

AMERICA

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

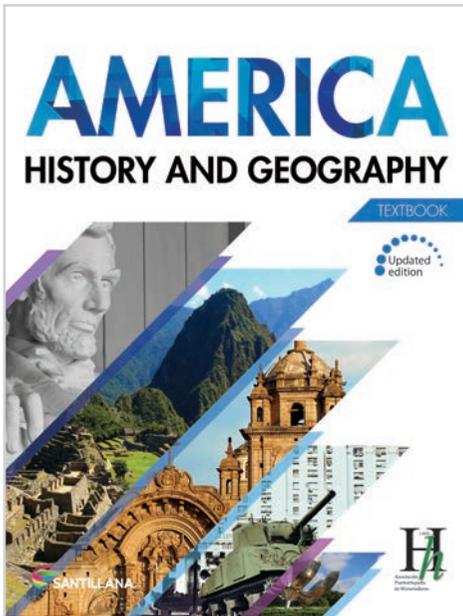
TEXTBOOK

Updated
edition



 **SANTILLANA**

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AMERICA

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

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This is your book

This educational project, where you will learn about the development of America from its beginnings to the present day, will be your companion during this semester to make a contribution to your historical and cultural knowledge.

We have designed and organized the textbook *America*, part of the History and Geography updated series, thinking about your generation. The study of historical facts and processes will enable you to understand that human beings construct their future and collaborate with that of his or her country. Based on the analysis of causes and effects, lives, societies, and eras, you will strengthen your skills to make historical decisions that contribute positively to society. We have built diverse educational resources in this project, and your book will also be available in digital format.

In the following pages, we explain the structure of each particular section and its design goals.

We wish you success in the school year, and remember that you are part of history!

The Editors



Chapter Opening

The chapter opening is found at the beginning of each chapter. It features an image related to the topic of the chapter, some questions to stimulate reflection, as well as the learning objectives of the chapter.



Content

Concepts are highlighted in **blue** and are defined in the *Glossary*, which can be found in the final pages of the book. There are also special sections and activities located at the end of each topic. In these activities, the student applies Norman Webb's depth of knowledge levels.

Special Segments

Heritage shows a place, a structure, or a tradition of historical, cultural, or natural value to humanity. *Environment* offers a situation to reflect on the protection and enjoyment of nature. *Humanity* presents an event or situation for the implementation of universal values. *Historiographic Reference* provides historians' quotes related to the study topic.

Heritage

National History Park: Citadel, Sans Souci, and Ramiers

The Sans Souci Palace, the buildings of Ramiers and the Citadel were built in Haiti towards the beginning of the 19th century, when the country declared its independence. Their construction was ordered by the leader of the Haitian Revolution, Jean-Jacques Dessalines. This national park represents the universal symbols of liberty; these were the first structures built by freed Black slaves. The park in which the buildings are located was declared a World Heritage site by the UNESCO in 1982.

Environment

Chemical-Free Food

In 1803, French researcher Nicolas Appert found a way of preserving food in hermetically sealed containers using heat. Then, he won a prize offered by Napoleon to whoever invented a method for preserving perishable food for a long time. Nowadays, there are other food preservation methods. Among them, the one that causes many worries is the use of chemical substances. Chemical additives prevent food spoilage, but consumed in large quantities, they can result harmful and detrimental for health.

Humanity

Censorship

In the 18th century, censorship was common. Different institutions, both ecclesiastical and royal, were in charge of controlling all published material and limiting free access to them. The reason for this prohibition was that books were the ideal medium to spread doctrinal attitudes, intellectual movements, and ideologies. This caused fear among authorities and constituted power, who considered many of these ideas dangerous and unacceptable.

Historiographic Reference

Defense of the People

"The continuation of authority in the same person has frequently proved the undoing of democratic governments. Repeated elections are essential to the system of popular government, because there is nothing so dangerous as to suffer Power to be vested for a long time in one citizen. The people become accustomed to obeying him, and he becomes accustomed to commanding, hence the origin of usurpation and tyranny."

