego
Orinoco River
Paraná River
Río de la Plata
Atacama Desert
Lake Maracaibo



South America: Physical-Political



Landforms and Rivers

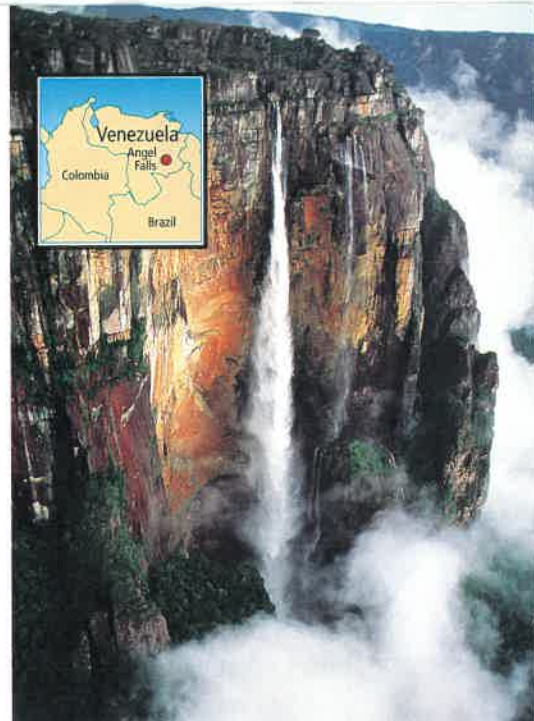
South America includes 12 countries and an overseas department of France—French Guiana. Brazil is the largest country. Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana lie along the continent's northern coasts. In the west, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile border the Pacific Ocean. Bolivia and Paraguay are cut off from the sea. Argentina and Uruguay lie along the Atlantic. The continent has bone-dry deserts, tropical rain forests, snowcapped mountains, high plateaus, and vast fertile grasslands.

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KEYWORD: SW3 CH12

FOR: Web sites about South America



Angel Falls drops from the top of a tepuí. The falls begin high above the clouds.

Landforms South America's great mountain range, the Andes, extends along the continent's Pacific coast. The mountains stretch from the northern edge of the continent south to its tip. Mount Aconcagua, the highest peak in the range, rises to 22,834 feet (6,960 m). The collision of the Nazca and South American plates created the Andes. Continued tectonic activity causes volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

In Peru and Bolivia the Andes divide into two great ranges. Between them lies an elevated plain known as the Altiplano. The name means "High Plateau" in Spanish. The Altiplano lies at about 12,000 feet (3,658 m) above sea level. More than 25 of the Altiplano's rivers drain into Lake Titicaca on the Peru-Bolivia border. This freshwater lake is large enough—3,200 square miles (8,288 sq km)—for small ships to navigate. Farther south is Lake Poopó, which is salty. Few people live along Poopó's banks.

In contrast to the more recently formed rugged Andes are the ancient eroded highlands of eastern South America. The Guiana Highlands rise in southern Venezuela. They stretch across part of northern Brazil and Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. Erosion there has left a chain of high plateaus, called **tepuís** (tay-PWEEZ), edged by high cliffs. Angel Falls in Venezuela tumbles 3,212 feet (979 m) from a *tepuí*, making it the world's highest waterfall. The Brazilian Highlands extend inland along Brazil's southeastern coast. They too are ancient and eroded.

Plains cover much of South America. The largest plain is the Amazon River basin, which occupies about 2 million square miles (5.3 million sq km). Northeastern Colombia and western Venezuela have a large plains area called the **Llanos** (YAH-nohs). This name means "Plains" in Spanish. Between the Andes and the Brazilian Highlands lies the **Gran Chaco** (grahn CHAH-koh). *Chaco* means "hunting land," and hunting is still a popular pastime in this mostly semiarid landscape. These plains are so flat that water sometimes stands for months after the summer rainy season ends. Farther south are the wide grasslands of the **Pampas**. The eastern edge of the Pampas is Argentina's most densely populated area. Erosion by both wind and water have carried fertile soil from the Andes to the Pampas. South of the Pampas, semiarid Patagonia

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

The Altiplano is a high plain area between two ranges of the Andes. Few trees grow there. The southern Altiplano gets little rainfall. Llamas, which are related to camels, are native to the Altiplano. **What adaptations do you think llamas have developed that help them live in this environment?**



stretches all the way to Tierra del Fuego. Tierra del Fuego is an island divided between Argentina and Chile.



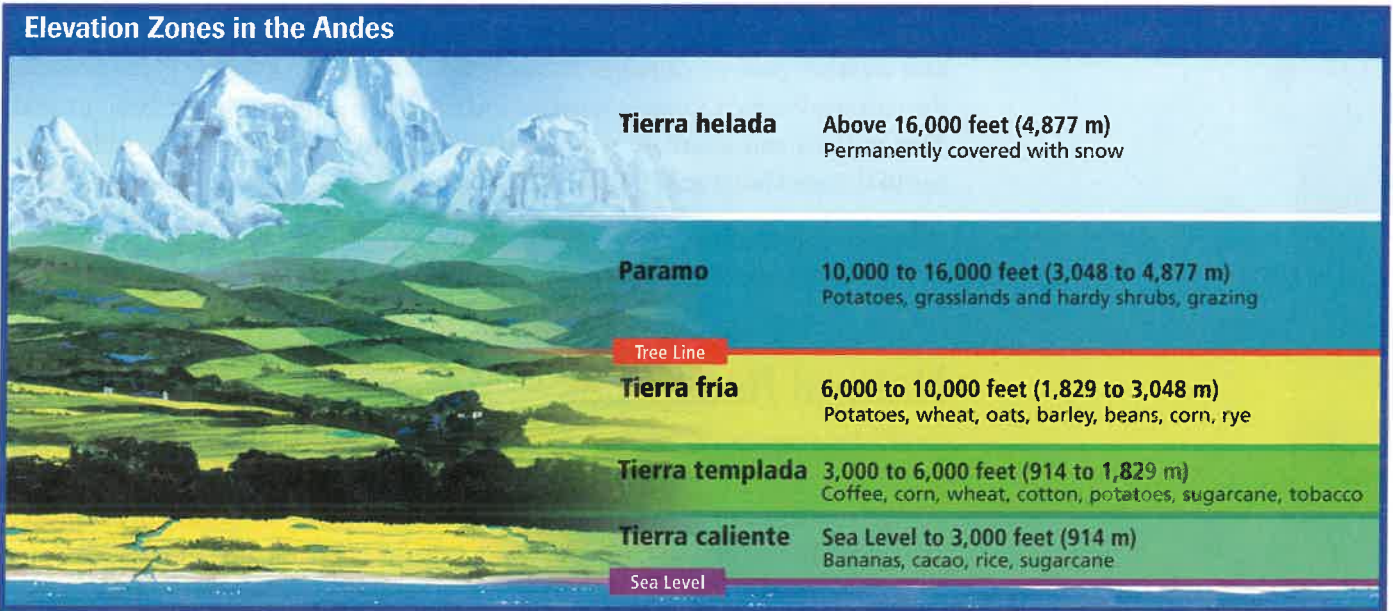
South America's giant anacondas, or water boas, are the longest snakes in the Western Hemisphere. They are also the heaviest snakes in the world. Anacondas can be as thick as a telephone pole, measure more than 30 feet (10 m) long, and weigh up to 300 pounds (135 kg).

Rivers Only small rivers and streams flow west into the Pacific Ocean. However, three great river systems—the Amazon, Orinoco, and Paraná—drain the eastern part of the continent. The Amazon River is 4,000 miles (6,436 km) long. It is the world's largest river in volume, and no other river drains a larger area. So much water flows from the Amazon into the Atlantic Ocean that freshwater dilutes seawater more than 100 miles (161 km) from shore. Ocean-going ships can navigate up the Amazon for nearly 2,300 miles (3,700 km)—all the way to Iquitos (ee-KEE-tohs), Peru! The Orinoco River, which drains the western Guiana Highlands and the Llanos, also empties into the Atlantic Ocean. Several rivers together drain another large area far to the south. The longest of these rivers is the Paraná. The Paraná River flows into the Río de la Plata estuary between Argentina and Uruguay. The Paraná drains an area that includes the eastern slopes of the Andes and the highlands of eastern Brazil.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Physical Systems* What qualities make the Amazon River unique?

