

Why People Settle

Trace how geography shapes life across Latin America.

SS6G3 “Explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Latin America.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show location, climate, natural resources, or population distribution. Write L, C, R, or P beside each detail to show which factor it describes.

Geography and Daily Life

- ① Latin America stretches from northern Mexico to the southern tip of South America, with the Caribbean islands nearby. Its location between oceans gives many countries ports for trade. The Andes Mountains run along western South America, while the Amazon Basin covers a wide interior area. Mountains, rain forests, and long distances can make travel difficult. As a result, some communities are more connected to coastal cities than to places across rugged land. This physical setting affects where people work and live.
- ② Climate also shapes daily life and economic choices. Near the Equator, much of the year is warm, and tropical rain forests receive heavy rainfall. Farther south or higher in the Andes, temperatures can be cooler. Rainfall and temperature affect which crops farmers can grow. Brazil has fertile land, plentiful water, forests, and mineral resources, while Chile has major copper deposits. These resources can support farming, mining, and jobs, but people must manage them carefully to protect land and water.
- ③ Population is not spread evenly across Latin America. Many large cities grew on coasts, highland valleys, or transportation routes where trade, jobs, and services developed. Mexico City lies in a highland basin and has a huge population, even though it is far from the coast. In contrast, the Amazon Basin has fewer people because dense forest, flooding, and limited roads make settlement and travel harder. Location, climate, resources, and access all help explain these patterns across the region today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How does Latin America's location between oceans affect many countries?

2 How can climate affect the crops that farmers grow? Use details from the passage.

3 How can the natural resources of Brazil and Chile support different kinds of work?

4 Why does the Amazon Basin have fewer people than many large cities in Latin America?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Invent a Latin American community. In three sentences, describe its location and climate, name one natural resource, and explain where people are likely to live or work because of these factors.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show location, climate, natural resources, or population distribution. Write L, C, R, or P beside each detail to show which factor it describes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Latin America's location between oceans affect many countries?	It gives many countries ports that support trade.
2	How can climate affect the crops that farmers grow? Use details from the passage.	Rainfall and temperature affect which crops can grow. Areas near the Equator are warm and rainy, while higher places in the Andes can be cooler.
3	How can the natural resources of Brazil and Chile support different kinds of work?	Brazil's fertile land and water can support farming, while Chile's copper deposits can support mining. Forests and other minerals can also provide jobs.
4	Why does the Amazon Basin have fewer people than many large cities in Latin America?	Dense forest, flooding, and limited roads make settlement and travel harder in the Amazon Basin.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Puerto Verde sits on a Caribbean coast where the climate is warm and rainy. Nearby fertile soil lets farmers grow bananas, and its harbor supports fishing and trade. Most people live near the port and farms because jobs and transportation are easier there.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect each geographic factor to trade, farming, work, travel, or settlement. For the open response, accept any plausible invented community that includes all required factors and a clear cause-and-effect explanation.