Simón Bolívar, Address of Bolívar at the Congress of Angostura, February 15, 1819

Study Guide

Fill in the blanks with the vocabulary words.

- The leader of the French Arm... was...
- The... of the... was...

The Causes of Independence

- Identify the events that inspired the struggle for independence in America. Then explain each of them in your own words.
- Search on the Internet or in the library for information associated with the concept of independence.
- Explain which historical event you think is the most important in order to be successful.
- Identify the events that inspired the struggle for independence in America. Then explain each of them in your own words.

Study Guide and Cumulative Review

The *Study Guide* helps students review the concepts and topics of each chapter. In addition, a *Cumulative Review* is included every other chapter for students to integrate the acquired knowledge.

Language and Historical Thinking

Writing

Write an argumentative text in which you reflect upon and answer the question posed by the *Historical Document* in the previous chapter. Consider the evidence and the arguments in the document. Identify the main ideas and the supporting details. Use the evidence to support your argument. Write a clear and concise conclusion.

INTRODUCTION

CONCLUSION

Language and Historical Thinking

This workshop consists of working on linguistic and communication skills through History. It includes three different activities that are repeated several times throughout the chapters. These activities work on reading, writing, linguistic concepts, and listening and speaking skills.

Historical Document

1 KNOW

2 INTERPRET

3 CAUSE AND EFFECT

4 SYNTHESIZE

Historical Document

This workshop presents a historical document, which students must analyze while applying generic historical thinking skills.

Outstanding Lives and Multidisciplinary Approach

Outstanding Lives

Multidisciplinary Approach

ACTIVITIES

IN GROUPS

Outstanding Lives and Multidisciplinary Approach

Outstanding Lives presents a prominent figure in History. *Multidisciplinary Approach* combines a discipline or topic with the study of history.

Travel Guide: Panama

RESEARCH

PLAN

SHARE

San Jerónimo Battery Fort

Canopy

The Accordion: Popular King

White-headed Capuchin

Travel Guide

General facts from an American country are presented in this section. Using pictures and information, places of historic and ecologic interest are emphasized. The activities promote the search of additional information and are divided in three steps: Research, Plan, and Share.

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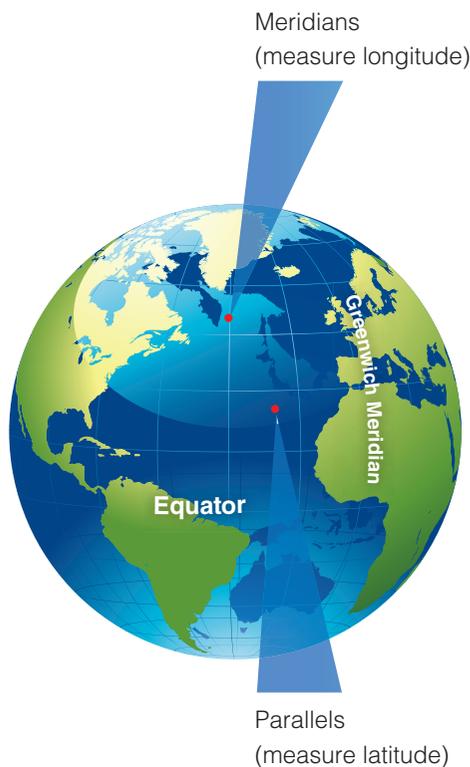
Geography of the Americas

THINK ABOUT IT

- How would you describe the continent of America?
- What are some physical features of your country?
- What factors or practices can change our environment?
- What environmental aspects should we consider when designing our lifestyles?
- How can human beings live in harmony with nature? Do you think that such a place could exist following this premise?
- Are you familiar with the concept of *sustainable development*? How would you define it?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the geographic features of the regions of America.
2. Locate regions and places in maps and other cartographic resources.
3. Use technology to interpret aspects of the physical and human geography of the Americas.
4. Compare and propose alternatives to the usage of America's natural resources.
5. Analyze the interaction between human beings and the physical environment of the Americas.



