

THESE ARE THE SEVEN CONTINENTS.

This is Latin America.

Latin America is NOT a continent.

Latin America is NOT a country.

Latin America IS a cultural Region.



Latin America: Physical



Latin America stretches for 5,500 miles from the Rio Grande River in Mexico to Cape Horn at the southern end of South America.

Latin America lies between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Both oceans are important trade routes for Latin America. The Caribbean Sea is another important body of water in Latin America.



Subregions

There are two sub-regions of Latin America.

“MIDDLE AMERICA”

- Mexico**
- Central America countries**
- Island nations in the Caribbean**



SOUTH AMERICA

- 12 countries**
- 2 foreign ruled territories**



Most of the Latin America is made up of mountains or highlands.

HIGHLANDS - A mountainous or hilly section of a country

MOUNTAINS – land that is at least 2000 ft high

La Cordillera



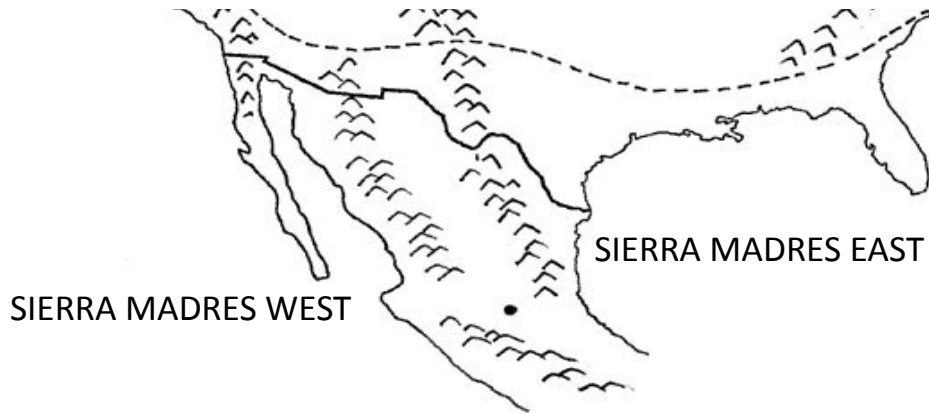
La Cordillera is the main mountain chain extending from the Rocky Mountains in Canada and the United States, through the Sierra Madres in Mexico and Central America, and along the western coast of South America. In South America, these mountains are known as the Andes.



SIERRA MADRES



In Mexico the Sierra Madres mountains split into the Sierra Madre West and Sierra Madre East.

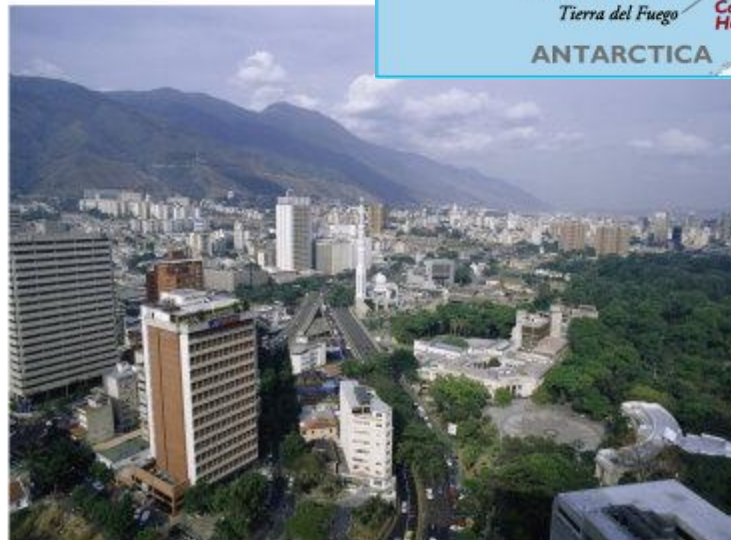
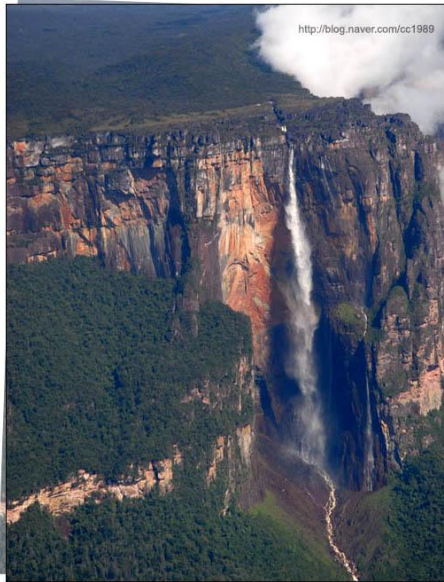


