

CHAPTER

# 10

# Latin America Today

## GeoJournal

As you read this chapter, use your journal to note examples of how geography affects life in Latin America and how the people of this region interact with their environment.



**Chapter Overview** Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at [tx.geography.glencoe.com](http://tx.geography.glencoe.com) and click on Chapter Overviews—Chapter 10 to preview information about the region today.

◀ **CLICK HERE**

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## Guide to Reading

### Consider What You Know

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been the focus of economic and political news in recent years. What do you know about this agreement? How does NAFTA affect your community?

### Read to Find Out

- What is the basis of the economies of many Latin American countries?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for Mexico?
- What are the causes and consequences of Latin America's economically dependent status?
- How has the region's physical geography affected transportation and communications?

### Terms to Know

- export
- campesino
- *latifundia*
- *minifundia*
- cash crop
- developing country
- service industry
- maquiladora
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

### Places to Locate

- Honduras
- Tijuana

◀ *Modern Santiago, Chile, reflects the past.*

# Living in Latin America

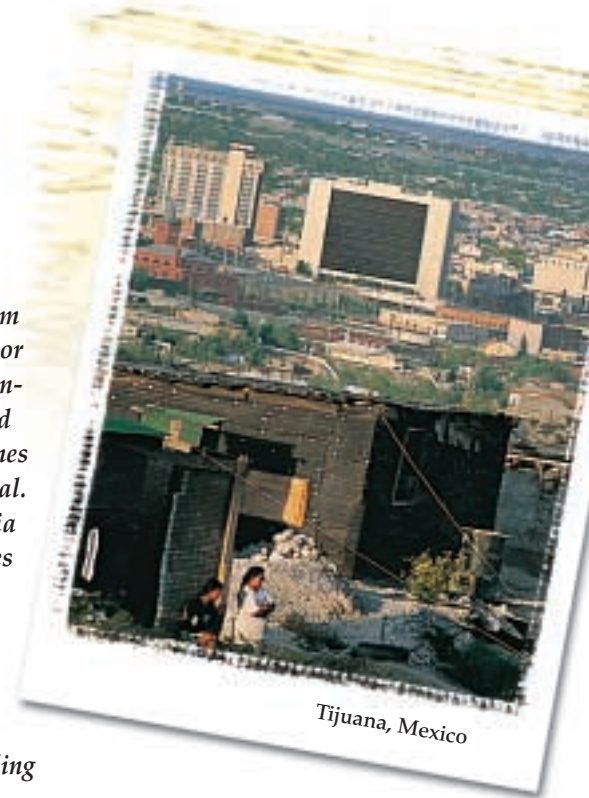
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## A Geographic View

### Unlikely Neighbors

*Tijuana's character changes from street to street. In one colonia, or neighborhood, people wash laundry in tubs. . . . Up another road you pass dozens of modest homes built of concrete block and metal. Across town in wealthy Colonia Chapultepec, magnificent homes are built like fortresses right to the edge of the sidewalk. . . . Upper-middle-class sections abut neighborhoods of shacks with chickens, stray dogs, winding dirt roads, and crumbling embankments.*

—Michael Parfit, "Tijuana and the Border," National Geographic, August 1996



Like Mexico's Tijuana, many Latin American cities reveal the sharp divisions between the wealthy and the poor. These class differences stem from social, political, and economic factors, but they are also shaped by physical geography. In this section you will learn about the ways in which Latin America's physical environment relates to the region's economic development and quality of life.

## Agriculture

Although about three-fourths of Latin America's people live in cities, most of the region's countries still depend on agriculture to supply a major portion of their incomes. Latin American countries **export**, or sell to other countries, much of what their farms produce, such as bananas, sugarcane, and coffee.

## History

### Latifundia and Minifundia

For centuries farmland in Latin America has been unevenly distributed between a small group of wealthy landowners and a much larger force of **campesinos** (KAM•puh•SEE•nohs), or rural farmers and workers. Large agricultural estates owned by wealthy families or corporations are called **latifundia**. Today's **latifundia** are highly mechanized commercial operations that yield high returns for low investment in labor. All other farms are called **minifundia**, small plots of land intensively farmed by campesinos to feed their families. Campesinos, though, rarely own these plots, which are held by either wealthy landowners or the government.

The centuries-old system of **latifundia** and **minifundia** is gradually breaking down, however. As **latifundia** become more mechanized, farmworkers are leaving the land for the cities. In addition,

reform-minded governments are passing laws to distribute farmland more fairly. Many campesinos have formed agricultural cooperatives, combining **minifundia** into large, jointly run farms. The legacy of economic inequality, however, is difficult to overcome completely, and Latin America's campesinos remain very poor.

### Cash Crops and Livestock

Latin America's physical geography makes it a suitable region for growing **cash crops**, crops produced in large quantities to be sold or traded. Fertile highlands help make Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia among the world's leading coffee producers. Lush, tropical coastal areas enable Central America, as well as Jamaica, Honduras, Ecuador, and Brazil, to be major producers of bananas. Tropical climates and fertile soil also help make Brazil and Cuba the world's leading producers of sugarcane. These export crops, all grown most efficiently on **latifundia**, usually benefit large-scale commercial producers more than individual farmers. In addition to growing cash crops, some Latin American countries—Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil—raise cattle for export on large ranches located in grassland areas.

Countries run great risks, however, when they depend on just one or two export products. If droughts, floods, or volcanic eruptions destroy a country's cash crop, the damage to that country's economy causes great hardship. In 1998 Hurricane Mitch devastated parts of Central America and destroyed about 90 percent of the banana crop, the main export, in **Honduras**. Tragically, the storm hit Honduras just as it was beginning to make some economic progress.

