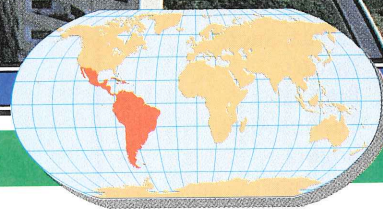
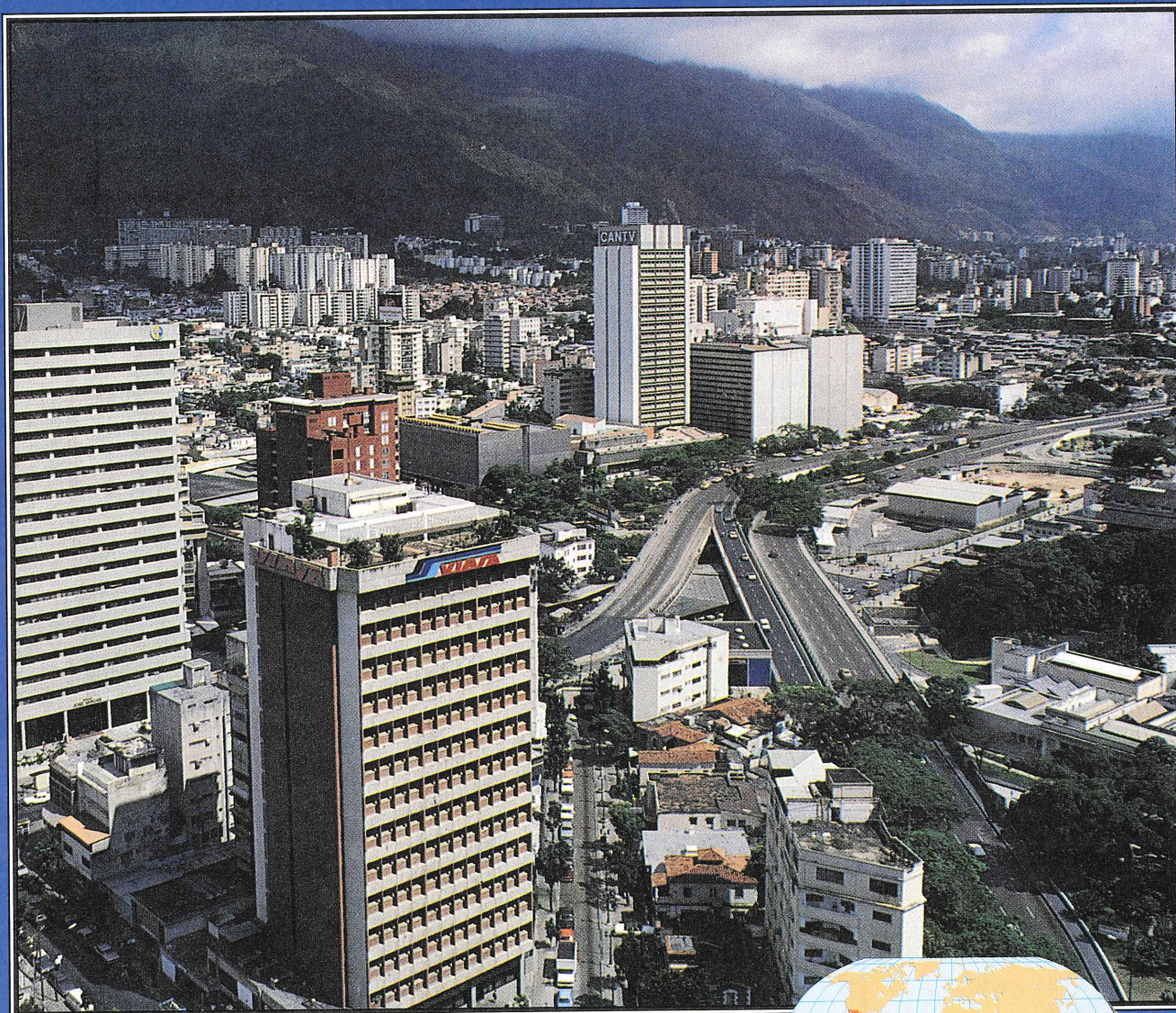


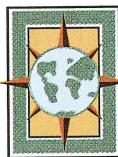
# Latin America Today



## CHAPTER FOCUS

### Geographic Setting

In many areas of Latin America, vegetation and landforms, such as tropical rain forests and steep mountains, create natural barriers to the movement of people and goods.



### Geographic Themes

#### Section 1 Living in Latin America

**REGION** Most nations of Latin America are increasing their efforts to modernize and industrialize.

▲ **Photograph:** Skyline of Caracas, Venezuela

#### Section 2 People and Their Environment

**HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** The development of resources in the Amazon River basin has seriously affected the environment of the area.



# Living in Latin America

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Discover . . .

- the status of agriculture and industry in Latin America.
- the role of trade and interdependence in Latin America.
- the transportation and communications systems of Latin America.

### Key Terms

- developing country
- export
- cash crop
- *campesinos*
- *latifundia*
- *minifundia*
- service industry
- *maquiladoras*

### Identify and Locate

Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile, Ciudad Juárez, Rio Grande, Manaus, Isthmus of Panama, Bogotá, Lima, Santiago

Kingston, Jamaica

I live in Jamaica, where tourism plays a big part in the economy. The Jamaican dollar is very weak

against the American dollar. While this is good for tourists, it isn't so good for people who live here.

Christine Bennett



**C**hristine Bennett from the Caribbean island of Jamaica describes one of the many problems of economic development. Latin America consists largely of **developing countries**, countries in the process of becoming industrialized. Most Latin American countries, however, are moving slowly toward this goal.

### HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

## Agriculture

**T**he economies of many Latin American countries are based on agriculture. Most of what Latin Americans **export**, or send to

other countries for sale or trade, comes from the land.

### Cash Crops and Livestock

Coffee is an example of a **cash crop**, a crop produced to sell or trade. Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and El Salvador rank among the world's leading coffee producers. This is largely because they have the fertile volcanic slopes and warm moist climate in which coffee trees thrive.

Because tropical coastal areas are well-suited for growing bananas, Central America, along with Cuba, Jamaica, Brazil, and Ecuador, produce much of the world's bananas. Cuba and Brazil also are among the world's leaders in the production of sugarcane, the most







### Geographic Themes



#### Human/Environment Interaction: Andes, Colombia

Many farmers in the foothills of the Andes of western Colombia grow coffee, Colombia's major crop. Why is coffee a major crop in countries such as Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, and El Salvador?

important agricultural product in the Caribbean.

Some Latin American countries have based their entire economy on a single crop. Honduras, for example, relies on bananas. Cuba depends largely on sugarcane. Specializing in one crop often puts the national economy at risk. For example, if drought or disease seriously damages the crop, the country's entire economy can be severely affected. In addition, if a country uses most of its farmland to grow just one cash crop, little land is left to grow the food crops needed to feed the population.

Some Latin American countries have much grazing land on which to raise livestock. Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil are among the world's leaders in cattle production. Beef is

also a major export of Costa Rica, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

### Latifundia and Minifundia

In the past many Latin Americans lived and worked in the countryside. Now only about one-third of the people are *campesinos*, people who live and work in rural areas.

The farms on which these people work often are divided into two classes. One is *latifundia*, large estates owned by families or corporations. The other class of farm is *minifundia*, small farms that produce food chiefly for family use and the local market.

Whether *campesinos* own or work small plots of land or labor on the large landholdings of the wealthy, almost all are poor. Among the poorest are the Native Americans who live in places like the *Altiplano* where the soil is poor and the climate unfavorable. Their crops generally are staples like beans, corn, potatoes, and cassavas, plants whose large root supplies the starch used to make tapioca.

### HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

## Industry

Most Latin American countries recognize the need to modernize and industrialize. Some, however, are moving faster than others. In many countries, **service industries**, enterprises such as banking that provide services rather than goods, have grown sharply in the last 25 years.

### Industrial Progress

One Latin American country that has made great progress in recent years is Mexico. Among the goods produced in Mexico are motor vehicles, electrical goods, and processed foods. Over the last 50 years, American and other foreign firms have set up manufacturing plants in Mexican cities close to the Mexican-American border to take advantage of low-cost labor.

One such city is Ciudad Juárez, which lies across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas. To-





gether these cities' factories, known as *maquiladoras*, employ a large number of Mexicans. Unlike many other Latin American countries, Mexico has a large workforce, well-developed power sources and transportation networks, and abundant natural resources. These advantages, combined with a stable government, an involved business community, and foreign investors, have made industrial expansion possible.

Brazil, like Mexico, has increased its industrial production in recent years. It is a major producer of iron and steel, automobiles, textiles, cement, paper, machinery, chemicals, airplanes, processed food, and electrical goods. Also like Mexico, Brazil has profited from plentiful natural resources, a large workforce, well-developed power sources, and a government that has worked to promote industrial growth.

Both Mexico and Brazil produce handicrafts—jewelry, baskets, rugs. Other leading manufacturers of such items are Venezuela and Argentina. Argentina processes and packages meat and other foods and produces textiles, electrical equipment, automobiles, and railroad cars. Chile, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Bolivia all produce foods and textiles. Bolivia also mines and refines tin. For most Caribbean nations, sugar refining is a leading industry.

## Industrial Development

Latin American countries have not been able to industrialize more rapidly for a variety of reasons. Factories and machinery cost money—money that many Latin American countries do not have. Some countries, like Mexico, have been able to attract foreign investment. Foreign investors, however, are reluctant to provide funds to a country whose government appears unstable or that has political problems. Investors are afraid that if something happens to the government, they will lose their investment.

Industry requires skilled workers—engineers, scientists, technicians. Industry also requires certain kinds of raw materials and natural resources, including energy resources. Many countries of Latin America do not have



the necessary trained workers, materials, or resources.

## MOVEMENT

# Trade and Interdependence

Few Latin American countries manufacture enough goods or grow enough food to satisfy all the needs of their people. As a result, they must trade with other countries—many of which are outside of the region.

Much of the interdependence that exists between Latin American countries and nations outside the region is a result of Latin America's desire to industrialize. Industrialization has made much of the region dependent on imported goods, raw materials, technology,





### Geographic Themes



#### **Movement: Trans-Andean Highway, Peru**

The Trans-Andean Highway connects Lima, the capital of Peru, to Chile through the Andes. *What major highway in Latin America extends from Mexico to Chile?*

and foreign capital. This dependence has created large foreign debts.

### MOVEMENT

## Transportation and Communications

**T**ransportation and communications systems in Latin America are not highly developed outside of urban areas. This is largely because of cost and physical barriers—rugged terrain, dense vegetation, and mountains.

### Roads and Railroads

In Latin America the building of good roads and railroads has been difficult and slow. In South America, for example, the Andes are a formidable barrier. In Central America, because of dense vegetation near the Caribbean coast and highland areas in the interior, very few roads run east and west.

Some nations have networks of modern highways. Argentina, for example, has one of the better-developed highway systems in South America. Mexico also has a large number of modern highways known as *autopistas*. Most other countries, however, do not have roads like these. In Brazil, for example, only

about 12 percent of the roads are paved. A new series of roads known as the Trans-Amazonian Highway, however, is under construction in Brazil. One of the main purposes of the project is to stimulate the development of the Amazon River basin.