Climates, Plants, and Animals

Because South America extends across more than 60 degrees of latitude, the continent has a variety of climate regions. The Amazon River basin is the world's largest tropical humid climate region. It also has the largest tropical rain forest in the world. More than 150 inches (380 cm) of rain fall every year. Anacondas, bats, jaguars, monkeys, and countless other species live in the forest. Along the western edge of the basin, rain forests yield to the highland climates of the Andes. Environments of the central and northern Andes region can be divided into five zones, according to elevation. These zones range from hot and humid lands near sea level to frozen peaks high above the **tree line**.



INTERPRETING THE DIAGRAM *Environments in the Andes change with elevation. Five different elevation zones are commonly recognized. In which zone is the Altiplano located?*



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Dense rainforest vegetation grows along the Aguarico River in Ecuador. The toucan in the small photo is a rainforest resident. Birds and bats assist the survival of tropical rain forests. How might birds and bats play a role in reforestation?

A tree line is the line of elevation above which trees do not grow. (See the diagram.) Animals unique to South America have adapted to the Andes' harsh conditions. They include llamas, the related animals alpacas and vicuñas, and the Andean condor, a large vulture with a 10-foot (3 m) wingspan.

Many areas of South America have tropical wet and dry climates. They have wet summers and dry winters. The natural vegetation includes

either dry forest or savannas, where a mixture of trees and grasses cover the plains. Southern South America has a variety of middle-latitude climates. Chile's central valley has a Mediterranean climate, with winter rains and summer droughts. Moist westerlies influence southern Chile. That area has a marine west coast climate. In southern Argentina the Andes create a rain shadow. As a result, Patagonia has semiarid and arid climates. Relatively few animals live in this area.

The driest region of South America is the Atacama Desert of northern Chile and southern Peru. A high pressure system and cool ocean currents bring dry weather to this area throughout the year. Although rain is extremely rare, fog and low clouds are common. They form when the cold Peru Current chills warmer air above the Pacific Ocean's surface. Cloud cover keeps air near the ground from being warmed by the Sun. This coastal area is one of the cloudiest—and driest—places on Earth. In fact, the area receives almost no sunshine for about six months of the year. Some people who live along this coast increase their water supply by “trapping” fog. Near the seashore, they set up plastic nets on which fog droplets condense. In this way a village can collect several thousand gallons of clean water per day.

About once or twice a decade, the dry Pacific coast is affected by an ocean and weather pattern called **El Niño** (ehl-NEEN-yoh). During an El Niño event, the eastern Pacific Ocean is warmer and the climate much wetter than normal. This pattern can alternate with **La Niña**, when Pacific waters are colder than normal. (See Geography for Life: El Niño.)

✓ **READING CHECK: Physical Systems** How do mountains and elevation affect the climates of South America? How does the Peru Current affect weather patterns in Chile?

Natural Resources

South America has rich mineral deposits, fertile soils, and climates suitable for growing a range of crops. Many rivers, particularly in the Paraná and Amazon Basins, have been dammed to generate electricity and store water for irrigation. The rain forests provide rubber and timber. Many nuts and plants used for medicines come from the Amazon rain forest. Scientists hope other useful plants will be discovered there.

The mineral wealth that attracted Spaniards and Portuguese to the region centuries ago is still being developed. New gold and silver deposits have been

found in Brazil and Colombia. Chile is the world's largest producer and exporter of copper. Brazil has enormous reserves of iron ore and bauxite—the main aluminum ore. Colombia has long been famous for its emeralds.

Several South American countries have petroleum deposits as well. The largest oil reserves are in Venezuela. The vast oil deposits surrounding Lake Maracaibo (mah-rah-KY-boh) have made Venezuela a leading oil-exporting country. In addition, oil deposits have been developed in Colombia and the upper Amazon Basin of Peru and Ecuador. More recent oil discoveries have been made off the coasts of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

Venezuela will have oil resources for years to come in the form of **tar sands**. Tar sands are rock or sand layers that contain oil. However, because the oil has to be cooked out of the rocks, production is expensive. Nonetheless, tar sands may become more important once the more easily pumped oil is gone.

READING CHECK: *Physical Systems* What are the main mineral and energy resources of South America?



Chuquibambilla mine, in the Atacama Desert, is the largest open-pit copper mine in the world. The ore sample shown displays copper's distinctive blue-green color.

Section 1

Review

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Identify Llanos, Gran Chaco, Pampas, El Niño, La Niña

Define *tepuís*, tree line, tar sands

Working with Sketch Maps

On a map of South America that you draw or that your teacher provides, label the Andes, Altiplano, Lake Titicaca, Guiana Highlands, Brazilian Highlands, Amazon River, Llanos, Gran Chaco, Pampas, Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, Orinoco River, Paraná River, Atacama Desert, and Lake Maracaibo. In the margin of your map, explain why coastal Chile is both dry and cloudy.

Reading for the Main Idea

- Physical Systems** What is a basic difference between the Andes and the other highland regions of South America?
- Places and Regions** What are South America's three largest rivers, and what areas do they drain?

Critical Thinking

- Drawing Inferences** Look at the chapter map. To what physical conditions would you have to adjust if you moved from Rio de Janeiro to La Paz?

- Making Generalizations and Predictions** See the feature on the next page. How might El Niño and La Niña affect societies of the dry Pacific coast over time?

Organizing What You Know

- Create a chart like the one below. Use it to identify the climates, vegetation, and animal life of the three landform regions listed.

	Climates	Vegetation	Animals
Amazon River basin			
Plains areas			
Andes			

Geography for Life

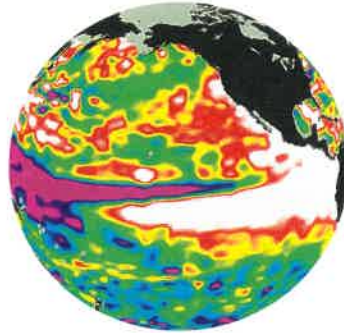
El Niño

Long ago, fishers noticed that once or twice a decade the normally cool waters off Peru's coast became warmer near Christmastime. Referring to the baby Jesus, they called this warming trend El Niño. *El Niño* means "The Boy" in Spanish. El Niño shows how a physical process that happens on one side of the planet can affect environments thousands of miles away.

Usually, the contrast in temperatures across the oceans helps create winds. Trade winds generally maintain a balance between warm western Pacific water and cool eastern Pacific water.

Along the eastern Pacific, particularly off Ecuador and Peru, strong trade winds blow warm surface water westward. This allows colder water to rise and bring up nutrients from the depths, attracting fish.

When atmospheric pressure rises north of Australia, the winds calm. With the drop in wind, El Niño begins off the coast of South America. As easterly trade winds decrease, warm water in the western Pacific flows eastward. The warm water layer flows over cooler, nutrient-rich water. This blocks the normal upwelling of the cool water along North and South America. As a result, sea life suffers from a lack of nutrients. Fish that usually thrive off Ecuador and Peru head south in search of cooler waters



This 1997 satellite image shows an El Niño developing in the eastern Pacific. The warmer water is in white.

and more food. Chilean fishers then catch more sardines. Meanwhile, in North America, the polar jet stream stays farther north over Canada. Less cold air moves into the upper United States, and the northern states enjoy a mild winter. During the 1997–98 El Niño, for example, people in northern states saved billions of dollars in heating costs. In addition, an El Niño event alters upper-level tropical wind patterns. States along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico benefit because fewer hurricanes strike land.

However, El Niño can also cause terrible destruction. Because oceans affect weather patterns, severe weather changes may accompany the change in ocean temperature. Droughts can occur in the Pacific Islands. Meanwhile, heavy rains may flood areas of coastal North and South America that are usually bone-dry.

Applying What You Know

- 1. Summarizing** How does an El Niño event affect the environment?
- 2. Drawing Conclusions** Why might people in areas affected by El Niño view it differently?

Normal and El Niño Ocean Conditions



Section
2

History and Culture

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What were some important events in the early history of South America?
2. How did the colonial era and independence affect South America?
3. What are some important features of South America's cultures?