### Industry

Most of Latin America's countries are **developing countries**, or countries that are working toward greater manufacturing and technology use. Countries with skilled workforces, good energy supplies, efficient transportation networks, and many natural resources are industrializing more rapidly than countries without these advantages. In many Latin American countries, **service industries**, such as banking, which provide services rather than goods, have grown rapidly in recent decades.

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

World Explorer



#### Geography Skills for Life

**Mexican Countryside** Farmers harvest limes on a **latifundium** near the Mexico-U.S. border.

**Human-Environment Interaction** What is the difference between subsistence farming and cash-crop farming?

CONTENTS

## Industrial Growth

Several factors have limited industrial growth in Latin America. Physical geography may present obstacles. The high Andes and the dense Amazon rain forest, for example, limit access to natural resources. Ties to more developed regions also have limited growth. Foreigners have brought new technology to the region, but many have drained local resources and profits. Finally, political instability in many Latin American countries has made investors wary of investing in Latin American enterprises.

Some Latin American countries, however, are overcoming these barriers. They combine the necessary human and natural resources with relatively stable governments and active business communities. Mexico, for example, is a major producer of motor vehicles, textiles, and processed foods. Brazil is a leading producer of iron and steel, cars, airplanes, textiles, and electrical goods. After weathering serious financial crises in the 1990s, both countries emerged with stronger economies because of their expanding global trade.

Other countries in the region also are developing industries. Argentina produces cars and processed meats. Venezuela refines oil, and Chile, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua all produce foods and textiles. Bolivia mines and refines tin, and Barbados, Cuba, and Saint Kitts and Nevis refine sugar.

## Economics

### Maquiladoras

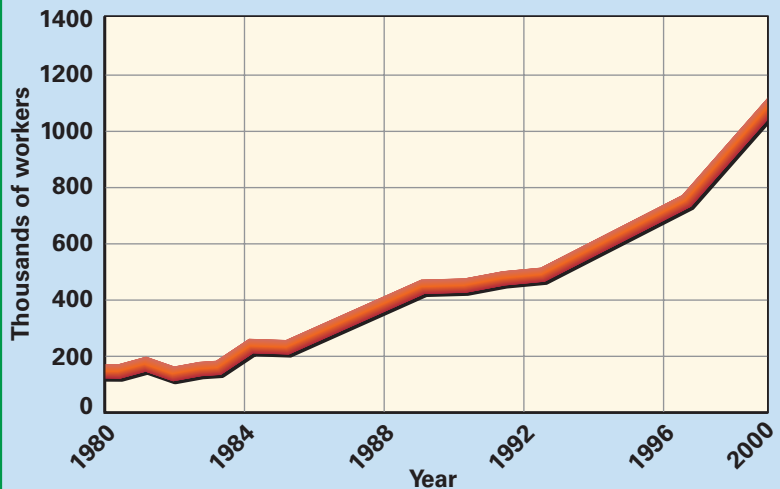
During the past 50 years, American and Japanese firms have built manufacturing plants in Latin American countries. Most of these factories, known as **maquiladoras** (muh•KEE•luh•DOHR•uhs), lie along the Mexico–United States border—

especially near the Mexican cities of Ciudad Juárez and **Tijuana**—where they employ many Mexicans. Maquiladoras benefit foreign corporations by allowing them to hire low-cost labor and to produce duty-free exports. They also offer the host country and its people employment opportunities and investment income. As one observer noted:

“... Tijuana lures foreign investors with cheap labor and proximity to U.S. markets, while beckoning workers from across Mexico with the chance for a new beginning. Here their dreams converge and sometimes collide, pulled hard by the magnet of the north.”

Michael Parfit, “Tijuana and the Border,” *National Geographic*, August 1996

### Mexico: Workers in Maquiladoras



Source: Focus Mexico

## Geography Skills for Life

- 1. Interpreting Graphs** How did the number of workers in Mexico's maquiladoras change between 1980 and 2000?
- 2. Applying Geography Skills** How might the presence of maquiladoras impact local economies in Mexico?

Critics of maquiladoras charge that the system often ignores labor and environmental protection laws, damaging the environment and encouraging low-paying or dangerous jobs. As the world's economy becomes globalized, developing countries will weigh the benefits and drawbacks of their associations with industries of the developed world.

## Trade and Interdependence

Like other countries of the world, Latin American countries depend on trade to obtain the goods and food that they cannot produce. Some Latin American countries, for example, import raw materials and expensive technology. In recent years Latin America has begun to promote trade within the region and with the rest of the world.

### Economics

#### NAFTA

In 1992 Mexico, the United States, and Canada signed the **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**. NAFTA gradually reduced trade restrictions and increased the flow of goods, services, and people among these countries. After NAFTA was implemented, trade among the three countries grew by 10 to 15 percent annually.

NAFTA, however, has been controversial in the United States. American labor groups fear the loss of jobs to generally lower-paid Mexican workers. Still, U.S. companies have not yet relocated south of the border in large numbers because certain production costs, such as electricity, are higher in Mexico. From Mexico's viewpoint, NAFTA has helped boost exports and create thousands of new jobs. Other Latin American countries are watching Mexico's economy to see if an agreement like NAFTA could work for them.