The major road system of Latin America is the Pan-American Highway. This network of roadways stretches from northern Mexico to southern Chile, linking the capitals of 17 Latin American nations.

In some Latin American countries, excellent railway networks compensate in part for poor roads. Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina, Panama, and Brazil have well-developed railroad networks. In most of the Caribbean countries, however, railway systems are inadequate for the needs of local economies and populations.

### Inland Waterways

In some parts of Latin America, inland waterways provide the only means of transportation. The Plata river system formed by the Paraná, Paraguay, and Uruguay rivers, for example, helps link Buenos Aires and northeastern Argentina with Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil.

A major natural waterway exists in the Amazon River basin. Thick vegetation and swamps in the basin often make overland travel difficult. The Amazon River and its tributaries, however, provide a natural waterway on which people and goods can be transported.

The Panama Canal is another important waterway, but it is not a natural one. Built in the early 1900s, it crosses the Isthmus of Panama, making it possible for ships to travel between the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean without having to go around the southern tip of South America.

### Air Travel

In recent years, airplanes and air travel have become increasingly important in Latin America. Airplanes can go where roads and railroads often cannot. Airplanes provide a fast and efficient means of travel over rough





terrain, dense vegetation, and mountains that cover many areas of the region.

Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico are among the world's leading countries in numbers of airports. Bogotá, Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires, São Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro all have major airports that serve both domestic and international airlines. The busiest airport in the entire region, however, is Mexico City's International Airport. More than 16 million passengers pass through it each year.

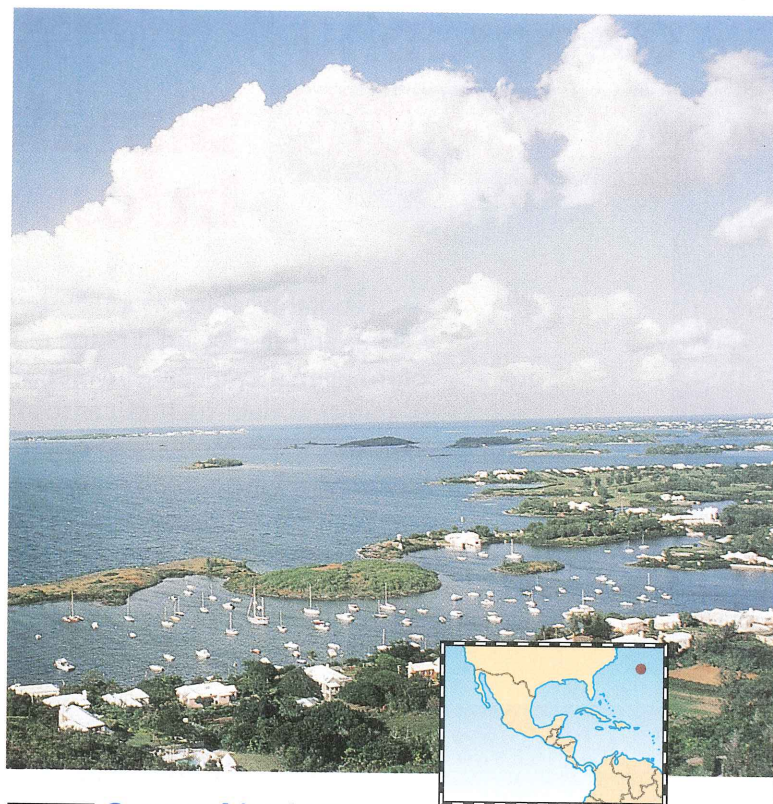
## Communications

The same dense vegetation and rough terrain that have made it so difficult to build roads and railroads in much of Latin America have also slowed the development of communications networks.

Millions of people in Latin America use telephones to communicate with others. Yet many countries in the region do not have the funds to buy the equipment needed to build modern telephone systems. Even in wealthier countries like Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Venezuela, many people do not own telephones. In fact, for every 100 people, there are only about 5 to 10 telephones. In some poorer nations, such as Haiti, there may be only one telephone for every 119 persons.

Many countries are trying to improve their communications systems by building more and better radio and television stations and making greater use of international telecommunications satellites. Every country in Latin America has at least one radio station. However, not every nation has its own television station. And not every household or family owns a television set. Currently, there is approximately 1 television for every 6 people in Latin America.

Newspapers are a major means of communication. About one-seventh of the world's daily newspapers are published in Latin America. Most of these are printed in Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina. Latin America also publishes about 5 percent of the world's books each year, mostly in the Spanish or Portuguese language.



### Geographic Themes

#### Movement: Bermuda

Millions of tourists visit Bermuda and the Caribbean countries each year to enjoy the pleasant climate and the beautiful beaches. How has transportation aided tourism?

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** developing country, export, cash crop, *campesinos*, *latifundia*, *minifundia*, service industry, *maquiladoras*.
- 2. Locating Places** What Latin American countries rank among the world's leading coffee producers?
- 3. Human/Environment Interaction** What factors have made industrial expansion possible in Mexico?
- 4. Movement** What is the major road system of Latin America? Where is it located?

### Critical Thinking

- 5. Making Comparisons** What do *latifundia* and *minifundia* have in common?