Reading Strategy

PAIRED SUMMARIZING Read this section silently, making notes as you read. Working with a partner, take turns summarizing the material and your notes. Stop to discuss ideas that seem confusing. Include key terms and their definitions.

IDENTIFY

Chibcha
Inca

DEFINE

latifundia
buffer state
coup
manioc

LOCATE

Cuzco
Buenos Aires
Rio de Janeiro
Bogotá
La Paz
Quito

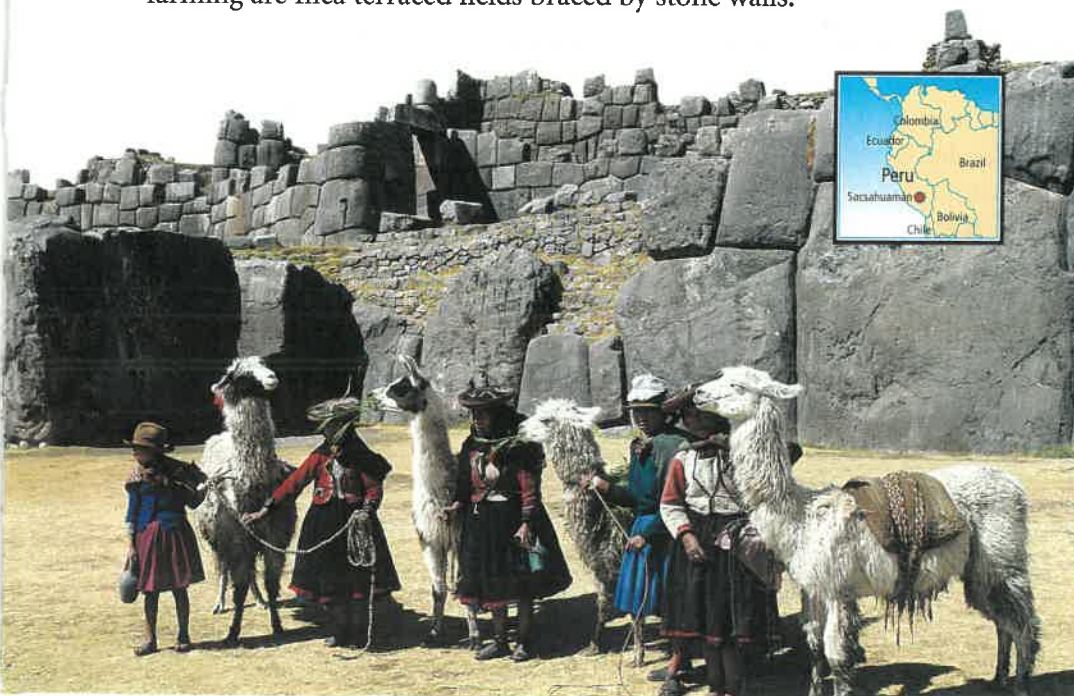
Early History

Most researchers believe people first entered South America from the north more than 12,000 years ago. They eventually inhabited even the continent's harshest environments. The first settlers were hunter-gatherers. Farming began in the region more than 5,000 years ago.

For several thousand years before Europeans arrived, kingdoms rose and fell in western South America. In the Colombian Andes, for example, the **Chibcha** ruled and developed gold-working skills. The **Inca**, however, founded South America's greatest early civilization. At its height the Inca Empire stretched from what is now Ecuador to central Chile. The Inca built paved roads and suspension bridges to connect their empire from the Pacific coast to the Amazon lowlands. Fine examples of Inca stone construction can still be seen in Cuzco, Peru, the Inca capital. Also common and still being used for farming are Inca terraced fields braced by stone walls.



The Mochica people who made this ceramic warrior lived in northern coastal Peru from about A.D. 100 to 700.



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

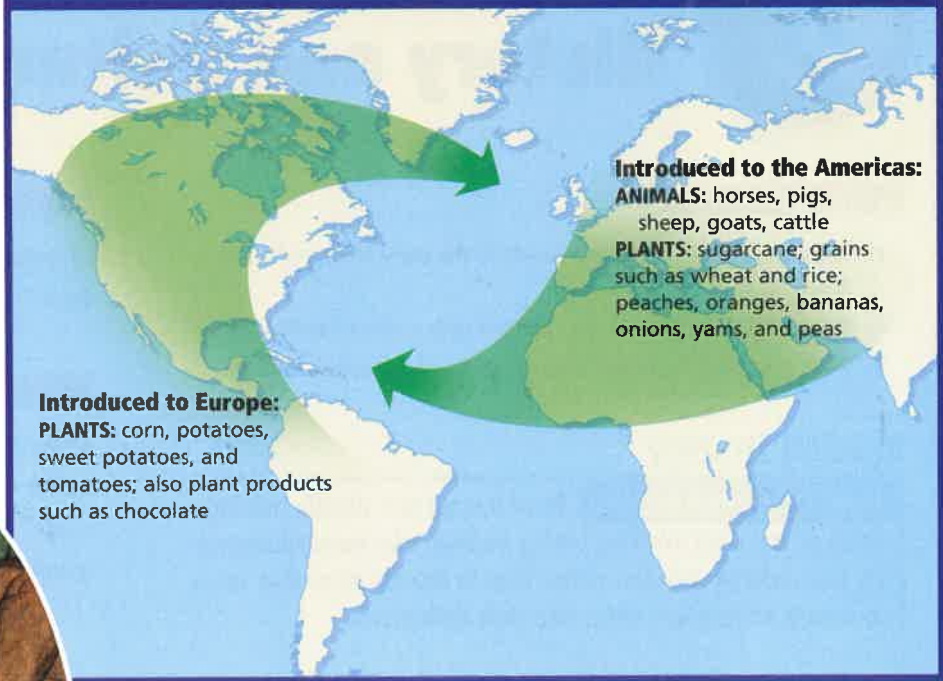
Local women pose with their llamas before a wall at Sacsahuamán, an Inca site near Cuzco. Some of the stones weigh hundreds of tons. They were moved to the site without wheeled vehicles and are fitted closely together without mortar. What function might these walls have served?

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Following the arrival of Columbus in the Americas, Europeans brought many plants and animals with them. In turn, they introduced American species to Europe. This process is called the Columbian Exchange. In the painting below, workers pick coffee beans on a South American plantation. Coffee was probably first grown in eastern Africa. How has this exchange of plants and animals affected the regions of contact?



The Columbian Exchange



When Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro heard about the Inca Empire he set out to conquer it. Unrest within the empire aided Pizarro's conquest in the 1530s. The Spanish looted and destroyed Inca buildings. They then built churches, government buildings, and Spanish-style plazas on the ruins. The Spanish also built a new capital city, Lima, near the coast.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How are Inca and early Spanish influences still evident in modern South America?

Spanish Settlement The Spanish focused their efforts at conquest on the western part of the continent. A 1494 treaty had divided South America between Spain and Portugal. Spain got the right to lands to the west of the treaty line and Portugal the lands to the east. The Spanish also focused on the west because the Inca, rich with gold and silver, lived there. The area was agriculturally productive and could provide the Spanish with a ready source of labor. In Spanish society owning land was a source of prestige, and the Spanish colonists soon took over South American Indian lands. They established a system of landed estates like they had known in Spain and forced the Indian peoples to work the land.

The colonists also introduced animals and agricultural products they had known in Europe. For example, they brought cattle, horses, sheep, sugarcane, and wheat. Over time, the colonists took American products like beans, chilies, corn, potatoes, and squash to Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Europeans also carried new diseases to South America. As in Mexico and Central America, these diseases killed millions of South American Indians. Europeans killed many others in the battles of conquest. Indians who labored in mines and on ranches and plantations often died from overwork. As a result, Indian populations fell sharply during the colonial period. Only a fraction of the original Indian population remained by the late 1500s.

Once the Spanish were established in Peru, their influence spread across the Altiplano into what is now Bolivia. There they expanded the Inca silver and gold mines. The Spanish colonized central Chile in the 1540s. Later they spread southeastward, herding cattle in what became Paraguay and Argentina. After a while, large estates called **latifundia** (lah-ti-FOOHN-dee-uh) spread across the Pampas. A South American Indian people known as the Guaraní already lived in the fertile lands of eastern Paraguay. The Spanish used the labor and food production skills of the Guaraní to further expand their settlement in the region.