America is the only continent where the totality of the territory is located west of Greenwich, in other words, in the Western Hemisphere.

Geographic Features of America

Geography is the science that studies the earth's surface and the processes, differences, and relationships among places. Knowledge of the geography of different places helps us think and act consciously, as well as to better understand other cultures and value the world's natural and cultural heritage.

The Americas comprise the totality of the territories in the Western Hemisphere. Its foremost characteristic is the diversity of its natural environment and its population. **Physical geography** will help us learn about its natural elements and **human geography** will let us understand the human factors that affect the continent.

The Americas are also known as the New World because it was the last continental territory with inhabitants and civilizations conquered and colonized by the Europeans.

There are five oceans on Earth: the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, and the Southern Ocean. Four of them border the Americas: the Arctic Ocean, the Southern Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean. These last two are the world's largest oceans. The Pacific and the Atlantic are connected by the Panama Canal, and constitute the most important means of communication and trade among the Americas and the rest of the world.

Due to its large territorial area, the Americas run across the whole globe, from north to south, and, therefore, experience all the climatic regions of the world. Considering physical and geographical criteria, we can divide the Americas in three geographical regions: North America, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America.

■ **North America** - This region extends all the way from the Arctic Circle to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in southernmost Mexico. Three countries share this territory: Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

■ **Central America and the Caribbean** - Central America is located between the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the Panama Isthmus. These isthmuses connect the Americas. Central America consists of seven countries: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

The Caribbean Islands are an archipelago which includes the following: the Greater Antilles, the Lesser Antilles, the Bahamas, and the islands of Venezuela.

There are thirteen independent countries in the Caribbean Basin: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts-and-Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent-and-the-Grenadines, Trinidad-and-Tobago. There is also the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and ten dependencies: Anguilla, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Aruba, the Caribbean Netherlands

(Sint Marteen, Sint Eustatius, Saba, Bonaire, and Curaçao), the U.S. Virgin Islands.

■ **South America** - This continent is shaped like an inverted triangle. Among the countries that constitute its territory are Venezuela, Colombia, Guyana, Suriname, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile. Brazil is the largest country among them. The dependencies of French Guiana and the Falkland Islands are also part of South America.

The Relief of the Americas

The Earth's surface is not flat. There are mountains, valleys, rivers, and many other natural landforms. All of these constitute the **relief** of the continent, which can be classified in the following categories.

■ **Mountain ranges** - High mountains extend all the way from Alaska down to Tierra del Fuego, forming what can be interpreted as the continent's spinal cord, parallel to the Pacific coast. Up north, this mountain chain includes the Alaska Range, the Mackenzie Mountains in Canada, and the Rocky Mountains, in the United States. In Mexico, there is the Sierra Madre Oriental and the Sierra Madre Occidental. In South America, we have the Andes Mountains. This is the longest mountain range on Earth, stretching over 10,000 kilometers. Some of its highest peaks are the Chimborazo (in Ecuador), the Huascarán (in Peru), and the Aconcagua (in Argentina).

North America's highest peak is Denali, formerly known as Mount McKinley, with an elevation of about 6,000 meters above sea level. The highest peak in Central America is the Tajumulco volcano, in Guatemala, with an elevation of 4,000 meters, and in South America, Mount Aconcagua, 7,000 meters above sea level. This is the highest peak of the Americas.

■ **Highlands** - Near the Atlantic coast of the Americas, we find other mountainous areas known as highlands. These peaks used to be higher than they are now. However, water, wind, and temperature changes eroded the surface, diminishing their elevation. Highlands are the most ancient regions of America. The most important highlands are the Appalachian Mountains, in North America; and the Guiana Highlands, the Patagonia Mountains, and the Brazilian Highlands, in South America.