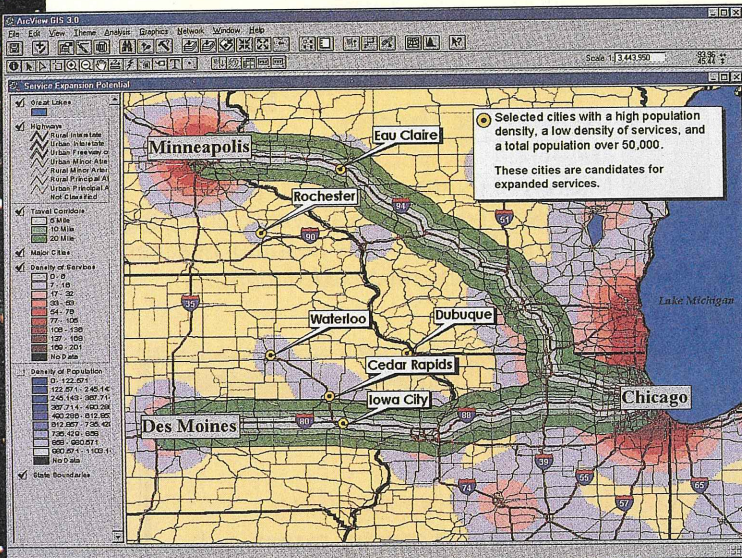
# Geography

## Lab Activity

# Simulating Geographic Information Systems

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer system capable of combining and displaying a range of geographic information about a given area. This information may include images, such as digitized maps and satellite photos, as well as statistical data such as census figures. After information is entered into the GIS database, the computer can create maps that show any combination of the data.

A retailer who is deciding on the location of a new store, for example, might input data such as population distribution, median income, traffic patterns, land availability, and real estate prices into a GIS. The retailer can then see this data layered together on a computerized map, analyze relationships among the different map “layers,” and use the analysis to decide on a new store location.



**GIS technology** allows layers of data drawn on a map to be turned on or off, allowing geographic information to be analyzed from many viewpoints.

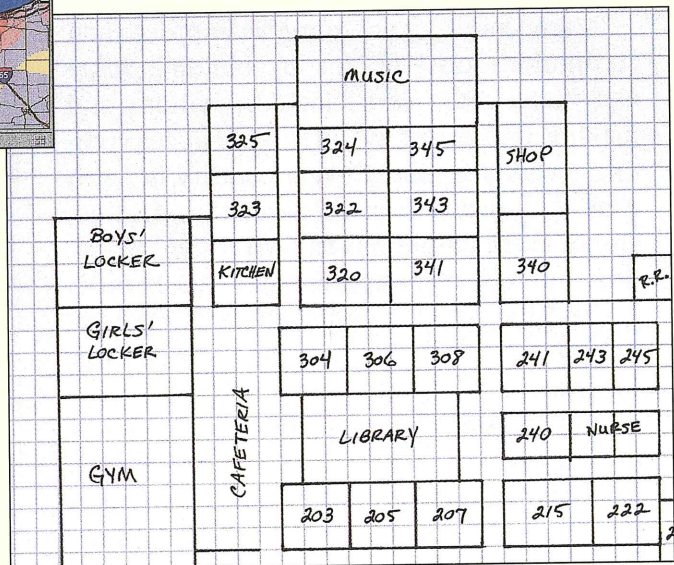
Graphic image created using ArcView® GIS software, and provided courtesy of Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

### Did You Know?

The technology exists that would allow automobiles to be self-driven, linked to navigational satellites pinpointing a car's position anywhere on the planet. Some automakers have already placed hidden chips in cars as a way to locate them if stolen.

## 1 Materials

- 8.5" X 11" graph paper
- pencil
- 6 blank 8.5" X 11" transparencies
- transparency markers
- floor plan of your school (optional)
- overhead projector



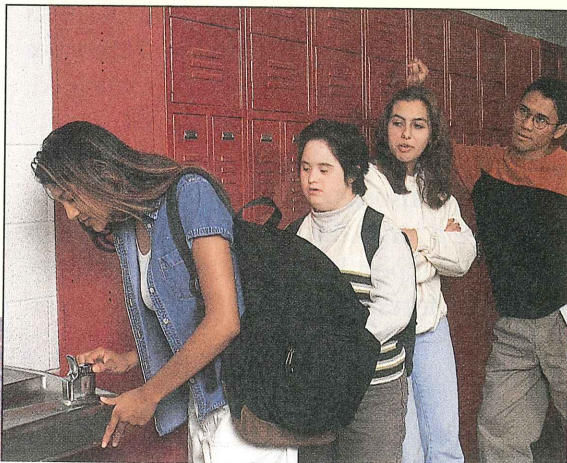
▲ Your school's floor plan will be your base map.



*In this activity, you will simulate a GIS, pulling together several "layers" of information to determine the best location for a new drinking fountain in your school.*

## 2 Procedures

1. As a class, sketch the general floor plan of one floor of your school onto 8.5" X 11" graph paper, or obtain the floor plan.
2. Photocopy the floor plan onto three of the blank transparencies. These are your base maps.
3. Organize the students into three groups (A, B, C), with each group receiving a base map and a blank transparency.
4. Group A is to determine where the existing drinking fountains are. Draw these onto the blank transparency superimposed on the base map.
5. Group B is to survey students about the need for a new drinking fountain. Ask: Near which classrooms would a new drinking fountain be beneficial?
6. Group B should place their blank transparency over their base map and highlight those classrooms that would benefit by having a closer drinking fountain installed.
7. Group C is to pinpoint the walls behind which water pipes exist. Obtain this information from the custodian or principal. Highlight the pertinent walls on your blank transparency overlaying the base map.
8. Come together as a class and place the three groups' transparencies over a base map on the overhead projector. As a class, analyze where the new drinking fountain should be installed.



## 3 Lab Activity Analysis

1. Which of the steps was most time-consuming? Why?
2. Besides the base map, which of the overlays provided you with the most vital information? Explain your answer.
3. What "layers" of information would you need in order to install a swimming pool on the school grounds?
4. **Drawing Conclusions** How do you think GIS technology could help emergency rescue squads find an alternate or a quicker route to an accident?

## 4 Find Out More

Contact your local city council planning department. Find out how they use GIS technology to determine where new homes, bridges, water wells, and so on should be installed. Share what you learn with your class.