Portuguese Settlement Portuguese settlement began in the 1530s along the eastern coast of what is now Brazil. Portuguese nobles received royal land grants to set up large plantations. Their first important crop was brazilwood, which can be used to produce red and purple dye. However, sugarcane soon became the key crop. After the decline of the South American Indian population, colonists brought in enslaved Africans to work their estates. Cities in northeastern Brazil, like Natal and Salvador, remain from the sugar and slavery era. Meanwhile, the Portuguese spread cattle ranching inland. Their expansion southward and inland in the 1600s led to major mineral discoveries. This movement eventually led to the growth of cities like São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How did the distribution of resources affect the location and patterns of movement of Spanish and Portuguese colonists?

Colonial Era and Independence

The Spanish colonies of South America gained their independence between 1810 and 1830. Wars in Europe had weakened Spain. Spanish authorities fled their colonies after a period of unrest and minor military battles. The independence of the United States had inspired colonial leaders. There the ideals of political freedom and cooperation between the colonies had led to the formation of a single large country. However, in South America several different countries formed after the Spanish left. The wealthy elites who ruled each country were oriented more toward Europe than toward each other. In addition, these countries tended to be isolated from each other. This was because the continent's size and rugged terrain made communication difficult.

Borders of the new countries mostly followed the divisions created during the colonial period. However, the frontier between Argentina and Brazil was not controlled well by either country. As a result, the new state of Uruguay was able to form. Uruguay is an example of a **buffer state**—a small country between two larger, more powerful countries.

Brazil followed a different path to independence. European wars forced the Portuguese royal family to flee to Rio de Janeiro, where they arrived in 1808. Later, after the king's return to Portugal, Brazil declared its independence in 1822.

The British and Dutch only recently granted their small colonies in the Guianas independence. British Guiana became



Capoeira, a popular Brazilian folk dance, combines dancing, fighting, acrobatics, and music. It was possibly first developed as a martial art in the 1600s by escaped slaves who wanted to defend their freedom.

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Grand buildings rise on Independence Plaza in Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. Spaniards founded the city in 1726 to balance Portuguese influence in the area. What can you infer about Montevideo's climate from the photo?



The Nazca Lines

One intriguing ancient site in South America is in the desert of southern Peru. There some 900 gigantic geometric and animal shapes are etched into the desert floor. Examples include a 1,000-foot (305 m) pelican and a 360-foot (110 m) monkey. One trapezoid covers 160,000 square yards (134,400 sq m). For the most part, these shapes can be seen clearly only from the air. The Nazca people, who lived in the area before the Inca, made the lines by moving surface stones aside to expose the lighter soil beneath. Although there are many theories, no one really knows why the Nazca Lines were drawn. One theory suggests that the lines and shapes were in some way related to water. Some researchers think they may have marked underground water sources. Many anthropologists, however, think the lines may have formed paths. They believe the Nazca walked these paths as part of rituals meant to ensure that there would be enough water for them and their lands.

Supporting a Point of View Do you think the anthropologists' theory about the Nazca Lines may be a logical one? Why or why not?



Guyana in 1966, and Dutch Guiana became Suriname in 1975. French Guiana remains a part of France.

In the end, the independence movements in South America did little to improve people's lives. Revolutions often changed the governments in the new countries. However, these revolutions only tended to replace one group of powerful families with another. Leadership was usually by one man, a dictator, who ruled with the support of wealthy colonial families. Meanwhile, life for most poor farmers, plantation workers, and city dwellers changed little. Moreover, there were few opportunities for improvement. Sometimes a group would take power by force. Such a change in government is called a **coup** (koo). Coups have been common throughout South American history. For example, Bolivia has experienced revolutions or military coups nearly 200 times since becoming independent in 1825.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** Why has daily life not improved much over the years for many South Americans?

Culture

South American Indians, Europeans, Africans, and Asians have all played a part in the peopling of South America. Each culture has left its stamp on the continent's countries.

People and Languages Today the countries of South America vary widely in their ethnic makeup. For example, 97 percent of Argentines are of European ancestry, compared to only 7 percent of Ecuadorians. Bolivia's population has the largest percentage of South American Indians—55 percent. In other countries people of mixed ancestry called mestizos are in the majority. For example, 95 percent of Paraguayans are mestizos. Asians have also immigrated to the continent. In Guyana the descendants of workers from India make up about half of the population. Many Japanese have immigrated to Brazil and Peru.

The main European language spoken in each country reflects that country's colonial history. Therefore, people in most South American countries speak Spanish, but most Brazilians speak Portuguese. English, Dutch, and French are official languages in Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana, respectively. In the Andes region, from 10 to 13 million people speak the Inca language, Quechua. Most Paraguayans speak Spanish and Guaraní. On Uruguay's border with Brazil, a mix of Portuguese and Spanish called Portunol is widely spoken.

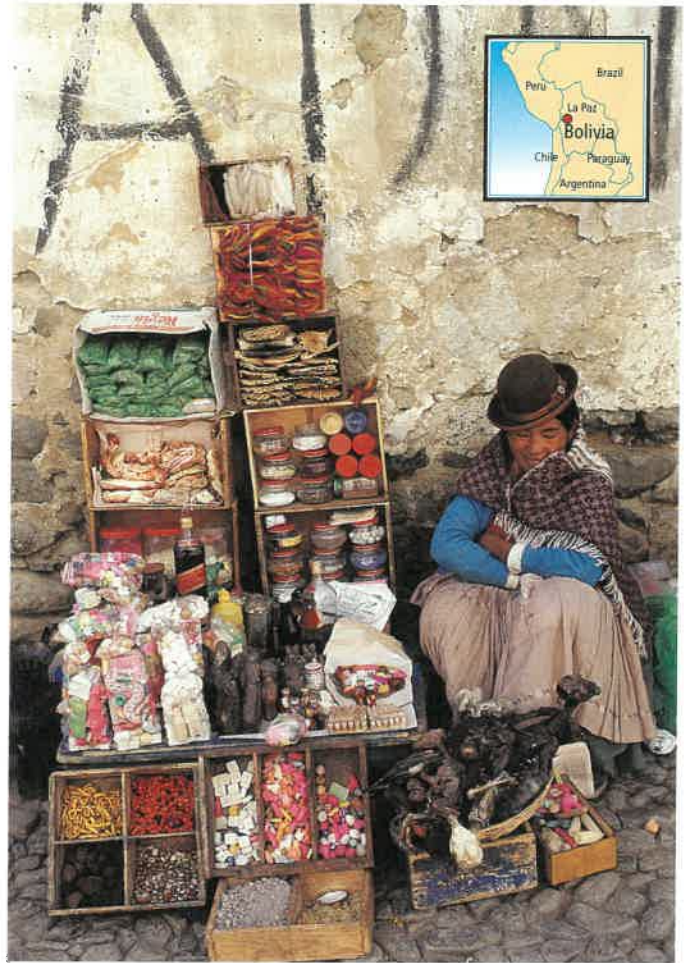
Settlement Patterns To a large extent, densely populated areas of South America hug the coasts and reach only a few hundred miles inland. Many major cities—such as Buenos Aires, Lima, and Rio de Janeiro—are seaports. Some cities, such as Bogotá, La Paz, and Quito, lie in high Andean valleys. Much of the South American interior is thinly populated. Large areas, particularly in the

Amazon Basin, the Andes, the Guianas, and southern Argentina, have few people.

Religion and Traditions The Spanish and Portuguese colonists were Roman Catholics. Therefore, the majority of South Americans today are also Roman Catholic. South Asians and Indonesians in the Guianas have added Hindu temples and Islamic mosques to the landscape. Many indigenous peoples, such as those who live deep in the rain forest, follow their traditional religions.

Although South America is changing rapidly, traditional ways of life can still be found. Some rainforest peoples have had little contact with the outside world. They raise bananas, **manioc**, yams, and other crops. Manioc is a tropical plant with starchy roots. Some hunt with bows and arrows or blowguns and darts. As the Amazon Basin is developed, these people's lives will change. Also, although most ranchers use modern methods, some ranch hands still live much like the cowboys of the old American West. *Llaneros* work on the Venezuelan Llanos. Argentine cowhands herd cattle and horses on the Pampas. Some wear the traditional clothing that Argentina's gauchos, or cowboys, wore in the 1700s and 1800s. The gauchos also live on in Argentine literature and popular culture. For example, the poem *The Gaucho Martín Fierro* celebrates the independent life of the Argentine gaucho.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Places and Regions** What are two ways that Spanish and Portuguese heritage are expressed in South American culture?