The Andes are the longest mountain range in the world and, the 2nd highest mountains in the world.



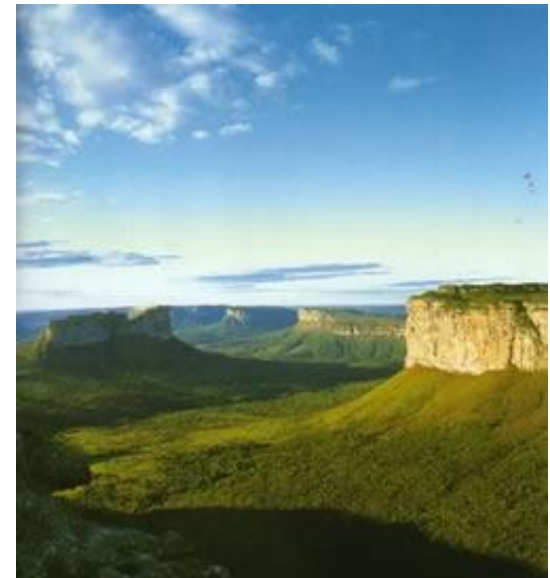


GUIANA HIGHLANDS

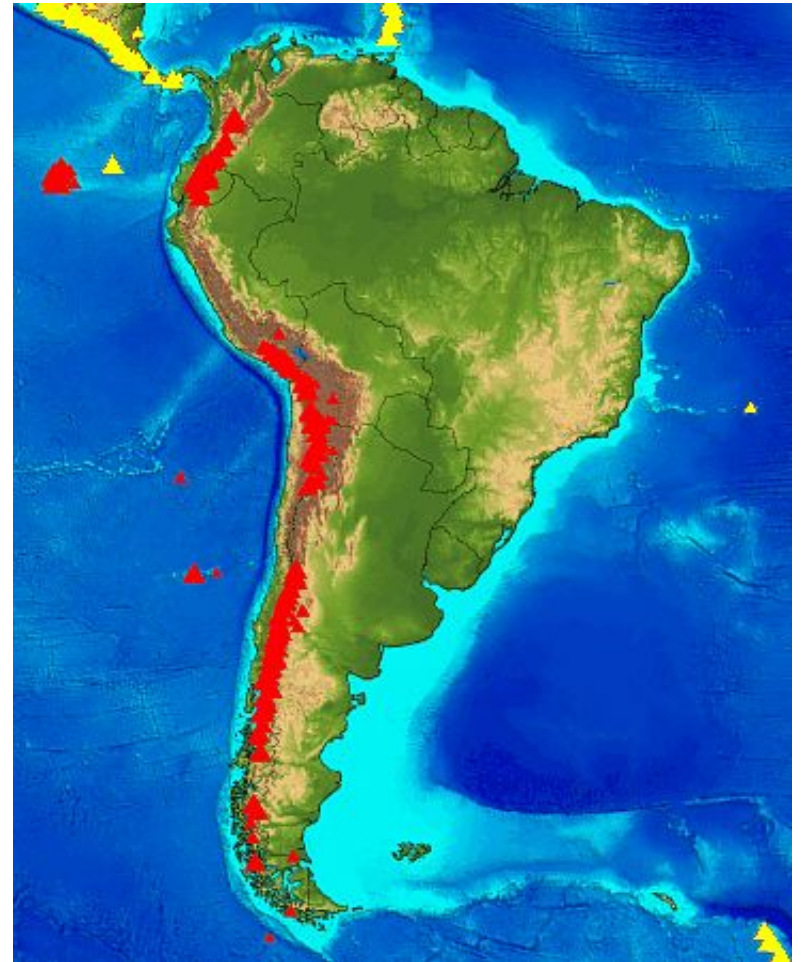
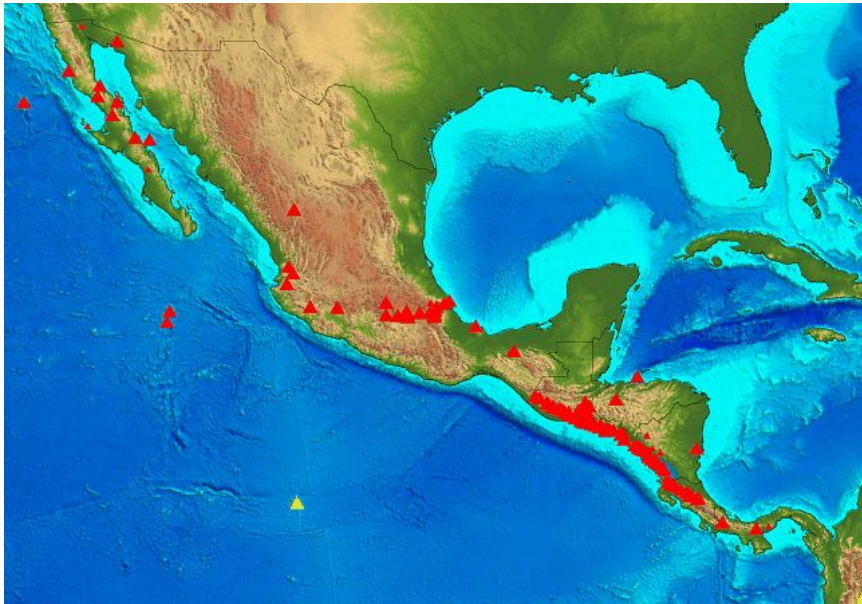