#### Foreign Debts

Many Latin American countries borrow funds from foreign sources to finance industrial development. During the 1980s a worldwide economic slowdown caused a sharp decline in demand for Latin America's products. When their incomes fell, many Latin American governments threatened to default, or not pay back their loans on time. Lenders then rescheduled the loans, which lengthened the time allowed to repay them and decreased monthly



### Geography Skills for Life

**Traditional Handicrafts** Local potters in Peru produce clay jars and jugs to sell.

**Region** What other goods are produced in Latin America?

payments. However, this remedy also raised the total amount of interest on the debt. Repaying large foreign debts has halted needed domestic programs in some countries. Now international agencies are looking for other ways to offer debt relief.

## Transportation

In Latin America building roads and railroads is difficult. Many governments cannot afford building projects that must cross rugged mountains, dense rain forests, and arid deserts. Even so, some Latin American countries do have good roads. The region's major road system, the Pan-American Highway, stretches from northern Mexico to southern



▲ An Andean highway echoes the past when Inca roads crossed the area.

Chile and links more than a dozen Latin American capitals. A trans-Andean highway runs through the Andes and links cities in Chile and Argentina. To develop the Amazon Basin's mineral resources, Brazil is building the Trans-Amazonian Highway.

Although physical barriers limit railroad use, Mexico, Panama, Argentina, and Brazil have well-developed rail systems. In some places, however, railways have fallen into disrepair. As a result, inland waterways such as the Amazon River, the Paraná-Paraguay Rivers, and the Panama Canal remain important. As air travel becomes more affordable it will help overcome geographic barriers. All Latin American capitals and most major cities receive domestic and international flights. Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo have the region's busiest airports. Many private and military landing strips serve remote locations.

## Communications

Latin America's developing communications networks include newspapers, radio, and television, but all may be censored by governments during political unrest. Millions of Latin Americans use telephones, but few have them in their homes. Some countries cannot afford the equipment needed to provide residential phone service. In larger cities though, many people, especially young people, use cellular phones.

Although computer technology is slowly changing communications in Latin America, most people cannot afford personal computers. In 1998, on average, only 34 of every 1,000 Latin Americans owned computers. Innovative ways to offer computer access, such as Peru's public Internet centers, are helping Latin Americans go online, however.

## TAKS Practice

### SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

#### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** export, campesino, *latifundia*, *minifundia*, cash crop, developing country, service industry, maquiladora, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- 2. Main Ideas** On a table, fill in examples of how five Latin American countries produce income.

Latin American Country	Chief Source of Income

#### Critical Thinking

- 3. Drawing Conclusions** Why might political instability in a country discourage investors?
- 4. Identifying Cause and Effect** What effects might defaulting on debt repayments have?
- 5. Making Comparisons** How are *latifundia* and *minifundia* systems of farming alike? Different?

#### Analyzing Maps

- 6. Place** Study the economic activity map on page 185. Which countries produce the most petroleum?

#### Applying Geography

- 7. Industrialization** In a paragraph, discuss why industrialization requires good transportation and communications systems. Describe the impact of new technologies.

## Guide to Reading

### Consider What You Know

People around the world are concerned about the destruction of Latin America's rain forests. Why is the preservation of the rain forests important, and what makes this issue so complex?

### Read to Find Out

- How has development affected Latin America's forest resources?
- How are Latin American governments working to balance forest conservation with human and economic development?
- What challenges are posed by the growth of Latin America's urban population?
- What regional and international issues continue to pose challenges for Latin American countries?

### Terms to Know

- sustainable development
- deforestation
- slash-and-burn
- reforestation
- shantytown

### Places to Locate

- São Paulo
- El Salvador

# People and Their Environment



## A Geographic View

### A Crucial Decision

*Taking life slow, a three-toed sloth hangs out on an ambaibo tree along the Río Tuichi in Madidi National Park. A planned hydroelectric dam may permanently [flood] this area—claiming one of South America's most biologically diverse rain forests even before it has been fully explored.*

—Steve Kemper, “Madidi,”  
National Geographic, March 2000



Bolivia and other Latin American countries face a difficult choice: whether to preserve large tracts of wilderness, such as Madidi National Park in northwestern Bolivia, or develop these areas for the purpose of raising peoples' standard of living. One way of resolving this dilemma is to work toward **sustainable development**—technological and economic growth that does not deplete the human and natural resources of a given area. In this section you will learn about the interrelationship of Latin Americans and their environment, and how the region is working to protect the environment while meeting human needs.

## Managing Rain Forests

As you recall, extensive rain forests cover South America's Amazon River basin and the coastal areas of the Caribbean region. Like rain forests in other regions of the world, those in Latin America are disappearing as a result of **deforestation**, the clearing or destruction of forests. Although the threats to the world's rain forests are well known, the proposed strategies for preserving them are hotly debated.

Brazil's experience serves as an example of the complexity of the deforestation issue. During the past several decades, Brazil has worked to boost its economy by tapping the rain forest's vast mineral resources, such as petroleum, iron, copper, and tin. Roads have been carved out of the rain forest to open up Brazil's interior to settlement and development. For example, a 3,400-mile (5,472-km) east-west segment of the Trans-Amazonian Highway now crosses the region. This development of Brazil's interior, however, has proved disastrous for the Amazon rain forest and its indigenous human and animal inhabitants. The indigenous people of Brazil's interior have seen their homes and traditional ways of life disappear along with trees, other forms of vegetation, and animal life.