■ **Central Plains** - Between mountain ranges and highlands, we find plains, extensive areas of flat lands, very useful for agriculture and farming. In North America, there is the Canadian Prairie and the Great Plains, west of the Mississippi. In South America, the most important plains are the Orinoco Basin, in Venezuela; the Amazon Basin; the Parana-Paraguay Plain area, located in Paraguay and part of Argentina; and the Chacopampeana Plain, in Argentina.

Geographical Regions of America



Continent	Percentage
Asia	29.3 %
America	29 %
Africa	20.7 %
Antarctica	8.3 %
Europe	6.9 %
Oceania	5.8 %

The table shows the percentage of the Earth's surface occupied by each continent. The Americas constitute the second largest continent in the world.

Cotopaxi, located in Ecuador, is one of the world's tallest active volcanoes, with an elevation of 5,897 meters.



■ **Volcanoes** - A **volcano** is a conical mountain, formed by the accumulation of hot materials inside the Earth. This material is called **magma** when it is inside the Earth, and **lava** when it comes out. Usually, after an explosion, magma comes out through craters. These eruptions are the result of the emission of gases when pressure decreases inside the volcano. When lava cools down, it turns into volcanic rock.

Active volcanoes erupt continually. The Volcán de Fuego or “Volcano of Fire” is one of the most active volcanoes in Central America. This volcano, located in Guatemala, has an elevation of 3,763 meters above sea level. It has violent eruptions and is probably the most active volcano since the era of the Spanish conquest.

Dormant volcanoes can be inactive for many years, but they could become active again anytime. Usually, the authorities in each country design evacuation plans for sudden eruptions. This has been the case with the Colima volcano, located 500 kilometers west of Mexico City.

Extinct volcanoes are those that were active millions of years ago. Some of them, such as the Santa Lucía, San Cristóbal, and Manquehue volcanoes, in the Andes Mountain Range, have been extinct for three million years. In Costa Rica, the Santa Ana volcano has not been active since 1920.

America is the continent with the highest number of volcanoes. America is also home of the tallest volcanoes in the world. Among them, Ojos del Salado, in Argentina, is 6,870 meters high; the Lluillaco, located between Argentina and Chile, is 6,723 meters high; Coropuna, in Peru, is 6,426 meters tall; and Uturunco, in Bolivia, is 6,010 meters tall.

Geysers and hot springs are natural phenomena associated to regions that have or used to have volcanic activity. **Geysers** are holes in the ground that intermittently throw jets of hot water and steam. These hot bursts of water occur in areas with high temperature where there are cracks in the ground. **Hot springs** are springs of underground water that emerge when their temperature rises.



The Baños del Inca or “Inca Baths” are considered the most beautiful thermal baths in Latin America. They are located in Cajamarca, Peru.

Describe and Locate

Extended Thinking ●●●●

Describe, in your own words, the four components of the relief of the Americas and locate on a map an example of each.

Main Geographic Features of America



North American Plains

These are flat lands associated to rivers, like the Mississippi River.



Appalachian Mountains

Located in Eastern North America, they have an elevation of about 1,000 meters.



The Caribbean

Includes the Caribbean Sea and the Antilles.



Rocky Mountains

Located in the western region of North America, they present high peaks.



Isthmus of Central America

It is almost completely covered by mountains and active volcanoes, among which we can also find rivers and lakes.



Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra Madre Occidental

These are the mountain ranges of the Mexican Plateau.



Highlands of Guiana and Brazil

These are ancient mountainous formations of lower elevation that do not present seismic activity.



Andes Mountains

Mountain range that runs from Venezuela through Chile. The zone shows volcanic activity.