BRAZILIAN HIGHLANDS

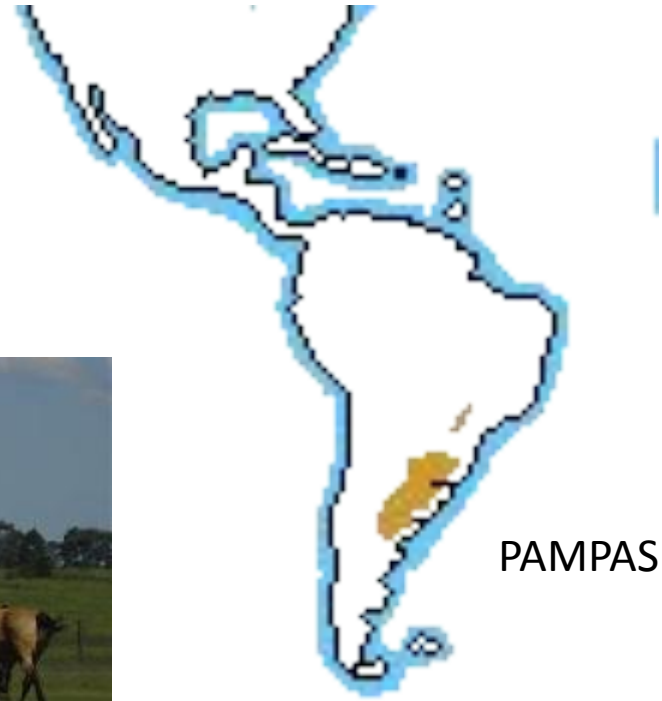


VOLCANOES





LOWLANDS



One kind of lowland area in Latin America are pampas. The pampas are grassy plains that stretch from Argentina into Uruguay. The pampas are a productive farming region.

LOWLANDS



Another lowland area in Latin America is the Amazon Basin.



The Amazon Basin is the worlds largest rain forest occupying 40% of South America.