More than 13 percent of the Amazon rain forest has already been destroyed. (See the map below.) As the Amazon rain forest is depleted, the diversity of Earth's plant and animal species is threatened. Many of the world's key medicines are derived from rain forest plants and organisms, and deforestation risks the loss of compounds that have the

potential to treat cancer and other illnesses. Because plants use carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, destroying rain forest plants could result in less carbon dioxide being used and more of it remaining in the atmosphere. Since carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that helps trap heat, catastrophic global warming, climate change, and rising ocean levels could result. Traditional wisdom has another way of expressing the value of rain forests, as one journalist notes:

“Who cuts the trees as he pleases cuts short his own life.’ The Maya adage . . . is spoken in a language that uses the same word for both ‘blood’ and ‘tree sap.’”


George E. Stuart, “Maya Heartland Under Siege,” *National Geographic*, November 1992


Brazil and other rain forest countries are listening to the advice of scientists and environmentalists, but they still face pressing social and economic




## MAP STUDY

### The Shrinking Rain Forest





Rain forest (1950)



Rain forest (2000)

### Geography

#### Skills for Life

Development in the interior since the 1950s, such as the planned city of Brasília, has resulted in the clearing of large areas of rain forest.

- 1. Interpreting Maps**  
 Describe the change to the area the rain forest covered in South America from 1950 to 2000.
- 2. Applying Geography Skills**  
 How has human activity threatened the Amazon rain forest and the indigenous people of Brazil?

Find NGS online map resources @ [www.nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps)



realities. If Brazil were to ban the use of rain forest lands, for example, how would it provide for all the people who would no longer have a way to support themselves? How would the country handle population growth in coastal areas if vast stretches of the interior were off-limits to its people?

## Economics

### Farms and Ranches Versus Forests

One of the most widespread activities in the Amazon Basin is the clearing of rain forest to provide more land for farming. To prepare the land, settlers use an ancient technique called **slash-and-burn** farming—but practiced on a larger scale. Farmers cut down all 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. Unfortunately, frequent rains leach away the benefits, and within one or two years, the soil loses its fertility or is washed away. Crop yields decline, and farmers move on to clear new parts of the forest.

Slash-and-burn methods are also used to carve huge cattle ranches out of the forest. Ranchers plant grasses in the charred ground for cattle grazing. After about four years, the grasses dry up and the ranchers, like the farmers, move on. The spent land supports little growth, and centuries-old rain forests have disappeared in just a few years.

### Planting for the Future

Farming and ranching are not the only activities that contribute to deforestation in the Amazon area. Commercial logging operations harvest trees for timber and other products. Some estimates indicate that for every tree cut, two-thirds of the wood is wasted. Since colonial times, few attempts have been made to regulate the profitable logging industry. Today, however, the importance of conserving and restoring forest resources in Brazil and other Latin American

countries has become increasingly clear. Brazil has set aside about 10 percent of its Amazon rain forest for national forests or parks in which logging is banned. In Costa Rica concerned citizens are buying abandoned, burned-over tropical forests that were once home to old-growth mahogany and other trees. The citizens then donate the land to a conservation district for restoration.

Given time, rain forests will regenerate on their own but with a considerable loss of biodiversity. Laws requiring **reforestation**—the planting of young trees or the seeds of trees on the land that has been stripped—can help, especially if the laws are rigorously enforced. Developing new methods of farming, mining, and logging and combining conservation with responsible tourism can protect the forests while boosting local economies.

## Urban Environments

Latin America also has environmental challenges in its urban areas. More of the region's people live in megacities or towns than in rural areas. In 2000 Mexico City and **São Paulo** (sown POW•loo) ranked as the world's second- and fourth-largest metropolitan areas.

### Overcrowded Cities

As Latin America's rural workers migrate to cities, they often cannot find jobs or adequate housing. Some are forced to live in slums or **shantytowns**, makeshift communities on the edges of cities. Known in different cities by different names—the *favelas* of São Paulo, the *barriadas* of Bogotá, and the *villas miserias* of Buenos Aires—these shantytowns often rest on dangerous slopes and wetlands. Mudslides, floods, and other natural disasters can wipe out entire communities. Lacking running water and underground sewage systems, these areas are also unsanitary, so diseases can spread rapidly. Because people have little or no money to buy food, malnutrition is common, especially among children.

Air pollution affects people in cities without adequate clean air laws. Millions of vehicles clog city streets and release massive amounts of exhaust gases into the air. Added to that are pollutants from industrial smokestacks. In Mexico City, air pollution can become so severe that authorities



**Student Web Activity** Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at [tx.geography.glencoe.com](http://tx.geography.glencoe.com) and click on Student Web Activities—Chapter 10 for an activity about economic development in Brazil.

periodically order cars off the roads and children are not allowed to play outside.

## Building a Better Life

Rapid urbanization creates environmental challenges for Latin American cities. Cities experience rapid urbanization when their rates of population growth far exceed the available resources for housing, sanitation, employment, education, and government services.

The trend toward urbanization is global and is not likely to be reversed. Governments and international agencies, however, are beginning to address the needs of Latin America's urban areas. For example, Mexico City's recent improvements include a new water supply system and expanded public transportation. The World Bank has targeted cities in Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, and Guatemala for intensive neighborhood improvements. Grassroots

efforts are even more promising. Groups of homeless people in cities such as Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago have successfully turned abandoned city buildings into affordable housing and commercial space.

