

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.