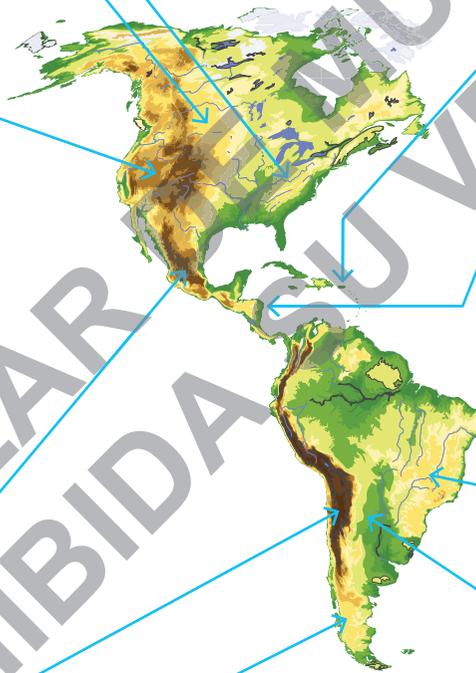
Patagonia

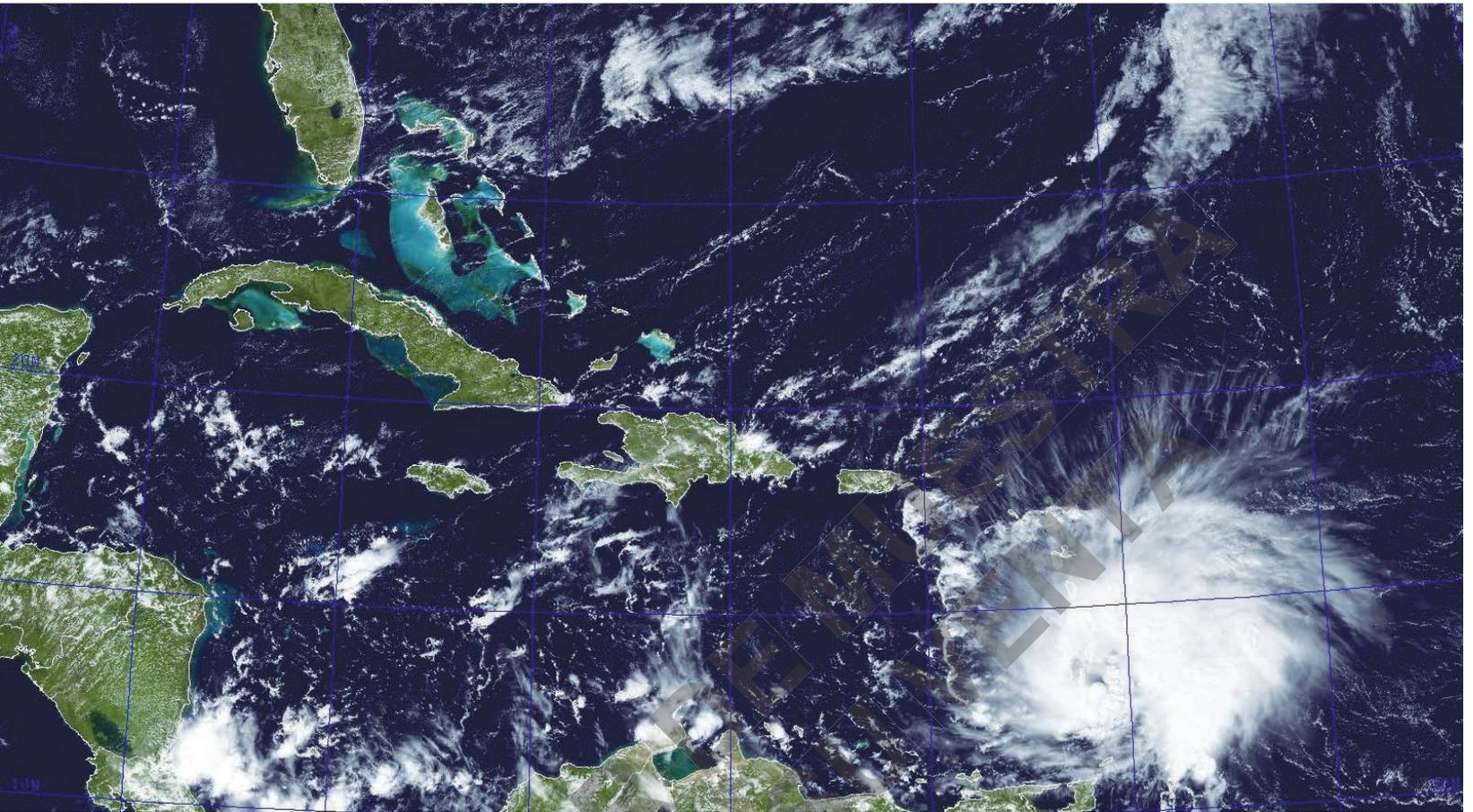
Great Plateau that goes through Argentina and Chile.



