

Chapter 9 Study Guide

Middle America

Latin America: Latin people speak languages descended from the ancient Latin: _____, _____, _____ or _____, also known as the Romance languages. Latin America has _____ subregions: _____ America and _____ America. Middle America is known as a _____ between North and South America.

I. Mexico

A. Mexico was once the crown jewel of the _____. It is shaped like a _____. Two mountain ranges run the length of Mexico along each coast. The _____ on the east and the _____ on the west. The Mexican government is a _____ republic with _____ states and _____ central government.

B. Northern Mexico: Has similar geography to the _____.

1. Desert, Mines, and Ranches of the Northern Plateau

The Sierra Madre extends from the Rockies into northern Mexico. The Northern Plateau lies in the upper area.

*all of northern Mexico is desert and semiarid grassland

- _____ Desert covers a large part of the Northern _____
- _____ permits some farming
- _____ is the most populous northern city
- Silver _____ makes Mexico a leader in _____ production. Zinc lead and iron is also mined in the Northern Plateau
- _____ (which Americans pattern their clothing, gear and skills after) is common outside of cities

2. Oil and Tourism on the Gulf

- Natural gas and petroleum reserves have been found in Mexico: the largest is offshore under the _____.
- _____ is the biggest port and the place where the first Spanish settled in Mexico by _____ in _____.
- _____ (named for the snakes that once lived there) and _____ are major tourist areas contributing \$10 billion a year to the Mexican economy.

3. Gulf of California

- Separates the mainland of Mexico and Baja California (_____ Desert is prominent on the peninsula)
- _____, a border city with San Diego, is the major tourist portal

C. Mesa Central

The Mexican Plateau dominates the landscape.

1. Conquest of the Aztec Capital

- Ancient civilizations have been dated back to _____.

- a. The Toltecs built _____ the first city in Middle America in 500 AD. They built greater pyramids with a large base than the Egyptians known as the Temple of the _____
 - b. Aztecs were master builders. They built temples to _____ (a rain god). They built their capital, Tenochtitlan, on an island in _____ (where they offered human sacrifices to their sun god).
 - In 1519 Spanish _____ Hernando _____ with the aid of neighboring tribes conquered the Aztec.
 - a. Cortes called it “_____”; it was ruled by _____ who ruled on the behalf of the Spanish monarchs
 - b. Spanish priests built missions and taught the people Roman Catholic beliefs
 - c. The natives (_____) were subjugated and _____ to work for the Spanish noblemen who build haciendas and mined for gold and copper.
2. The Seat of Government is located in Mexico City. _____ is the country’s main public square
- Mexico has a history of revolts.
 - Mexico has a _____ Government with an appointed President from the majority party, who has one _____ term. Each of the 30 states have their own governor and legislature

D. The Southern Tropics

- Poverty of the Southern Highlands
- Mayas in the Yucatan: inhabited by Mayan descendants, who detest _____ rule. They have declared the Yucatan as independent. They produce _____ (a rope used by sailors)

- E. U.S. Mexican Relations Today: share _____ mile long border and there are benefits to the partnership
- U.S. invaded during the Mexican revolution of 1910-20
 - Americans resent the illegal _____ that come to the US in droves every year

II. Central America (an **isthmus** connecting Mexico to South America)

The early European settlers introduced a new kind of farming called _____.

*Land of the Maya: Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras were settled by the Mayans, they are the most famous because they left written _____.

- A. Guatemala: was the center of the Mayan civilization and _____ was the last city to fall to Spain’s forces. _____ the people are descendants of the Mayan people and the rest are _____ (ladinos)
- Produces: _____ beans, sugar cane and cotton
 - Highest mountain peak in central America is _____.
 - Receptive to the gospel after earthquake of _____
 - Most populous of Central American countries

