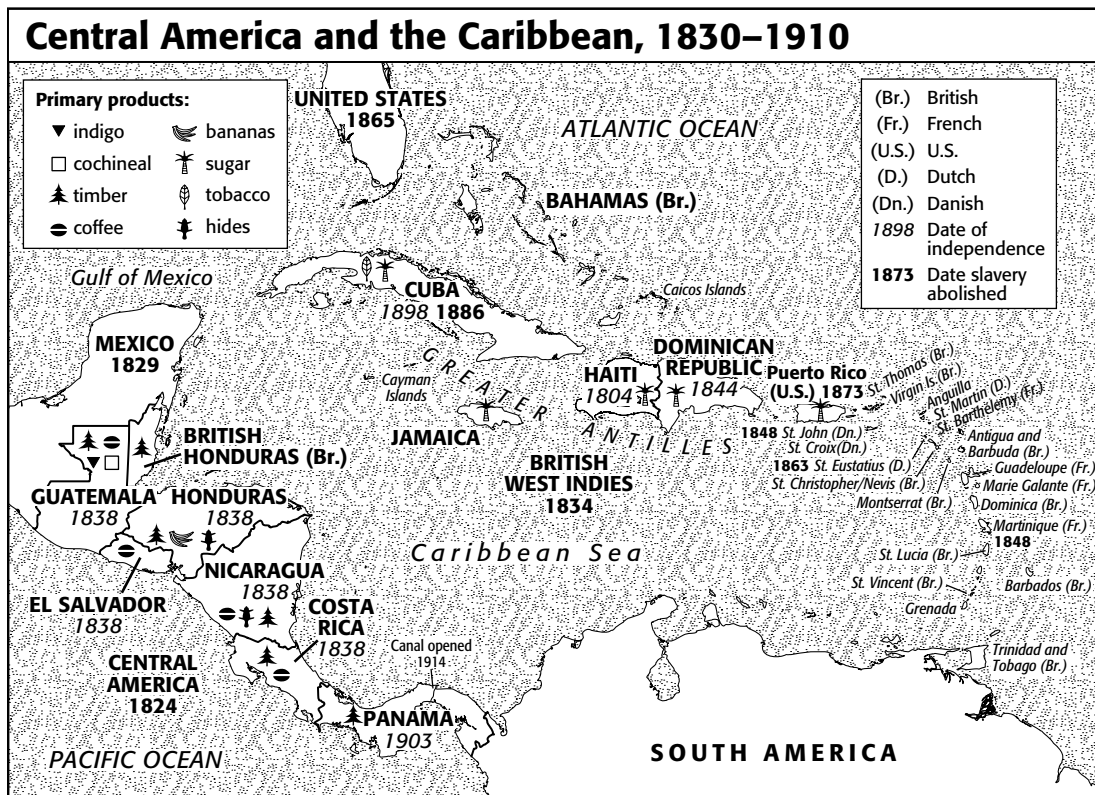


CHAPTER 11

Map Activity

Colonies and Independent States

Most of Central America gained independence during the 1800s, while many Caribbean islands remained under colonial rule. Despite independence, most countries continued to rely on the economic system established by the colonial powers: the production and export of primary products, like coffee and sugar, to Europe and the United States. Look at the map below, then answer the questions on the following page.



Chapter 11, Map Activity, continued

1. When did most Central American countries gain their independence? What were the exceptions?

2. Which Caribbean islands had won independence by 1910? What was the status of Puerto Rico?

3. What primary products did Cuba produce? What primary products were common to at least four Central American countries? Where were bananas produced?

4. **Critical Thinking: Place** Why did some countries gain independence during this period and others remain colonies? What factors did each group have in common?

ACTIVITY Create a fact sheet about a country in Central America or the Caribbean, listing important details about the government, economy, and society. At the bottom of the sheet, write a paragraph describing current prospects and challenges for the country.