

# Routes, Resources, Homes

How geography shapes trade and settlement in three Latin American countries.

**SS6G3.a** "Explain how the location, climate, and distribution of natural resources impact trade and affect where people live in Mexico, Brazil, and Cuba."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each detail about location, climate, or natural resources. Circle the nearby words that show how that detail affects trade or where people live.

### Geography Makes Connections

- ① Mexico's location next to the United States gives it an important trade connection. Factories in northern border cities make cars, electronics, and other goods that can move quickly by road or rail to U.S. buyers. This has helped northern cities grow as workers seek jobs. Mexico also has oil and silver, but these resources are not spread evenly. Oil fields near the Gulf Coast support exports and related jobs, while dry northern areas have less water for farming and fewer large settlements.
- ② Brazil's long Atlantic coast provides ports that connect its products to markets across the ocean. In the southeast, large cities such as São Paulo grew near ports, factories, fertile land, and mineral areas. Brazil exports coffee, soybeans, iron ore, and other goods. The Amazon region has heavy rainfall, dense forest, and many rivers. These conditions provide timber and water resources, but travel and building can be difficult. As a result, the region has fewer large cities than Brazil's southeastern coast.
- ③ Cuba is an island in the Caribbean, so sea routes and ports are central to its trade. Its warm tropical climate and rainy season support sugarcane, tobacco, and citrus crops. Much of the population lives in cities and farming areas near the coast, where ports make it easier to ship goods and receive supplies. Cuba also has nickel deposits, especially in the east, which are used in industry and exported. Hurricanes can damage crops, roads, and ports, interrupting trade and making coastal communities vulnerable.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How does Mexico’s location next to the United States affect trade and the growth of northern cities?

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**2** How do Mexico’s unevenly distributed oil and water resources affect jobs and settlement?

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**3** Why does Brazil’s southeastern coast have more large cities than the Amazon region?

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**4** Explain why many Cubans live near the coast. Include one trade reason and one climate or resource detail.

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Complete the chart for Mexico, Brazil, and Cuba. For each country, choose one location, climate, or natural-resource fact from the passage and explain how it affects both trade and where people live.

| COUNTRY | FACT FROM THE PASSAGE | EFFECT ON TRADE AND WHERE PEOPLE LIVE |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
|         |                       |                                       |
|         |                       |                                       |
|         |                       |                                       |

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each detail about location, climate, or natural resources. Circle the nearby words that show how that detail affects trade or where people live. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                  | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How does Mexico's location next to the United States affect trade and the growth of northern cities?      | <b>Roads and rail can move factory goods quickly to U.S. buyers. Factory jobs have drawn workers to northern cities, helping those cities grow.</b>                       |
| 2 | How do Mexico's unevenly distributed oil and water resources affect jobs and settlement?                  | <b>Oil fields near the Gulf Coast support exports and related jobs. Dry northern areas have less water for farming and fewer large settlements.</b>                       |
| 3 | Why does Brazil's southeastern coast have more large cities than the Amazon region?                       | <b>The southeast has ports, factories, fertile land, and mineral areas. The Amazon's heavy rainfall, dense forest, and rivers can make travel and building difficult.</b> |
| 4 | Explain why many Cubans live near the coast. Include one trade reason and one climate or resource detail. | <b>Coastal ports make it easier to ship goods and receive supplies. Cuba's warm, rainy climate supports crops, and many people live in coastal farming areas.</b>         |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

| COUNTRY | FACT FROM THE PASSAGE    | EFFECT ON TRADE AND WHERE PEOPLE LIVE                                                               |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mexico  | Northern border location | Roads and rail send factory goods to U.S. buyers, and factory jobs draw workers to northern cities. |
| Brazil  | Atlantic coast and ports | Ports help ship exports overseas, and large cities have grown near the coast.                       |
| Cuba    | Coastal ports            | Ports help ship goods and receive supplies, and many people live near the coast.                    |

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that use passage evidence. In the chart, students may choose different accurate factors for each country, as long as each row connects a factor to both trade and settlement.