- B. Belize: Was settled by shipwrecked _____ sailors
- Formerly known as British _____
 - Gained independence in 1981, but is a _____ nation
 - 49% Mestizos, 25% Creoles, 10% Mayans and the rest African ancestry
 - People of mixed African and European ancestry are called _____
 - Produce: Bananas, cacao, _____, sugar, fish and manufactures garments
 - Tourism is also an important industry
- C. El Salvador: Most famous for its _____ (Izalco, lighthouse of the Pacific)
- Most densely populated of all the Central American countries
 - Only touches the _____ Ocean
 - _____ is the Capital
 - _____ is the major crop
 - _____ family – descendants of Spanish Landlords, own most of the plantations and control the government
 - _____ (councils of military and civilian leaders) have seized power. They have endured civil war from the 1970's to 1992 where _____ people died.
- D. Honduras: capital is _____
- 90% of the population is _____
 - Most people are peasants or _____
 - Major crop is bananas (known as the banana republic)
 - _____ has been very involved the affairs of Honduras
 - Honduras struggled with internal coups and neighbors (_____ and _____)
- E. Nicaragua: Has the largest _____ lake in Central America and fresh water _____
- The largest country in Central America
 - The Communist-backed Sandinistas controlled the country
 - American-backed _____ resisted the communist move of the Sandinistas
 - Produces: sugar, bananas and coffee
- F. Costa Rica: “ _____ ” its capital is _____
- Highest per capita _____ in Central America
 - Large number of private landowners who set up small independent farms
 - 95% of direct descendants of early Spanish _____
 - First Central American country to grow coffee and first to export _____
 - Oldest continuous _____ in Latin America
 - Best education, sanitation, health care, and public services
- G. Panama: “ _____ of the World”
- Most developed of all Central American countries
 - 2nd highest GDP due to income from the _____
 - From 1907 - _____, the U.S. built the canal and received control of the zone in perpetuity
 - 1979 , A treaty was signed between Panama and the U.S. whereby _____ would get control of the zone in _____

III. The West Indies: discovered by Columbus in 1492

A. The Bahamas: discovered by Columbus, but not settled by Spanish due to the lack of

- Cluster of _____ islands
- Fishing and _____ are the major industries
- _____ standard of living in the entire Middle America

B. The Greater Antilles: Crests of an underwater _____ chain, consists of 4 large islands.

1. Cuba: largest & most populous country with the most fertile soil, with _____ as capital

- _____ became the dictator of a communist government in 1959
- _____ has suffered economic lost and developmental improvements

2. Hispaniola: Haiti and the Dominican Republic: _____ colonized the island first, but gave _____ the western portion in 1697

a. Haiti: The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere

- Gained independence in _____
- Misuse of land has led to food production problems
- _____ is the national religion (mix of African spirit worship, black magic and _____)
- Produce crops like coffee, rice, sugar, mangos and corn
- Language spoken is French or _____ (mixture of French and African words)

b. Dominican Republic shares the island mountains with Haiti; its capital is _____ (named for Columbus brother who discovered the island)

- Agriculture represents 6% of the country's GDP
- Industry represents 32% of the country's GDP (sugar processing, nickel and _____ mining)
- In the _____ the U.S. government helped the Dominican Republic set up a _____ republic.

3. Jamaica: Was a _____ colony for 150 years, British captured it in _____.

4. U.S Commonwealth of Puerto Rico: became controlled by the U.S. after the _____ - _____ War

- Became a commonwealth nation in _____
- People are descendants of Spanish, mestizos (_____ and Spanish mixture)
- They have their own _____, elect their own governor, but do have the right to vote in _____
- Many want to become the _____ state of the U. S.

C. The Lesser Antilles: are a chain of smaller islands, Spain lost interest in these islands when they found there was of lack of _____ or _____. These islands were then colonized by the British, the French or the Dutch.

1. The Leeward Islands: Refers to an island that is _____

- Virgin Islands
- Anguilla and Montserrat

- Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten
- Guadeloupe
- St. Kitts, Nevis, Barbuda

2. The Windward Islands: These islands face the winds that blow off _____; these islands suffer greatly from hurricanes

- Martinique
- St. Lucia
- St Vincent and Grenadines
- Grenada
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Barbados