Wearing a traditional derby hat, a Bolivian Indian woman sells folk medicines and good luck charms in a La Paz market. The Quechua and Aymara, Bolivia's two main ethnic groups, often combine local religious beliefs with Roman Catholicism.

Section 2

Review

Identify Chibcha, Inca

Define latifundia, buffer state, coup, manioc

Working with Sketch Maps

On the map you created in Section 1, label the countries of South America, Cuzco, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Bogotá, La Paz, and Quito. Then shade in the areas that had been included in the Inca Empire.

Reading for the Main Idea

- Human Systems** What happened to the indigenous population following the arrival of Europeans in South America?
- Places and Regions** Where are the densely populated areas of South America? Which areas are thinly populated?

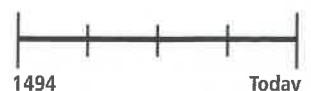
Critical Thinking

- Identifying Cause and Effect** How do you think the exchange of food products between the Old and New Worlds changed life in both places?
- Analyzing Information** What do the *llaneros* and rainforest peoples have in common?

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Organizing What You Know

- Create a time line like the one below. Use it to identify important periods and events in the history of South America.



Section 3

South America Today

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What is the economy of South America like today?
2. What are South American cities like?
3. What issues and challenges face the people of South America?

Reading Strategy

TAKING NOTES Taking notes while you read will help you understand and remember the information in this section. Your notes will be useful for reviewing the material. As you read this section, use the headings to create an outline. Beneath each heading write down the information you learn about each main idea.

IDENTIFY

Mercosur

LOCATE

Manaus

Santiago

Lima

DEFINE

minifundia

favelas

landlocked

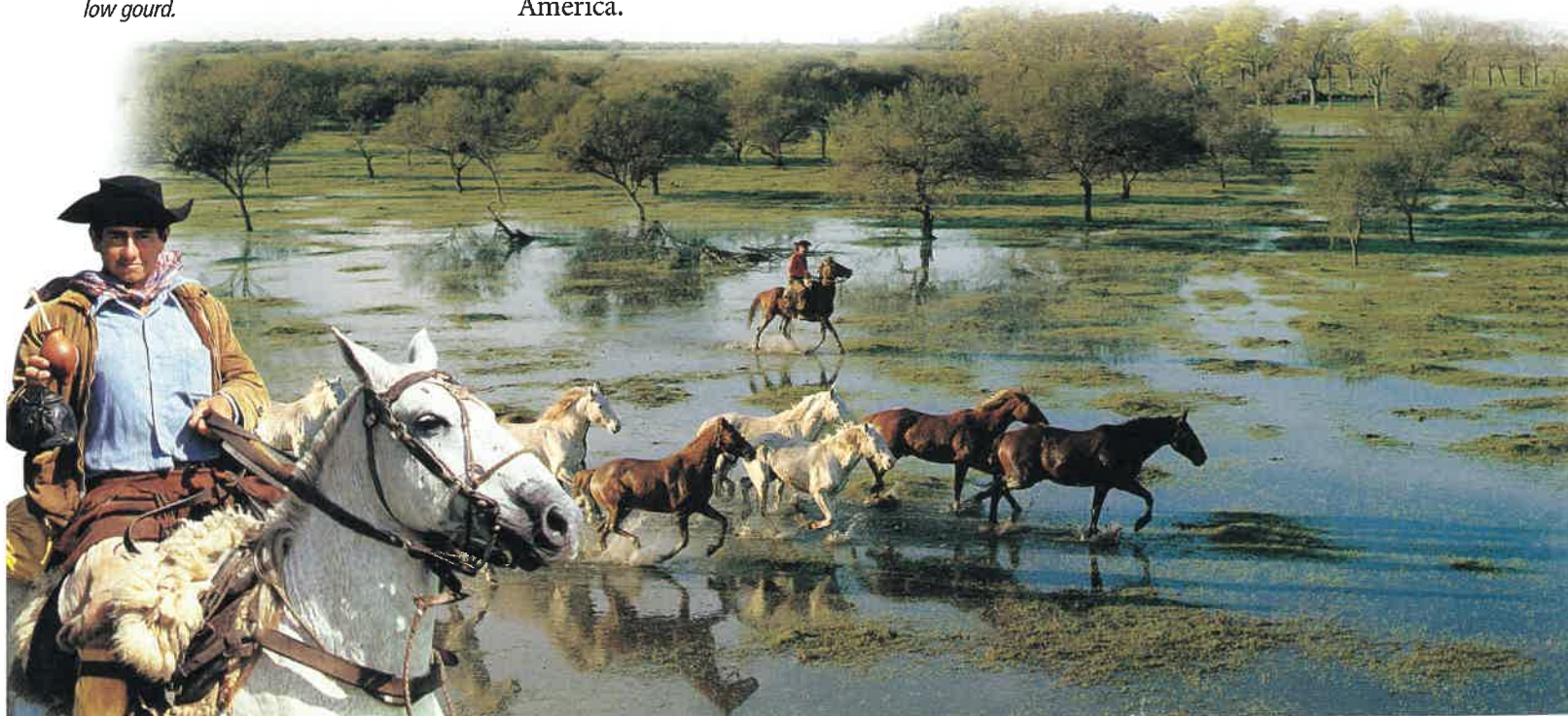
terrorism

The Economy

Some South Americans enjoy a high standard of living, and the middle class is growing. However, all the continent's countries are considered developing or middle-income countries. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, and Venezuela have the strongest economies. See the unit's Fast Facts table for each country's per capita GDP. All of the countries have market economies.

Ranch workers herd horses on a flooded Argentine plain. From horseback the cowhands manage huge herds of cattle. Cattle are such a large factor in Argentina's economy that some residents eat beef at every meal. The rider pictured offers yerba maté, a tealike drink often served in a hollow gourd.

Agriculture Agriculture in South America ranges from subsistence farming to huge commercial farms and ranches. When the large estates from the colonial period were broken up, small farms called *minifundia* (mi-ni-FOOHN-dee-uh), were created. Often these *minifundia* have poor land and are too small to be profitable. In most countries a few wealthy people own much of the best land. Inequality in land ownership is the basis of much poverty and unrest in South America.



Market-oriented farming is most highly developed in two regions—Chile’s central valley and the area bridging southern Brazil and northern Argentina. Brazil produces more coffee than any other country in the world. Colombia is the second-largest coffee producer. Colombia’s newest industry is selling cut flowers. These flowers are flown every night to markets around the world. Farmers in Chile’s central valley grow fresh fruits and vegetables during the South American summer. This farm produce sells well in the United States during our winter. Argentina specializes in producing and exporting wheat and beef. South American countries export a wide range of agricultural products, from cacao beans to potatoes to sunflower seeds.



FOCUS ON ECONOMICS

Amazon Basin Development Agriculture and mining have played important roles in the development of the Amazon Basin. Consider the history of Manaus, a major inland port of more than 1 million people. Manaus lies on the Río Negro about 1,000 miles (1,600 km) from the Atlantic Ocean. It began as a mission in 1669 and remained relatively isolated until the late 1800s. Then the demand for rubber—used for waterproofing and tires—soared. Brazil’s rain forest produced large amounts of rubber. Manaus grew rich on the profits from harvesting and shipping the precious material. Great buildings, including a cathedral and an opera house, date from this period. When sources for cheaper rubber developed in Asia, Manaus declined in importance. By 1920 the boom was over.

However, other resources from the Amazon rain forests are being exploited today. For example, the hardwood trees themselves are valuable, and the land is in demand for ranching. In addition, oil exploration is expanding into the Amazon Basin. Bauxite, copper, gold, iron ore, manganese, and tin draw in miners. Manaus is again bustling, exporting the region’s riches from its river port.

Development in the Amazon Basin has had a downside, however. About 17,000 square miles (44,000 sq km) of rain forest are cleared every year. This deforestation threatens the region’s unique plant and animal life. Development also threatens the ways of life of Amazonian Indians who have long lived in the forested basin.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Environment and Society* How have the creation and distribution of resources affected development in the Amazon Basin?