◀ Long lines indicate a need for more drinking fountains. City planners look at "long lines" in the community and use GIS technology to help pinpoint solutions.





## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Discover . . .

- how human development of the Amazon River basin has affected the environment.
- the major challenges that have accompanied rapid urban growth in Latin America and possible solutions for them.

### Key Terms

- ecosystem
- deforestation
- slash-and-burn farming
- reforestation

### Identify and Locate

Amazon River basin, Brazil, Mexico City, São Paulo

**A**n **ecosystem** is a complex variety of life in a delicately balanced environment. Humans acting within an ecosystem probably upset the balance more than any other organism. In Latin America, environmental disruption has been occurring in several different places, including the tropical rain forest of the Amazon River basin and many urban areas across the region.

### HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

## The Amazon River Basin

**T**he Amazon River basin covers about 2.7 million square miles (7 million sq. km), an area about the size of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. The basin contains the world's largest tropical rain forest. About two-thirds of this forest is in Brazil. The rest covers parts of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana.

### Deforestation

In recent years many people have become concerned about the **deforestation**—the cutting down and clearing away of trees in the

rain forest. According to recent estimates, about 10 percent of Amazon rain forest has already been destroyed.

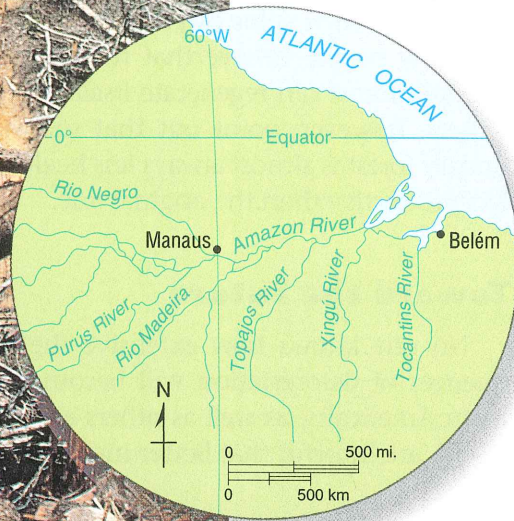
Several activities have contributed to the deforestation. One is construction of the Trans-Amazonian Highway and of access roads into the forest. A great deal of forest land, especially in the Brazilian Amazon rain forest, had to be cleared to make way for these roads.

Another of the most widespread activities is the clearing of forest land along new access routes so that migrant families might permanently farm the land. Traditionally migrant farmers use what is often called **slash-and-burn farming**. They cut down all the plants and strip any trees of bark. After the plants and trees have dried out, they are set on fire. The ash from the fire puts nutrients into the soil. Within two or three years, however, the soil begins to lose its fertility and crop yields decline. When this happens, the farmers move on to a new piece of land and start the same process over again. The cycle is repeated, and each time more forest is destroyed.

Attempts to develop commercial cattle ranches have also caused much deforestation. Cattle need a large amount of pastureland for grazing. To support large-scale ranching, huge amounts of forest land must be cleared, and







## Geographic Themes

### Human/Environment Interaction: Amazon River Basin

The Amazon River basin contains more than 50,000 species of plants—about 20 percent of all plant species on the earth. *How is human activity threatening the basin's vegetation?*

slash-and-burn techniques are used. Grasses at first grow well in the charred soil. After four or five years, however, fewer grasses grow, and the land cannot support as many cattle as it once did. In time, the growth of weeds takes over the production of grasses, and the cattle ranches are abandoned.

Still another activity that has contributed to deforestation is the commercial exploitation of trees for lumber and other products. Profits are made from the export of these products. In the view of some scientists, however, deforestation may have serious long-term negative effects that may be difficult or even impossible to overcome. These scientists point out that some of the damage could be corrected if lumber companies would practice **reforestation**, the planting of young trees or the seeds of trees, on the lands they have stripped.

Yet in many cases, replanting has not happened. The environmental impact of logging has been growing steadily, partly because of an

increasing demand to develop the resources of the Amazon River basin.

## Major Concerns

Scientists and other experts do not always agree on the nature, significance, or possible harmful effects of deforestation. Several years ago, it was thought that widespread deforestation would upset the oxygen balance of the entire world. This occurrence is no longer thought to be likely. Now the concern is that deforestation may upset the world's heat balance, causing a dangerous warming effect. Some scientists also believe that major deforestation might produce an imbalance in the world's water cycle, affecting rainfall in certain areas.

Another concern is that deforestation eventually will cause many plants and animals to become extinct. Certain species of plants have extracts that are valuable to humans as medicine and for commercial and industrial





uses. The value of other species found in the rain forest has not yet been determined. Scientists fear that these species might become extinct before their value can be known.

Many people believe that the huge Amazon rain forest can regenerate itself over time. Others, however, point out that such a secondary forest is almost always less healthy and less productive than the original one.

## Toward the Future

No one knows how extensive the consequences of deforestation will become. Many Latin Americans, as well as others around the world, are hopeful that better methods of uti-

lizing the resources in the Amazon River basin can be developed.

Many people believe that the Amazon River basin is important to the world as an abundant supply of natural resources and that controlled fishing, mining, and logging can be done without doing serious harm to the environment. Many also think that the Amazon basin holds the promise for a better future for thousands of people. Many people agree that new and more flexible methods must be found to settle families in the area engaged in small-scale farming so that they do not move from one part of the forest to another.

Most experts see a need for stronger governmental regulation and more national parks and Native American reserves throughout the area for the groups who will have to move from their traditional land. To keep migrant families and commercial developers from misusing parks and reserves, tough measures and strict enforcement are needed.

