

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Latin America Physical Geography

1. Latin America can be divided into separate regions based on physical geography or cultural geography.
2. If we look at physical geography Latin America has four distinct regions:
A. _____ C. _____
B. _____ D. _____
3. The Caribbean Islands are _____ or groups of islands. The major _____ are:
A. _____ B. _____
4. If we look at language Latin America can be roughly divided into:
A. _____ B. _____
5. Latin America has several large mountain ranges such as:
A. _____ B. _____
6. The Andes extend from _____ to the southern tip of _____ and they are over 4,000 miles long. At some points the Andes are over _____ miles wide and large portions of Peru, Ecuador, Chile, and Bolivia have very high elevations.
7. Where the Andes are widest there are high flat plains called _____. People live and farm in these areas but the _____ and it can be difficult to grow food.
8. The Sierra Madre Oriental and Occidentals run along the east and west coast of _____. Between these two mountain ranges lie the _____.
9. The _____ are a geographic region that covers most of eastern, central, and southern Brazil. This area has rolling hills and a _____.
10. A few important rivers and waterways are:
A. _____ D. _____
B. _____ E. _____
C. _____
11. The Amazon River is located in South America and it drains a large that is known as the _____. The Amazon has many _____, which are smaller rivers that flow into a larger river.
12. Much of the Amazon River is _____, which means large boats can travel up it to transport goods to the cities located along its banks.
13. The Rio Grande is a good example of how a river can be a _____ between two countries. Part of the Rio Grande is a border between the _____ and _____.
14. The _____ is an important waterway that cuts through the isthmus of Panama. The canal is human made and was completed in 1914. The canal eliminated the long trip around _____, the southernmost tip of South America.

15. Climate - Most of Latin America is in the low latitudes. The two predominant climate zones in Latin America are:

- A.
- B.

16. The equator runs through _____ and _____. The area near the equator is known as the _____ and is warm all year.

17. The seasons in South America are reversed from our seasons because they are in the Southern Hemisphere. When it is winter in Virginia it is summer in Argentina.

18. A _____ climate zone gets precipitation on a daily basis and a high temperature. Tropical _____ grow in tropical wet climate zones.

A large portion of Brazil, Venezuela, Columbia, and Central America has a tropical wet climate.

19. Tropical wet and dry climates have a _____. Normally, this type of climate zone has grasslands. A large portion of Brazil is tropical wet and dry.

20. Some parts of Latin America are dry.

- A. Most of Mexico has an _____
- B. The west coast of Latin America has a desert called the _____

21. The Atacama Desert is created by _____, which is caused by mountains. The Andes mountains block rain clouds and create a _____

22. Vegetation

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D. Cerrados - Tropical grasslands located in Brazil.

23. Vertical zonation is the idea that different types of plants grow at different elevations because the temperature becomes colder as you gain elevation.

24. Latin America has many _____ and _____ because part of it is located on the _____. In general, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, and the coast of Mexico have many active volcanoes. The Caribbean Sea also has many volcanoes.

25. El Nino is a variation in the ocean and atmospheric temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. When the ocean temperature increases it causes ocean currents to reverse direction and can impact the weather in Latin America in many different ways.