Prospectors dig for gold in the mud of Brazil’s rain forest.



Economic development of the Amazon Basin is a cause of deforestation.

Industry Most South American factories produce food items, consumer goods, or building materials for local markets. Larger countries also produce cars, trucks, and jet airplanes. Workers must assemble many export products, such as clothing and small appliances, by hand. Sometimes these industries import all the parts and raw materials needed for manufacturing, which limits profits. On the other hand, these industries provide jobs and training. This experience can lead to better jobs in more advanced industries.

Cooperation among the countries could lead to economic progress. For example, countries in the southern part of the continent have formed a trade



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Rio de Janeiro is famous worldwide for its pre-Lenten Carnival. The days-long celebration enhances Rio's image as an exciting city. **How might the dancers' costumes reflect Brazil's history?**

organization called **Mercosur**. In Spanish, *Mercosur* stands for Southern Common Market. The purpose of Mercosur is to expand trade, improve transportation, and reduce tariffs among member countries. The full members are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The Andean countries have similar goals. However, each country's own interests often receive the most political support.

✓ **READING CHECK: Human Systems** What is one problem that many export industries face?

Urban Environments

In most of South America's countries the leading cities are huge in comparison to the other cities. Large parts of each country's population live in these big cities. For example, one third of Chile's people now live in or around Santiago. Nearly one third of Peru's people live in Lima. These cities grow as people move there from the countryside looking for jobs.

Both push and pull factors are at work in the migration process. Rural poverty and limited good land push people away from their small farms. The prospect of a better job and more exciting life pulls them toward the cities. However, life in the city is often just as hard as it was in the village. Rural migrants have few of the skills needed for the modern workplace. As a result, few find good jobs. Urban poor people often live in the large slums that surround major cities. These areas have their own names in each country. In Venezuela they are called *ranchos*, in Chile *callampas*, which means "mushrooms." In Brazil they are called **favelas** (fah-VE-lahs). They are home to some 25 percent of Rio de Janeiro's people. In recent years the government has worked hard to improve living conditions in the favelas. However, crime and lack of basic services, such as sanitation and schools, still trouble the people who live there.

✓ **READING CHECK: Human Systems** How do the leading cities of South America compare to the region's other cities?

Issues and Challenges

Overall, South American governments have become more democratic. Challenges remain, however. Many South Americans, both urban and rural, are poor. In some countries, such as Bolivia, high birthrates make development harder. A growing population, the need for resources, and concern for the environment create tensions throughout the region.

South America's environmental issues concern many people around the world. Of major importance are the great rain forests of the Amazon River basin. These forests have an incredible range of

Another environmental issue is protecting the unique animals of the Galápagos Islands, a small cluster of Pacific islands that belong to Ecuador. The marine iguana pictured belongs to a species found nowhere else. Oil spills and irresponsible tourism threaten the animals.



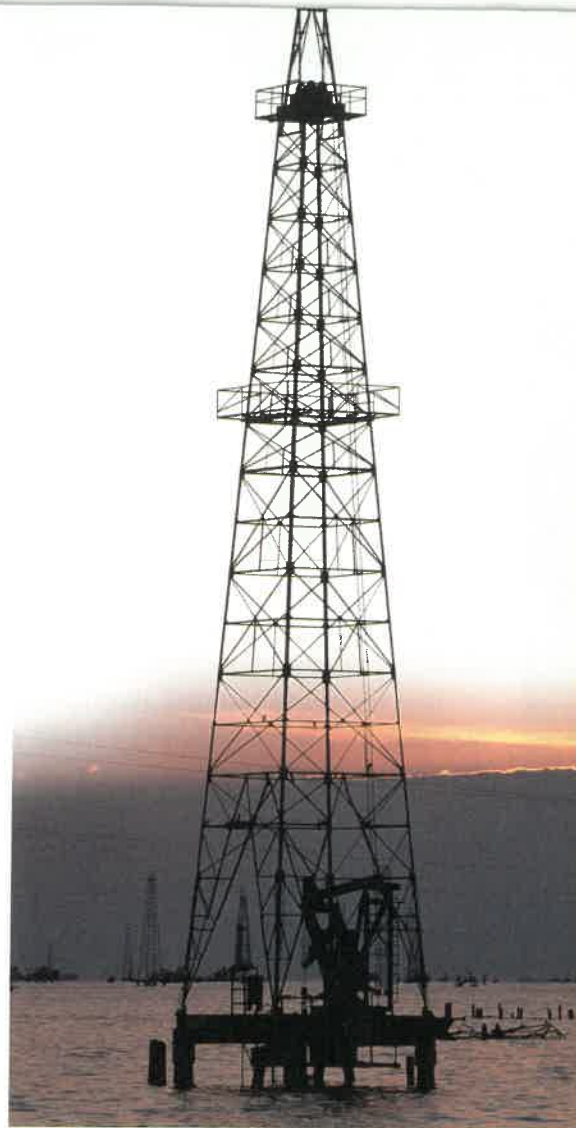
plant and animal species and hundreds of unique local ecosystems. They are also a vital source of oxygen for the whole planet. However, much of the Amazon forest may disappear within the next 100 years. As you have read, large parts of the forest are being cleared for farms and ranches. Other businesses harvest the forests' fine woods. Major mineral deposits attract prospectors and developers to the fragile forests. Other environmentally sensitive areas of the continent are also under threat.

Soil exhaustion is another environmental problem that threatens South America's future. This loss of soil nutrients has reduced the usefulness of large areas. In Brazil, for example, growing coffee—one of the country's major exports—reduces soil fertility. In other areas, overgrazing has stripped the land of plant life.

Political issues also cause conflict. Many South American countries have been involved in border disputes, often over areas with valuable resources. Following a war during the 1880s, Bolivia and Peru lost lands, and the mineral industries there, to Chile. This war left Bolivia **landlocked**. A landlocked country has no border on the ocean. Some of these border disputes still simmer. For example, Ecuador and Peru still dispute parts of their common border, as do Venezuela and Guyana.

Violence threatens the daily lives of many South Americans. **Terrorism**, or the use of fear and violence as a political force, is common. This is true today particularly in Colombia. Armed groups there often scare people away from voting places and control large parts of the country. Much of the violence is a result of the drug trade. Drug dealers have used illegal profits to support private armies and to buy off or assassinate judges and politicians. Violence has also recently troubled Bolivia and Peru.

✔ **READING CHECK:** *Environment and Society* Why is the disappearance of the rain forest a global concern?



Derricks tap the oil of Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela. Before democratic reforms were approved, corrupt government officials skimmed off much of the oil wealth for themselves. Overdependence on oil still threatens Venezuela's stability. When oil prices fall, the whole economy suffers.

Section 3

Review

Identify
Mercosur

Define
minifundia, favelas, landlocked, terrorism

Working with Sketch Maps
On the map you created in Section 2, label Manaus, Santiago, and Lima. Then shade in the areas where commercial farming is most developed.

Reading for the Main Idea

1. **Places and Regions** What are some agricultural specialties of Brazil, Colombia, Chile, and Argentina?
2. **Human Systems** How does Mercosur try to improve trade in South America?

Critical Thinking

3. **Identifying Cause and Effect** What push and pull factors are causing South American cities to grow? What is the result?
4. **Comparing** What challenges do many of South America's largest cities share?

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Organizing What You Know

5. Create a graphic organizer like the one below. Use it to describe the main environmental and political issues facing South America. Also, describe the basic challenges facing the region as a whole.

Basic:	
Environmental:	Political:
1.	1.
2.	2.

CASE STUDY

Urban Planning in Brasília

Places and Regions Urban geographers are interested in how cities function. They are also concerned about the quality of life in cities. Working with elected officials, urban planners try to design cities that meet residents' needs. They try to plan for future urban growth and figure out how to provide resources to growing cities. Food, water, electricity, transportation networks, and waste disposal are just a few of urban residents' needs.

Brasília, Brazil's capital, illustrates some of the issues that urban planners face. Brazil constructed its new capital in the 1950s and 1960s. Designed by architects and urban planners, the city is located deep in Brazil's interior. Beginning in 1956, workers built an airstrip and flew in heavy construction machinery. They began laying out streets and pouring building foundations. By 1960 the main buildings were completed and the federal government began to move to the new capital. Today Brasília has a population of about 1.8 million.