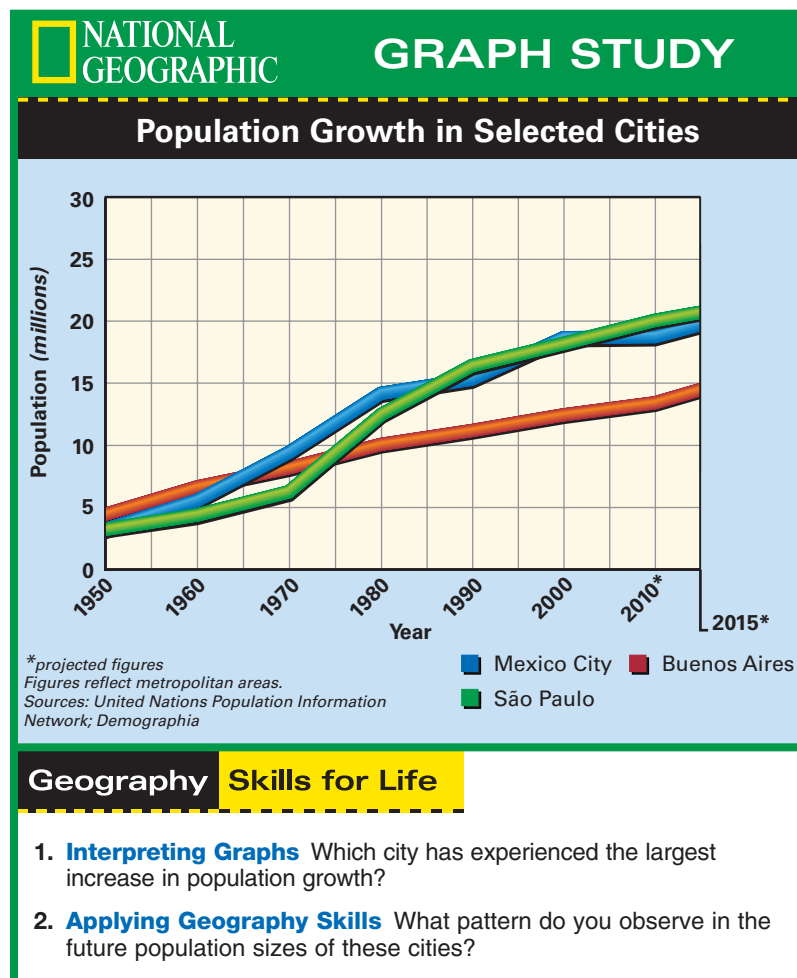
## Regional and International Issues

The quality of life in Latin America today continues to be shaped by geographic, economic, and historical realities that reach beyond national borders. Regional cooperation in addressing international issues will help move the region forward.

### History

#### Disputed Borders

During the past 150 years, Latin America has faced a number of territorial conflicts. These



▲ Buenos Aires, Argentina

conflicts occur over disputed regions involving strategic locations or rights to valuable natural resources. Nicaragua, Honduras, and **El Salvador**, for example, have quarreled over fishing rights in the Gulf of Fonseca. Venezuela and Guyana battle over petroleum holdings along their shared border. Border wars divert resources that might better be used for development, but economic incentives can encourage countries to resolve their differences. After going to war three times, Peru and Ecuador finally settled a 60-year-old border dispute in 1998. During the negotiations international investors offered more than \$3 billion in aid to develop economies and human services on both sides of the border.

### Population Growth and Migration

Through education and economic improvement, most Latin American countries have begun to lower the high birthrates that have led to overpopulation. In the 2000s Latin America's population challenges will likely involve balancing the

distribution of goods and services. Migration within the region—for economic or political reasons, or to escape the devastation of natural disasters—will continue to strain the resources of overcrowded cities.

In addition, growing numbers of Latin Americans have migrated abroad, especially to the United States. Many of these migrants have come to the United States to find a better way of life, some entering without visas. Others are well-educated people or skilled workers who could make important contributions to their home countries. For example, if scientists or researchers leave Latin America, its countries may ultimately lack the human resources necessary to solve environmental problems. To stem this out-migration, Latin American leaders are seeking to create jobs for their people by attracting more foreign investment.

Latin American migrants, meanwhile, have brought many changes to the United States. Immigration from Latin America has made the United States the country with the fifth largest Spanish-

N NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC W World Explorer



**Geography**

**Skills for Life**

**Mexico's Smoking Mountain**

The volcano Popocatepetl smokes while children play in central Mexico.

**Human-Environment Interaction** How are Latin American governments using technology to better plan for natural disasters?



speaking population in the world. Latin Americans have contributed much to the many communities in which they have settled—Mexicans in Texas, California, and Illinois; Cubans in Florida; and Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in New York.

## Disaster Preparedness

Latin America’s physical geography makes the region especially vulnerable to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and hurricanes, which take a huge toll in human life and economic resources. In order to increase the region’s emergency preparedness, Latin American governments are cooperating in the use of sophisticated technology, such as satellite imaging and computer modeling, to forecast the direction and severity of hurricanes, for example. Such cooperative efforts can help Latin Americans anticipate emergencies rather than reacting after the fact. The savings in lives and economic resources are sure to be significant.

## Industrial Pollution

Air and water pollution do not respect national boundaries. Multinational firms and free-trade agreements have increased industrial growth in some countries. Environmental laws, however, have not reduced the risks of increased pollution from new factories. Similarly, runoff from chemical fertilizers and pesticides used on commercial farms may cross borders to damage health or



### Geography

### Skills for Life

**Water Pollution** Bauxite mining runoff covers a cove in Jamaica.

**Human-Environment Interaction** How can Latin America overcome the challenges of industrial pollution?

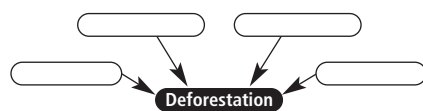
endanger lives. Governments and international agencies are cooperating to help Latin America address these challenges.