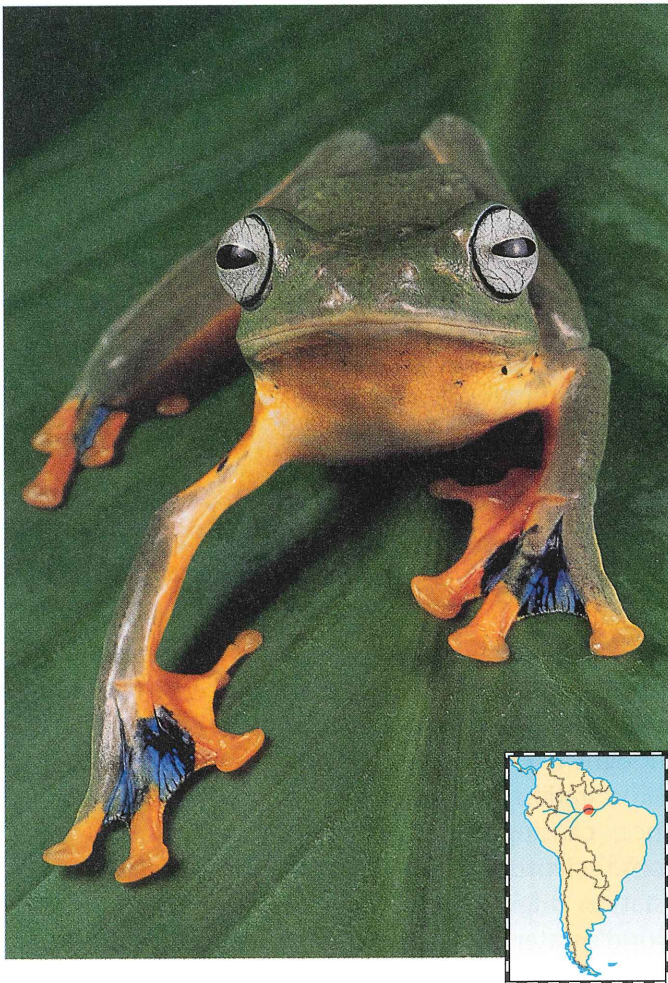
## PLACE

# Population Growth

Latin American cities have experienced tremendous population growth in recent years. Mexico City, for example, has become home to about one-fourth of the people of Mexico and has the second-greatest population of any city in the world. São Paulo has become the largest city of South America and the second-largest metropolitan area of Latin America after Mexico City. The challenges facing these two cities because of their rapid growth are also confronting other Latin American cities.

## Urban Challenges

One of the most serious challenges facing Latin American cities is poverty. Many people who left their rural homes expected to find jobs in the city. Many of the cities, however, were already overcrowded, and jobs often proved scarce, especially for the unskilled. As a result, as many as one-half of the people of working age in an overcrowded city like São Paulo or Mexico City might be unemployed.



### Geographic Themes



#### Human/Environment Interaction: Amazon Basin

This brilliant tree frog is one of about 4,000 species of frogs living in the rain forests whose habitats are threatened. *What do the world's scientists believe about the effects of deforestation?*





Housing is another challenge. The number of people living in urban areas often exceeds the number of houses or apartments. Even if more good housing were available, many city dwellers could not afford it. Consequently, every major city has its slum areas, called by a different name from one city to another—*favelas* in São Paulo, *barriadas* in Bogotá, *villas miserias* in Buenos Aires. In these places people often live in shacks made of cardboard, asbestos panels, or sheets of metal, often without electricity, running water, underground sewer systems, or sanitary facilities.

In many urban areas, air pollution has also become a serious problem. Millions of automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles clog city streets, creating serious traffic jams and congestion, and sending massive amounts of exhaust fumes into the air. Along with the pollutants from industrial smokestacks, these fumes badly pollute the air. In Mexico City the air pollution is so serious that people with breathing problems cannot always go outside, and the use of automobiles must be restricted.

Poorer urban residents also have difficulty getting enough food to eat. Many cannot afford to buy food, and in the city they do not have a place to grow their own.

## Solutions for One City

Latin American political leaders are aware of the problems of their cities and are trying to solve them. The Mexican government, for example, has carried out several efforts to improve the quality of life in Mexico City.

The government is encouraging businesses to relocate outside the city and is promoting tourism so that more jobs will be created. Mexico is also working to improve agriculture so that many former farmworkers will be encouraged to leave the city and return to the countryside.

In an effort to cut down on the number of automobiles in Mexico City, new subway and bus routes are being added. A new water system is being constructed to help overcome the city's water problems. The city has planted millions of trees, not only to help beautify urban areas but also to help purify the air.



### Geographic Themes

#### Place: Havana, Cuba

Cuba's Communist policies led to shortages of goods for many people living in Havana and other Cuban cities. *What challenges have faced other Latin American cities?*

## SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define ecosystem, deforestation, slash-and-burn farming, reforestation.**
- 2. Locating Places** Where is the second-largest city in the world located?
- 3. Human/Environment Interaction** What activities have contributed to deforestation in the Amazon River basin?
- 4. Region** What are four challenges faced by many Latin American cities?

### Critical Thinking

- 5. Making Comparisons** In what ways are the challenges facing the major cities in your country the same as those facing major cities in Latin America?





# TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

## Developing Multimedia Presentations

Your teacher has asked you to create a classroom presentation. How do you make it interesting enough to hold everyone's attention? Your presentations can be exciting, especially if you use various media.

### REVIEWING THE SKILL

At its most basic, a multimedia presentation involves using several types of media to present your information. To discuss the natural vegetation of Latin America, for example, you may present a map like the one below. In a multimedia presentation, you may also use computer graphics to show examples of the various types of vegetation—tropical rain forest, chaparral, deciduous forest, coniferous forest, and so on; and then present a video showing products made from Latin America's vegetation—bananas, rubber, pharmaceuticals. Throughout your entire presentation, you may have a CD playing sounds of the rain forest.