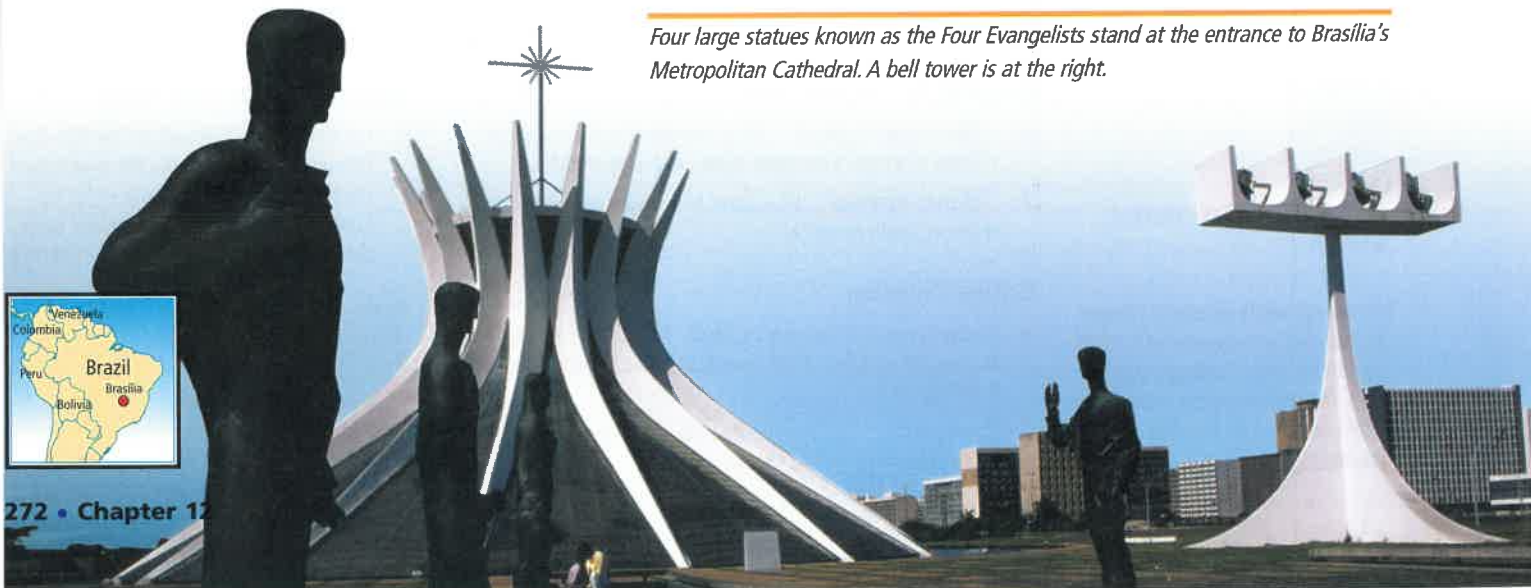
The urban planners who designed Brasília wanted to create a new urban environment that would lead to a better society. Segregation was one of the main problems the city's planners hoped to avoid. Segregation is the separation of different economic and social groups into distinct neighborhoods. To prevent this, city planners designed many groups of identical six-story apartment buildings. They organized the buildings into giant "superblocks." Each had its own schools,

shopping areas, and parks. The goal was to have everyone live in the same type of environment. If this happened, the planners thought the new residents would develop a more integrated and equal society. Differences in income and social status would be less likely to lead to social problems. Even Brasília's address system reflects this idea. For example, think about addresses along Rodeo Drive in Los Angeles or Park Avenue in New York City. Such addresses imply high social status or wealth. Instead of proper names, numbers and letters identify streets and buildings in Brasília. For example, a typical address is SQS 106-F-504. Such addresses offer no clues about the social or economic position of people who live there.

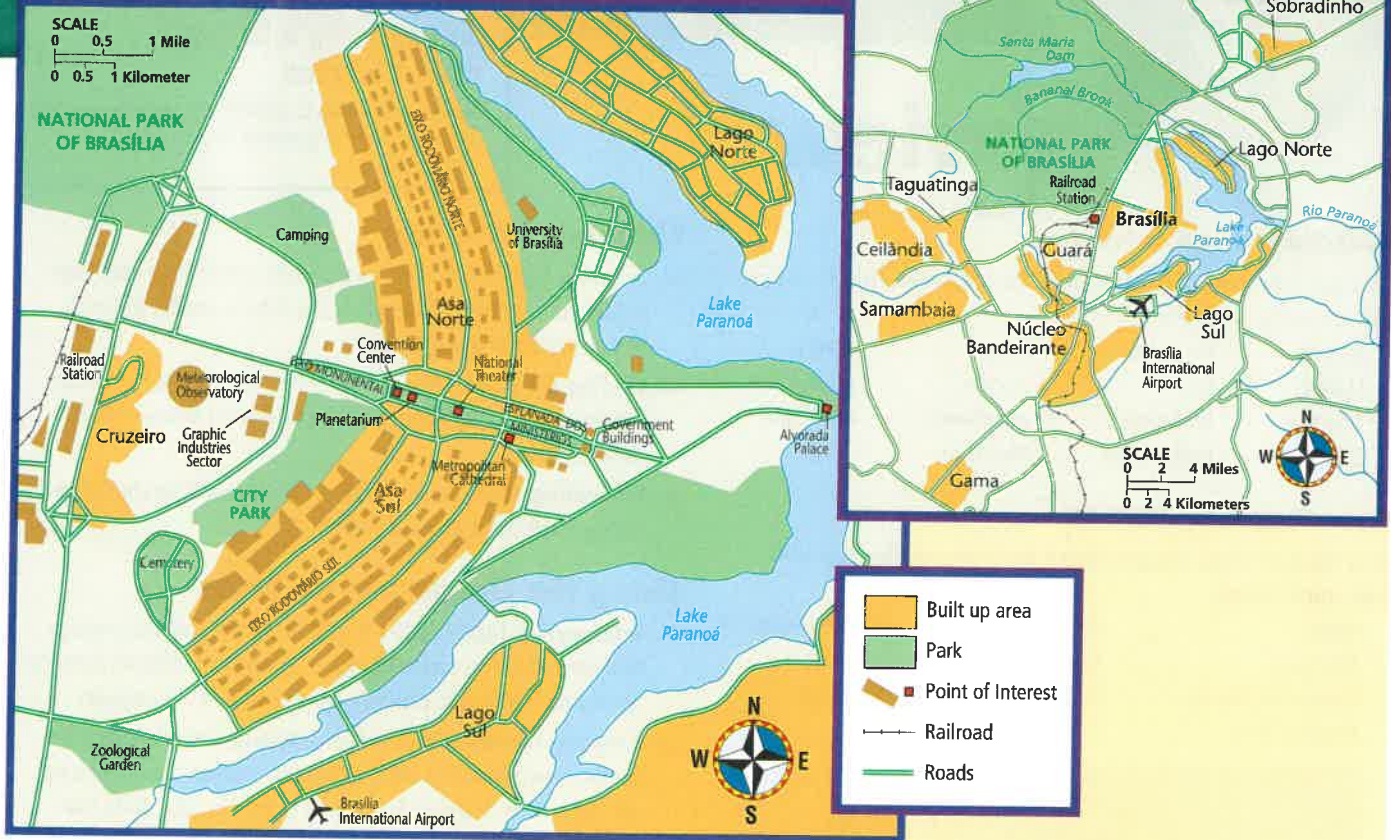
Despite the efforts of Brasília's planners, the city is segregated. The poor live mostly on the outer edges of the city. This happened because of the new city's isolated location. More than 100,000 workers relocated to the region between 1957 and 1960. Known as *candangos*, these workers lived in wooden shacks on the edge of the huge construction site. When the workers were no longer needed, officials declared the wooden shacks slums and ordered them torn down.

However, it soon became clear that the workers would stay. The planners had not anticipated the housing needs of these people. As a result, officials changed the original plan of the city to provide housing and services to *candangos* and their families. They created satellite settlements on the edges of the central

Four large statues known as the Four Evangelists stand at the entrance to Brasília's Metropolitan Cathedral. A bell tower is at the right.