## TAKS Practice

# SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- Define** sustainable development, deforestation, slash-and-burn, reforestation, shantytown.
- Main Ideas** Use a diagram similar to the one below to identify activities that have contributed to deforestation in Latin America.



### Critical Thinking

- Predicting Consequences** How might the destruction of the Amazon rain forest affect your life?
- Making Comparisons** Compare the ways urban populations in Latin America and those in your state have modified their physical environments.
- Drawing Conclusions** What circumstances might make environmental protection a low priority for some Latin American governments?

### Analyzing Maps

- Human-Environment Interaction** Study the maps of the Amazon rain forest on page 243. What kinds of activities are responsible for these changes?

### Applying Geography

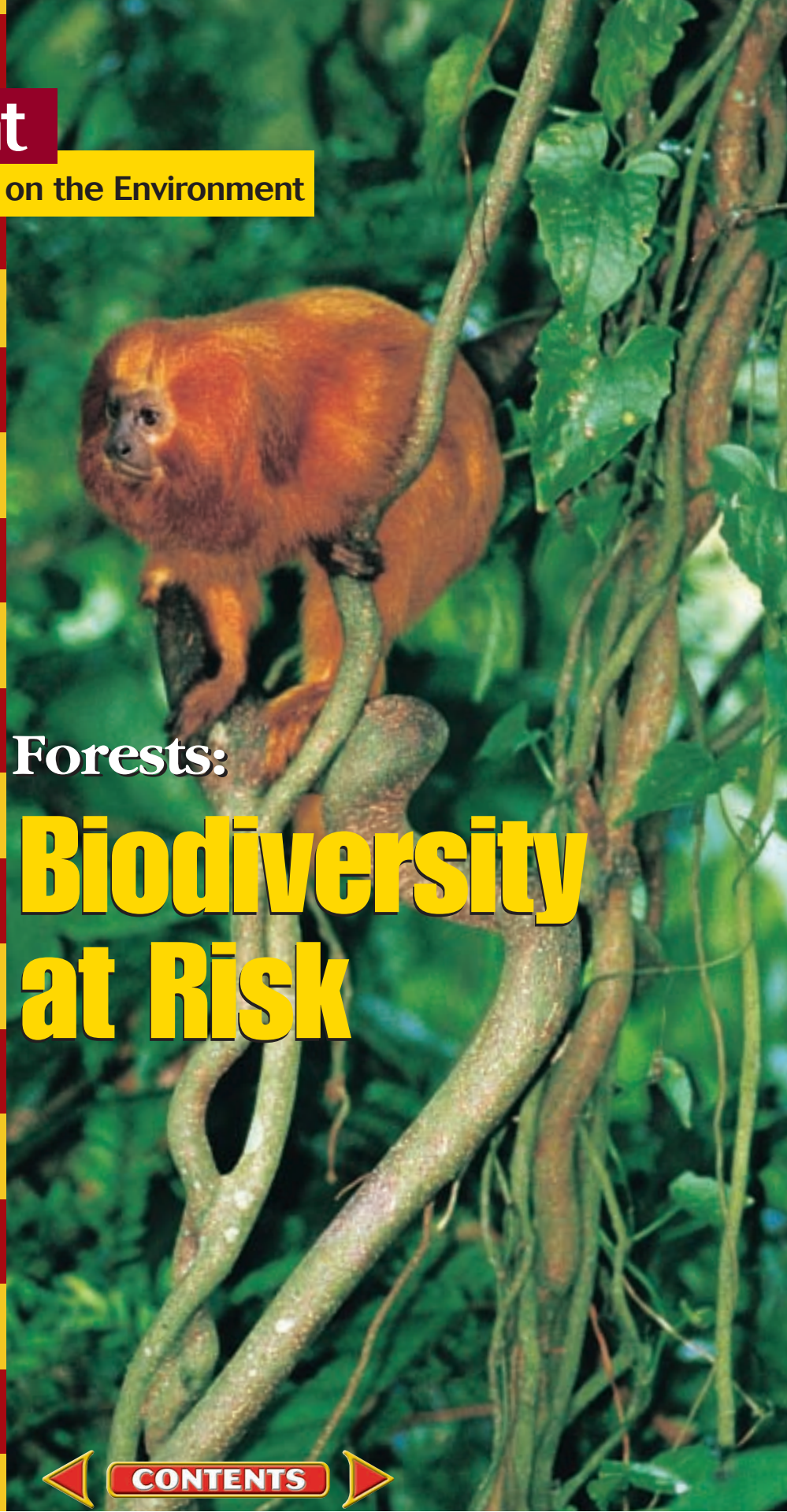
- Mental Mapping** Without consulting a map, identify the Latin American countries most at risk from hurricanes. Write a description of ways that a hurricane is a threat to these countries.



## Brazil's Rain Forests:

Nowhere is “biodiversity”—the term biologists coined to describe our planet’s bountiful variety of living things—more apparent than in a tropical rain forest. Rain forests harbor at least half of all species on Earth. However, deforestation severely threatens these biologically rich ecosystems. Worldwide, roughly 150 acres (61 ha) of rain forest are destroyed every minute. As the forests disappear, habitats are lost and Earth’s biodiversity dwindles. The world’s largest remaining expanses of tropical rain forest are in Brazil. But the fate of these forests, and their astounding array of plants and animals, is uncertain.