Multimedia as it relates to computer technology is the combination of text, video, audio, and animation in an interactive computer program. You merge computer as well as video images, combining such traditional computer functions as word processing and graphics with television, sound, and video.

In order to create multimedia presentations on a computer, you need to have certain tools. These may include graphic tools and draw programs, animation programs that make still images move, and authoring systems that tie everything together. Your computer manual will tell you which tools your computer can support.

### PRACTICING THE SKILL

Ask questions such as the following to develop a multimedia presentation about the Pampas and *gauchos* in Argentina and Uruguay.

1. Which forms of media do I want to include? Video? Sound? Animation? Photographs? Graphics? Other?
2. Which of these media forms does my computer support?
3. What kind of software programs or systems do I need? A paint program? A draw program? An animation program? A program to create interactive, or two-way, communication? An authoring system that will allow me to change images, sound, and motion?
4. Is there a "do-it-all" program I can use to develop the kind of presentation I want?

For additional practice in developing multimedia presentations, see **Practicing Skills** on page 208 of the Chapter 10 Assessment.



Multimedia equipment



**1**

SECTION

**Living in Latin America**

KEY TERMS

developing country (p. 195)  
 export (p. 195)  
 cash crop (p. 195)  
*campesinos* (p. 196)  
*latifundia* (p. 196)  
*minifundia* (p. 196)  
 service industry (p. 196)  
*maquiladoras* (p. 197)

SUMMARY

- The economies of many Latin American countries are based on agriculture.
- There are two major classes of farms in Latin America—*latifundia* and *minifundia*.
- Most Latin American countries have been slow to industrialize because of lack of funds, a skilled workforce, and raw materials and energy sources.
- Latin America and some nations outside the region are interdependent due to Latin America's desire to industrialize.
- The development of transportation and communication networks in Latin America has been slowed because of cost and physical barriers.



Coffee farm in Colombia

**2**

SECTION

**People and Their Environment**

KEY TERMS

ecosystem (p. 202)  
 deforestation (p. 202)  
 slash-and-burn farming (p. 202)  
 reforestation (p. 203)

SUMMARY

- Large areas of the Amazon River basin are suffering from deforestation.
- Road construction, small-scale farming, large-scale ranching, and the commercial exploitation of trees have all contributed to the deforestation of the Amazon rain forest.
- There is need for new methods, better planning, and stronger government regulation to help solve the problems of the Amazon rain forest and develop the resources without seriously harming the environment.
- The rapid growth of some Latin American cities has led to environmental and social problems.
- Latin American governments are aware of the problems facing large cities and are working to solve them.



Logging in the Amazon basin





## Reviewing Key Terms

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- developing countries (p. 195)
- export (p. 195)
- cash crop (p. 195)
- campesinos* (p. 196)
- latifundia* (p. 196)
- service industries (p. 196)
- deforestation (p. 202)
- slash-and-burn farming (p. 202)
- reforestation (p. 203)

### SECTION 1

1. Bananas produced to sell or trade with someone else are a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Large estates owned by families or corporations are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Countries in the process of becoming industrialized are called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. People who live in the countryside are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
5. To send a product to other countries for sale or trade is to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Industries that provide personal services for others are \_\_\_\_\_.

### SECTION 2

7. \_\_\_\_\_ is the practice of planting young trees or the seeds of trees where the forest land has been stripped.
8. The cutting down and clearing of forest land is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The process of cutting down plants and stripping trees of bark and then burning it all is known as \_\_\_\_\_.

## Reviewing Facts

### SECTION 1

10. On what is the economy of many Latin American countries based?
11. What has slowed the development of communications networks in Latin America?

### SECTION 2

12. What are some concerns people have about the deforestation of the Amazon River basin?
13. What is one of the most serious challenges facing Latin American cities?

## Critical Thinking

14. **Drawing Conclusions** Why is the Panama Canal important?
15. **Predicting Consequences** What do you think will be the future of the Amazon River basin? Give reasons for your answer.



## Geographic Themes

16. **Human/Environment Interaction** Why are Latin American transportation and communications systems not more highly developed?
17. **Human/Environment Interaction** How has rapid urban growth caused environmental problems?



## Practicing Skills

### Developing Multimedia Presentations

Choose one of the topics below and explain how you would use at least three types of media to present the topic to the class.

- A. Steps involved in coffee production
- B. The pros and cons of *maquiladoras*
- C. Logging in the Amazon River basin

## Using the Unit Atlas

Refer to the physical geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 154–155.

18. What South American country is a leader in emerald mining?
19. Where is the source of the Amazon River?



**Projects**

**Individual Activity**

Select one of Latin America's overcrowded cities, and imagine that you are a city planner for that city. Write a plan for the mayor to help resolve some of the city's problems.

**Cooperative Learning Activity**

The Pan-American Highway connects the east and west coasts of Latin America and provides a route through much of the region. Working in a group of six, divide the route among group members. Each group member should find four or five interesting facts about the places through which his or her section of the route passes. Then, as a group, prepare a poster that shows the route with the facts written next to the appropriate places on the map.

**Writing About Geography**

**Narration** Words can have different meanings to different people. Write four definitions of the concept of deforestation as each of these people might define it: a Native American who has grown up and still lives in the Amazon rain forest; a logger; a small-scale migrant farmer; a Brazilian government official.

**Technology Activity**

**Using the Internet** Search the Internet for photographs showing the destruction of the Amazon rain forest. Narrow your search by using words such as *rain forest*, *deforestation*, or *U.S. Geological Survey*. Print the photographs and display them on the classroom bulletin board.



