



World Studies: Countries, Cultures, and Connections -6

Chapter 12: The Geography and History of Latin America

Section 1: The Land and People of Latin America

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Latin America is located on two continents: _____ America and _____ America.
2. There is a large body of water on the western side of _____—the Pacific Ocean—which stretches down the entire western side of Central and _____ America.
3. On the eastern side of Mexico, there are two smaller bodies of water— the _____ of Mexico and the _____ Sea.
4. Moving south from _____ on the map, you will find many smaller countries in Central America. This region is an _____, or narrow strip of land connecting two landmasses.
5. The United Nations recognizes 33 _____ and 15 territories in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. In addition to these countries, there are many _____ nations. An important one is _____.
7. As the _____ and _____ conquered the indigenous people, they spread their languages and religion across Central and South America and the Caribbean.
8. _____ is the most common language there today with over 300 million native speakers, although there are many accents and varieties of Spanish depending on location.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

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9. Portugal ruled _____ from the 1500s until 1822, so _____ is the official language of Brazil.
10. Some of the _____ people of Central and South America moved into the mountains and into the jungles. This isolated them from the European explorers and colonists, so their _____ survive today.
11. The religion of Latin America is mostly Roman _____ and all believers are considered to be united under the leadership and ministry of the _____, who is the _____ of _____.
12. Priests, friars, and monks of the Roman Catholic Church set up _____ all over Latin America to convert the indigenous people to Christianity.
13. As a result of these influences, it is estimated that over 425 million people, or 40 percent of the Roman Catholic Church population, is _____.