# Biodiversity at Risk



**S**mall enough to fit in the palm of your hand, a golden lion tamarin (left) is a blaze of orange against vivid rain-forest green. A tiny primate, the golden lion is one of four tamarin species that live in Brazil's Amazon and less-well-known Atlantic rain forests. All tamarins are endangered, but a successful captive-breeding program recently brought the golden lion tamarin back from the brink of extinction. The future of thousands of other plant and animal species also is in jeopardy as pressures on Brazil's rain forests intensify.

These forests boast the richest variety of plant life on the planet. A few acres might contain 450 different species of trees. Thousands of other types of plants—orchids, bromeliads, ferns, and vines—grow on, among, or beneath the trees.

Brazil's rain forests reverberate with the hum of countless insect species. A single tree might harbor 650 kinds of beetles. Sharing the forest with

Brazilian farmers (below) clear a field in the Amazon rain forest. Fire (right) destroys large areas of forest. ▼

these insect multitudes are snakes, such as anacondas and jararacas, and other animals, such as poison dart frogs, fruit bats, jaguars, and spider monkeys. But this biodiversity is rapidly disappearing.

Large areas of Brazil's rain forests are burned or cut down by farmers and ranchers to make way for cropland and cattle pastures. Loggers cut the fine hardwoods and export them for a profit. Growing cities, new roads, and industries encroach on the forests. Each year hundreds, perhaps thousands, of species are lost as their habitats are destroyed.

**Rain forest preservationists** want future generations to enjoy Earth's biodiversity. They point out that rain forest plants provide us with many things: foods, such as bananas and Brazil nuts; medicines, such as quinine and muscle relaxants; and substances, such as dyes and waxes. Scientists have identified only a fraction of rain forest species. Could a cure for cancer or AIDS lurk in a plant that has not yet been studied?



◀ The flowering four-o'clock contains substances used to treat rheumatism.

**Rain forest developers** argue that people living in or near Brazil's rain forests need to feed their families. For many, farming or raising cattle in clear-cut areas is the only way they can survive. Harvesting rain forest timber allows workers to lift their standard of living above the poverty line. With a growing population of more than 160 million, Brazil needs room for urban growth and industrial development. Some argue that Brazil's rain forests belong to Brazilians. Shouldn't they manage their forests as they see fit?

### What's Your Point of View?

Only about 8 percent of Brazil's Atlantic rain forest remains. Do you think this remnant is worth saving? Why or why not?





**TAKS  
Practice**

## Learning the Skill

Outlining can be used as a method of note taking and organizing information. There are two types of outlines—informal and formal. An informal outline is similar to taking notes—you write words and phrases needed to remember main ideas. A formal outline has a standard format.

To make a formal outline, begin by thinking about big ideas and dividing them into units of information. Give each of these major ideas a *heading*—a word or phrase that will identify the concept. Each major idea will be followed by two or more *subtopics*, or parts of main ideas. Include *supporting details* within each subtopic.

To create a formal outline, follow these steps:

- **Identify the general topic of the outline, and write the topic as a question.** Refer to the topic question as you work to be sure you are recording the most important ideas.
- **Write the main ideas that answer this question.** Label these with Roman numerals.
- **Write subtopics under each main idea.** Label these with capital letters.
- **Write supporting details for each subtopic.** Label these

# Creating an Outline

**O**utlining may be used as a starting point for a reader who wants to understand and organize information. The reader begins with the rough shape of the material and gradually fills in the details in a logical manner.

Topic as a question: \_\_\_\_\_?

I. Managing Rain Forests

- A. Rain Forests
1. Location
  2. Brazil's experience
    - a. Trans-Amazonian Highway
    - b. Indigenous peoples
  3. World concerns
  4. Local challenges
- B. Farms and Ranches Versus Forests
1. Slash-and-burn farming
  2. Future land value
- C. Planting for the Future
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Overcrowded Cities
1. Shantytowns
  2. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Building a Better Life

1. Rapid urbanization
2. \_\_\_\_\_

III. Regional and International Issues

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Population Growth and Migration
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_

with Arabic numerals and lowercase letters.

## Practicing the Skill

Study the incomplete outline of Chapter 10, Section 2, above. The main ideas generally correspond to the section headings in the chapter. Copy this outline on a sheet of paper, and fill in the missing information for Section 2 of Chapter 10.

When you have completed your outline, answer the following questions:

1. What are the most important topics in Chapter 10, Section 2?
2. What are the four main subtopics under the heading "Regional and International Issues"?

3. What are two situations in which an outline such as this might be useful?

4. In addition to being useful to readers, how would an outline help writers?

## Applying the Skill

Create an outline for Chapter 10, Section 1. Use the section headings for your main ideas. Remember to include at least two subtopics for each main heading. When you have finished, use your outline to identify the main ideas of the section.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.



## SECTION 1 Living in Latin America (pp. 237–241)

### Terms to Know

- export
- campesino
- *latifundia*
- *minifundia*
- cash crop
- developing country
- service industry
- maquiladora
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

### Key Points

- Latin America's economy is based on the export of agricultural products.
- A small group of wealthy families or businesses owns a large percentage of the agricultural land in Latin America.
- The economy of many Latin American countries is linked to one or two cash crops.
- The maquiladora system, trade agreements, and international borrowing are attempts to speed the industrialization of many Latin American countries.
- Geographic and economic realities have presented obstacles to developing transportation and communications in the region.

### Organizing Your Notes

Use a graphic organizer like the one below to summarize your notes for this section.