South America has three major river systems that provide important transportation routes: the Amazon river, Orinoco river and, the Rio de la Plata. All these rivers are important transportation routes for people and goods.

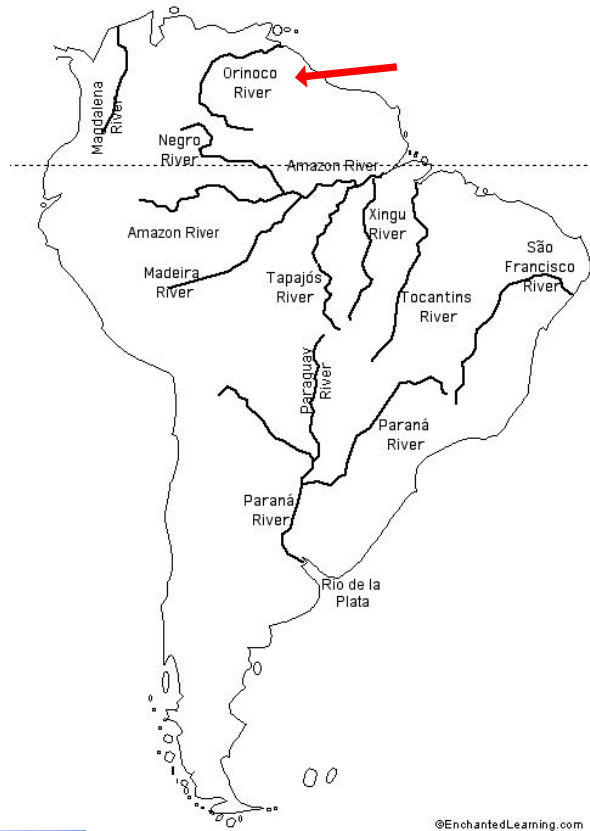


AMAZON RIVER

The Amazon is the largest river in the world. It begins in the Andes Mountains in Peru and flows east across Brazil. It is 4,000 miles long.



Orinoco River



The Orinoco river starts in the Guiana Highlands and flows north through Venezuela to the Atlantic Ocean. It is the world's 8th largest river.



Rio de la Plata



The Rio de la Plata (River of Silver) is actually made up of the Paraguay, Uruguay and Parana rivers. It is the widest river in the world. It serves as a major shipping route. Buenos Aires, Argentina is the world's second busiest port.



Dry Climate

Baja Peninsula, Mexico



Atacama Desert, Chile



Patagonian Plateau, Argentina and Chile



The Atacama is one of the driest places on Earth. In some parts no rain has fallen for 400 years.

Tropical Climate



In some tropical climates there are warm temperatures and plenty of rainfall all year. This creates rainforests. Rainforests are found in the Amazon Basin, some Caribbean islands and parts of Central America.

Other areas in Latin America are wet and dry and warm all year. For example, lowlands of Mexico, western Central America and southern Brazil.

Temperate climate



In temperate climates, warm seasons alternate with cool seasons. Temperate climates are good area for grazing for livestock and farming. Some areas where there are temperate climates are in Paraguay, Uruguay and northern Argentina.

In Latin America the chief influence on climate is elevation above sea level. Climate can vary greatly depending on if you are in the lowlands or highlands. Latin Americans have their own terms for the changes in climate: tierra caliente, tierra templada and, tierra fria.

ELEVATION & CLIMATE

Tierra Caliente (hot land)

-close to sea level

-Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico

and Amazon Basin



-good for growing

sugar cane



bananas



ELEVATION & CLIMATE

Tierra Templada (temperate land)

- areas that lie above 3,000 ft. above sea level
- days are hot, nights are cool
- Mexican central plateau and valleys in the Andes Mountains
- good for growing

COFFEE



TOBACCO



ELEVATION & CLIMATE

Tierra Fria (cold Land)

- highlands that are at least 6,000 ft above sea level
- nighttime and winter temperatures are cold
- Mexico City, Mexico and Bogota, Columbia are in the tierra fria.
- good for growing

WHEAT



BARLEY



POTATOES

