

Nature or People?

Sort Latin America and Caribbean geography into natural and human categories.

WG.4 "The student will analyze the characteristics of the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean by identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

NATURAL GEOGRAPHY

Natural geography includes landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural events that occur without people building them.

Lake Titicaca is a natural water feature.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Human geography includes cities, languages, buildings, jobs, trade, and other features created or shaped by people.

Mexico City is a large city shaped by people.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle NATURAL or HUMAN for each item; for Part 2, choose two numbered items and explain the clue that helped you sort each one.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Andes Mountains | ☐ NATURAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 2. The Atacama Desert | ☐ NATURAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 3. The Panama Canal | ☐ NATURAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 4. The Amazon River | ☐ NATURAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 5. Spanish spoken in Peru | ☐ NATURAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 6. The Port of Santos shipping exports | ☐ NATURAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 7. Coral reefs off Belize | ☐ NATURAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 8. A volcanic eruption on Montserrat | ☐ NATURAL | ☐ HUMAN |

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3, write one new Latin America or Caribbean example of NATURAL geography and one new example of HUMAN geography.

NATURAL _____

HUMAN _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one NATURAL item. In two sentences, explain one way people use it and one way human activity can change the surrounding area over time.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The Andes Mountains	NATURAL	A mountain range is a natural landform.
2	The Atacama Desert	NATURAL	A desert is a natural physical region.
3	The Panama Canal	HUMAN	People built the canal to connect trade routes.
4	The Amazon River	NATURAL	A river is a natural water feature.
5	Spanish spoken in Peru	HUMAN	Language is a cultural influence of people.
6	The Port of Santos shipping exports	HUMAN	A port and shipping activity are human economic features.
7	Coral reefs off Belize	NATURAL	Coral reefs are natural environmental features.
8	A volcanic eruption on Montserrat	NATURAL	A volcanic eruption is a natural event that can change land.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **NATURAL:** The Guiana Highlands are a natural land region.
- **HUMAN:** Coffee farms in Guatemala are part of human geography.

Challenge: People use the Amazon River to travel and move goods. Deforestation can reduce forest cover near the river over time.

Accept accurate examples from Latin America or the Caribbean that clearly fit each category. In Part 2, students should cite whether an item is natural or is created, used, or shaped by people.