Living in Latin America	
Agriculture	
Industry	
Trade and Interdependence	
Transportation and Communications	

## SECTION 2 People and Their Environment (pp. 242–247)

### Terms to Know

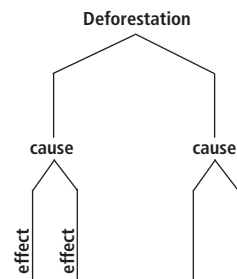
- sustainable development
- deforestation
- slash-and-burn
- reforestation
- shantytown

### Key Points

- A key challenge for the Latin American region is sustainable development.
- Damage to the Amazon rain forest has both local and global consequences.
- Slash-and-burn cultivation contributes to Latin America's environmental challenges.
- Latin America's urban environmental problems are a result of rapid urbanization.

### Organizing Your Notes

Create graphic organizers like the one below for each of the following topics: deforestation, population growth, and international issues.



◀ Signing of NAFTA, 1992

- Solutions to the region's environmental concerns will come through cooperation among local, national, regional, and international governments and organizations.



## Reviewing Key Terms

Examine the sets of terms below. Then write a sentence explaining how each set is related.

- export — cash crop
- latifundia* — *minifundia*
- developing country — sustainable development
- maquiladora — service industries — North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- deforestation — slash-and-burn — reforestation
- shantytown — rapid urbanization

## Reviewing Facts

### SECTION 1

- What three cash crops supply much of Latin America's income?
- How can dependence on a single crop affect a country's economy?
- How do unstable governments prevent industrial development?
- What obstacles have slowed the development of Latin America's transportation and communications systems?

### SECTION 2

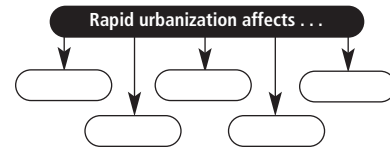
- What are the environmental effects of slash-and-burn cultivation?
- Why do some people believe that preservation of the Amazon rain forest is a global concern?
- How are Latin American countries addressing the problems resulting from rapid urbanization?
- Why do border disputes slow the economic development of the Latin American region?

## Critical Thinking

- 1. Making Generalizations** Has the maquiladora system had a positive or a negative effect on Mexico's people? Explain.

- 2. Predicting Consequences** How might the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) change migration patterns in Latin America? What are the implications?

- 3. Identifying Cause and Effect** Complete a diagram by giving examples of how rapid urbanization in Latin America affects housing, employment, education, sanitation, and government services.



## Locating Places

### Latin America: Political Geography

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

- |              |               |                    |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Panama    | 5. Santiago   | 9. Mexico          |
| 2. Belém     | 6. Bogotá     | 10. Rio de Janeiro |
| 3. Brazil    | 7. Costa Rica | 11. Mexico City    |
| 4. São Paulo | 8. Lima       |                    |



**Self-Check Quiz** Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at [tx.geography.glencoe.com](http://tx.geography.glencoe.com) and click on Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 10 to prepare for the Chapter Test.

**CLICK HERE**

## Using the Regional Atlas

Refer to the Regional Atlas on pages 182–185.

- 1. Region** What do the economic activity and population density maps suggest about where commercial farming occurs in Latin America?
- 2. Location** Compare the economic activity and population density maps. What industry probably attracts settlers around Córdoba, Argentina?

## Thinking Like a Geographer

Why do you think Latin American countries often depend on a single cash crop? As a geographer, what suggestions would you make to help governments make their agricultural output more varied?

## GeoJournal

**Descriptive Writing** Review the data in your GeoJournal. Then write a paragraph comparing the ways Latin Americans in rural, urban, coastal, and highlands areas depend on or adapt to their environment. Focus on specific human activities.

## Problem-Solving Activity

**Problem-Solution Proposal** In Latin America thousands of children spend most of their lives roaming the streets. Pick one Latin American city with street children, and learn more about them: how they survive, where they come from, how they spend their time, and where their families are. Then write a proposal in which you present your solution to the problem.



## Technology Activity

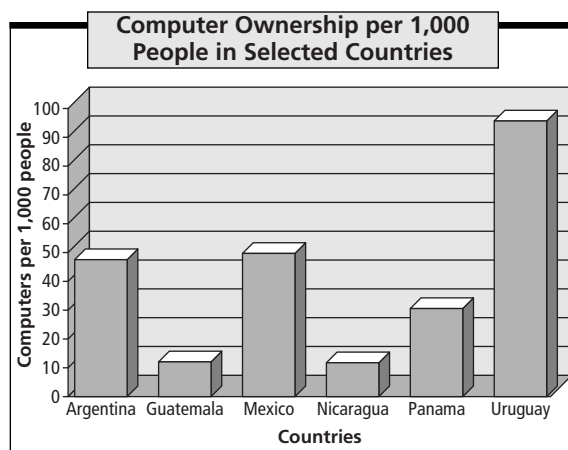
### Using the Internet for Research

Search the Internet for photographs showing the destruction of a rain forest in Latin America. Narrow your search by using words such as *Amazon rain forest* or *Brazil*. Print the photographs, write captions to explain what is happening, and display your work on the classroom bulletin board. If possible, include charts, graphs, and maps.



## TX TAKS Test Practice

Choose the best answer for the following multiple-choice question. If you have trouble answering the question, use the process of elimination to narrow your choices.



- On average, 34 of every 1,000 Latin Americans owned computers in 1998. Which countries had higher rates of computer ownership than the regional average?
  - Nicaragua and Panama
  - Argentina, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay
  - Argentina, Mexico, and Uruguay
  - Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama



**Test-Taking Tip** Reread the title and x- and y-axis labels of the graph to determine the information the graph shows. Notice that Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama all fall short of the regional average. Tackle each answer choice one by one, eliminating those that contain even one country that has a lower rate than the regional average.