**Locating Places**

**LATIN AMERICA: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY**

Match the letters on the map with the places of Latin America. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Brazil
2. Mexico
3. Costa Rica
4. Belém
5. Isthmus of Panamá
6. Bogotá
7. Lima
8. Santiago
9. Mexico City
10. São Paulo





## LATIN AMERICAN CELEBRATIONS

**M***exican Americans are the largest Hispanic group living in the United States today. They are the third-largest ethnic group in the United States. Many other people of Hispanic cultural heritage also live in the United States. Two of the largest groups are Puerto Rican Americans and Cuban Americans.*



◀ **MEXICAN AMERICAN FIESTAS** are woven into the fabric of life in the American Southwest. Filled with food, dancing and singing, colorful costumes, and decorations, a fiesta is a joyous time. Parades, processions, and fireworks also are often part of fiestas.

### **CINCO DE MAYO, ▶**

the Fifth of May, is an important Mexican patriotic celebration. On this day in 1862, a band of ill-equipped, starving farmers in the small Mexican village of Puebla drove off well-equipped, well-trained troops of the invading armies of Napoleon III. Two other nationally known fiestas are Old Spanish Days in Santa Barbara, California, and Fiesta San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas. During both fiestas, participants celebrate the Hispanic heritage of the United States.



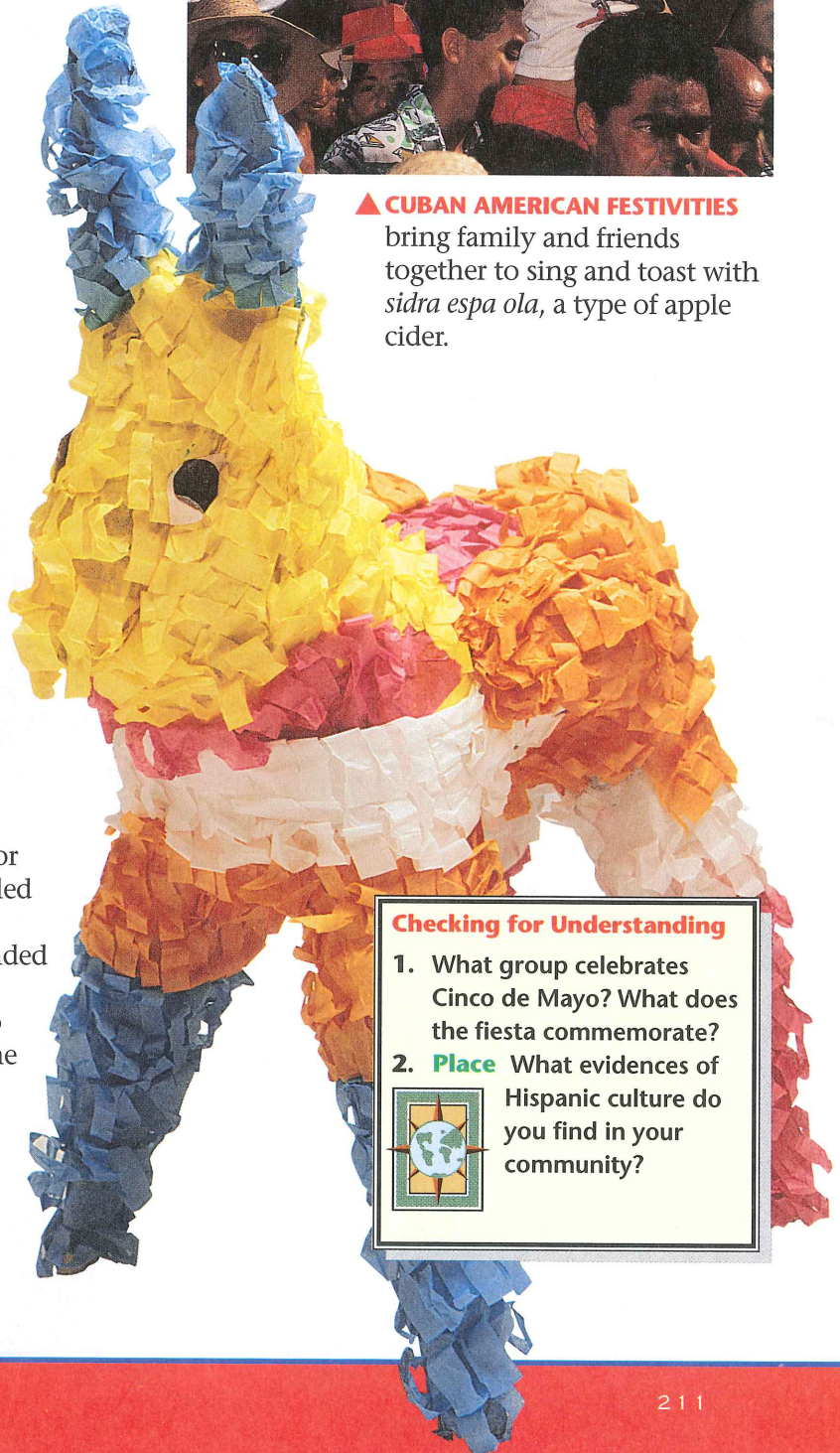




▲ **PUERTO RICAN AMERICAN FESTIVALS** celebrate saints' days and other special occasions. Like Mexican American fiestas, Puerto Rican festivals feature plenty of food and drink, music, fireworks, and parades.

**A PIÑATA** ► is the centerpiece of any fiesta for Mexican American children. Filled with small gifts and candy, the brightly colored *piñata* is suspended in the air. Children, sometimes blindfolded, take turns trying to break it. Everyone wins when the treats finally shower down.

▲ **CUBAN AMERICAN FESTIVITIES** bring family and friends together to sing and toast with *sidra espa ola*, a type of apple cider.



**Checking for Understanding**

1. What group celebrates Cinco de Mayo? What does the fiesta commemorate?
2. **Place** What evidences of Hispanic culture do you find in your community?