Brasília



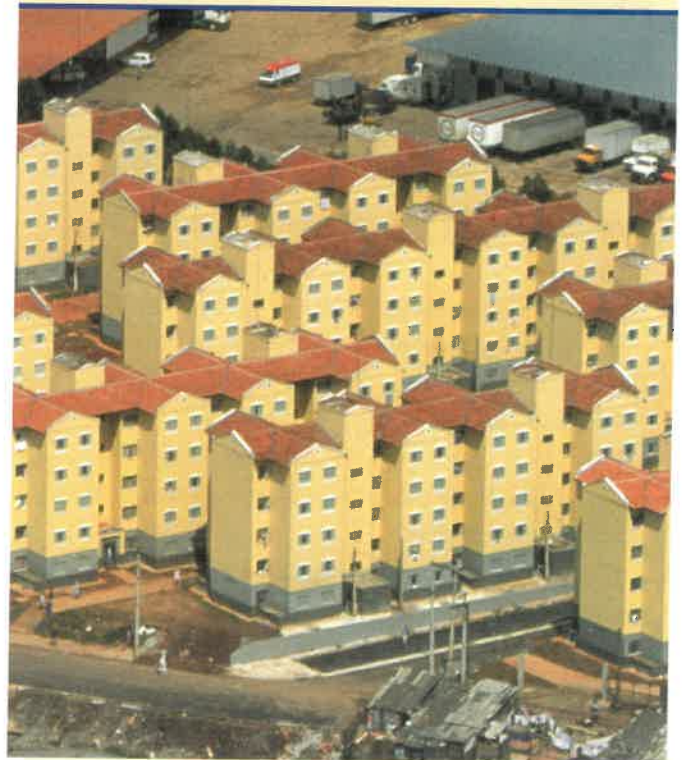
zone. These settlements have grown dramatically as rural Brazilians continue to move to Brasília in search of better jobs and pay. By the late 1980s about 75 percent of the urban area's population lived in the satellite towns.

These towns were not as strictly planned and organized as the central zone. Instead of the same apartment buildings, single-family houses are much more common. Some of Brasília's wealthy citizens have moved away from the central zone's strict building codes. On the city's outskirts, they are free to build big homes that display their wealth and social status. The satellite towns are known for the iron fences that surround homes to deter criminals. As you can see, Brasília has not developed as the integrated city originally planned. Instead, sprawling edge settlements surround the city's heart.

Applying What You Know

- 1. Summarizing** How is Brasília different than planners had hoped?
- 2. Comparing** How are political, economic, and social conditions interrelated in Brasília? How does this compare to other cities you have studied?

INTERPRETING THE MAP *The large map shows Brasília itself. The small one shows the city's surroundings. A neighborhood of superblocs appears in the photo. How does Brasília's layout reflect its history? What are some of the satellite towns that appear on the small map?*



CHAPTER 12

Review

HOLT

Geography's Impact Video Series

Review the video to answer the closing question:
What are some arguments for and against deforestation?

Building Vocabulary

On a separate sheet of paper, explain the following terms by using them correctly in sentences.

<i>tepuís</i>	tar sands	coup	favelas
Llanos	Inca	manioc	landlocked
tree line	latifundia	<i>minifundia</i>	terrorism
El Niño	buffer state	Mercosur	

Locating Key Places

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

Andes	Patagonia	Rio de Janeiro
Altiplano	Cuzco	Manaus
Guiana Highlands	Buenos Aires	Santiago
Amazon River		



Understanding the Main Ideas

Section 1

- The World in Spatial Terms** What are the five climate zones of the Andes, and what vegetation is found in each?
- Environment and Society** What are some products that come from the rain forest?

Section 2

- Human Systems** What were some accomplishments of early South American peoples?
- Human Systems** How did Spanish and Portuguese settlement spread?

Section 3

- Environment and Society** What are three factors that create tensions in South America?

Thinking Critically

- Drawing Inferences** Why might some analysts say that logic would indicate that Venezuela is the richest country in South America instead of Argentina?
- Finding the Main Idea** How is economic development shaping the urban, population, and environmental features of the Amazon Basin?
- Evaluating** What do you think is the most serious challenge facing South Americans today? Why?

Using the Geographer's Tools

- Interpreting Tables** Use the unit Fast Facts and Comparing Standard of Living tables to rank the countries of South America by standard of living. Explain your rankings in a paragraph.
- Creating Climate Graphs** Search through the HRW Website on the Internet to find information for creating climate graphs for Lima, Peru; Manaus, Brazil; and Quito, Ecuador. Note that these three places lie near the same latitudes. In which climate regions are these places located? What are the major climate features of each place? What factors do you think influence the climate in these places?
- Creating Maps** Create a map of South America that shows which countries were settled by the Spanish, Portuguese, British, Dutch, and French during the colonial era.

Writing about Geography

Imagine that you are a subsistence farmer in Bolivia. Your cousin works on a large commercial farm in Chile's central valley. She has urged you to take an entry-level job there in farm management. Write a diary entry in which you reflect on your current life and how your life might change if you join her in Chile. When you are finished with your diary entry, proofread it to make sure you have used standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.

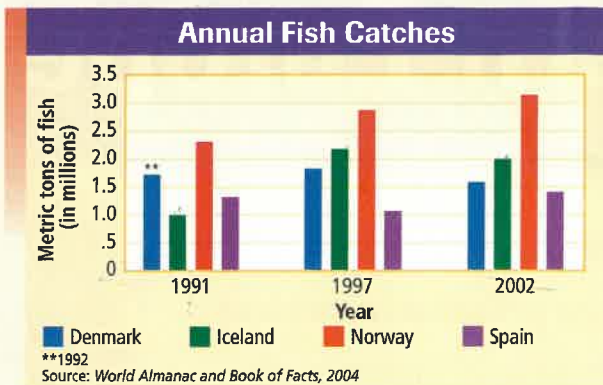
SKILL BUILDING



Geography for Life

Comparing Maps

Environment and Society Search the Internet and library resources for aerial photographs and land use, resource, road, and vegetation maps of Brazil from different time periods. Use the photographs and maps to draw conclusions about the effects of mining, road construction, and timber harvesting on Brazil's rain forest.



Interpreting Graphs

Study the graph above. Then use information from the graph to help you answer the questions that follow.

- From 1991 to 1997 and from 1997 to 2002 which country had the most dramatic increase in its fish catch?
 - Denmark
 - Iceland
 - Norway
 - Spain
- A comparison of the 1991 and 1997 fish catches of the four countries shows that only one country had a clear decrease. Which country was it? Support your answer.

Interpreting Secondary Sources

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Mark your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

"To create polders, the Dutch built earthen walls called dikes along the shoreline. Then they used windmills to pump out the seawater behind the dikes. The Dutch used the drained lands for farming or for housing. By using polders to grow crops and raise livestock, the Dutch greatly increased the amount of available farmland. In fact, the Netherlands is an exporter of agricultural goods. The Dutch export products such as flowers, grains, potatoes, and sugar beets, particularly to other European countries."

- One step that is part of the process of creating polders is
 - flooding valleys by opening river dams.
 - building dikes along the shoreline.
 - using windmills to generate electricity.
 - building homes that stand above local water levels.
- How have the polders helped the Netherlands become an exporter of agricultural goods?

Alternative Assessment

PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

Learning about Your Local Geography

Group Project: Field Work

Plan, organize, and complete a research project with a partner that compares plant and animal life in your area with those in Europe. First, study the plants and animals in your area by doing field work. Work together to observe your area's wildlife. You may want to make drawings of what you see. Then use a library to find information about the plants and animals that you observed. What kind of biome do you live in? What plants and animals are common to that biome? Finally, compare your biome to the biomes of Europe. Does the same biome exist in Europe? If so, where? How are the plants and animals of your area similar to and different from those in Europe?

Internet connect

Internet Activity: go.hrw.com

KEYWORD: SW3 GT13

Choose a topic on the natural environments of Europe to:

- describe the environmental impact of oil drilling in the North Sea.
- understand how technological innovations affect the maintenance of polders.
- create a poster about fjords along the Norwegian coast.