South American Plains

These are lowlands that contain the Amazon River, the Río de la Plata River, and the Orinoco River.





Hurricanes are low pressure systems with heavy rains and winds that often originate in the tropics.

Climate

Because of the extension of its territories, America presents a wide variety of climates. As a consequence, natural landscapes are very diverse throughout the continent. Furthermore, the different climates allow the growth and development of almost every known species in the planet and animal kingdoms.

Climate is the set of atmospheric conditions of a region, which do not change over a long period of time. In order to determine the climate of a geographic region, data based on observations is collected over the course of many years. Still, when talking about climate we are making generalizations, since we cannot take into account all the atmospheric variables.

Sunlight does not reach all parts of the Earth's surface in the same way. This is the cause of the variety of climates throughout the continent. This happens because, due to the Earth's shape, the sun heats the regions near the equator much more than the latitudes that are farther away from that area.

Countries situated in higher latitudes, in other words, far from the equator, are colder than those near the equator, where temperatures are higher and, therefore, hotter.



Oftentimes, the activities carried out by individuals are affected by weather conditions.

The Americas and their Climate

Climatic regions are classified according to various factors, such as latitude, altitude, the distribution of the oceans and continents, winds, ocean currents, vegetation, and mountain barriers.

Three criteria are used to classify climate: precipitation, temperature, and vegetation.

■ **Polar or Arctic climate** - This type of climate is extremely cold. In regions with this climate, we can find large areas of land covered with ice. It snows all year round. It comprises the Arctic Circle and the North Pole. This is the prevailing climate in the northern region of Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.

■ **Tropical climate** - Regions with this type of climate enjoy hot summers and abundant rain during certain periods of the year. Vegetation is usually abundant. This is the prevailing climate in the Amazon Basin, the Caribbean, Central America, and southeastern Mexico.

■ **Subtropical climate** - Presents higher temperatures, but it does not register as much rain as regions with tropical climate. This climate is common in both the southern and southeastern regions of Mexico, as well as in the north of Brazil and Venezuela.

■ **Desert climate** - Regions with this type of climate experiment high temperatures and strong winds. On the other hand, it almost never rains. In America, this climate is found in the southwestern region of the United States. It is also common in the northern and northwestern region of Mexico, as well as in the north of Chile and south Peru.

■ **Steppe climate** - Regions with this climate experience hot summers and cold winters. The little rain that falls in the dry steppe regions occurs during summer and autumn. Some examples of this type of climate occur in the central United States. Other areas that present this climate are northern Mexico and the Pampas, the great plains located in Argentina.

■ **Temperate climate** - Areas with this type of climate are located between the tropics and the polar circles. This climate also occurs in the lower part of mountains. In some of these regions, it rains all year round. In others, however, it only rains during the summer. For example, on the coasts of Alaska it rains all year round. However, in the southern region of the state of California, rain is usually registered during the winter months.



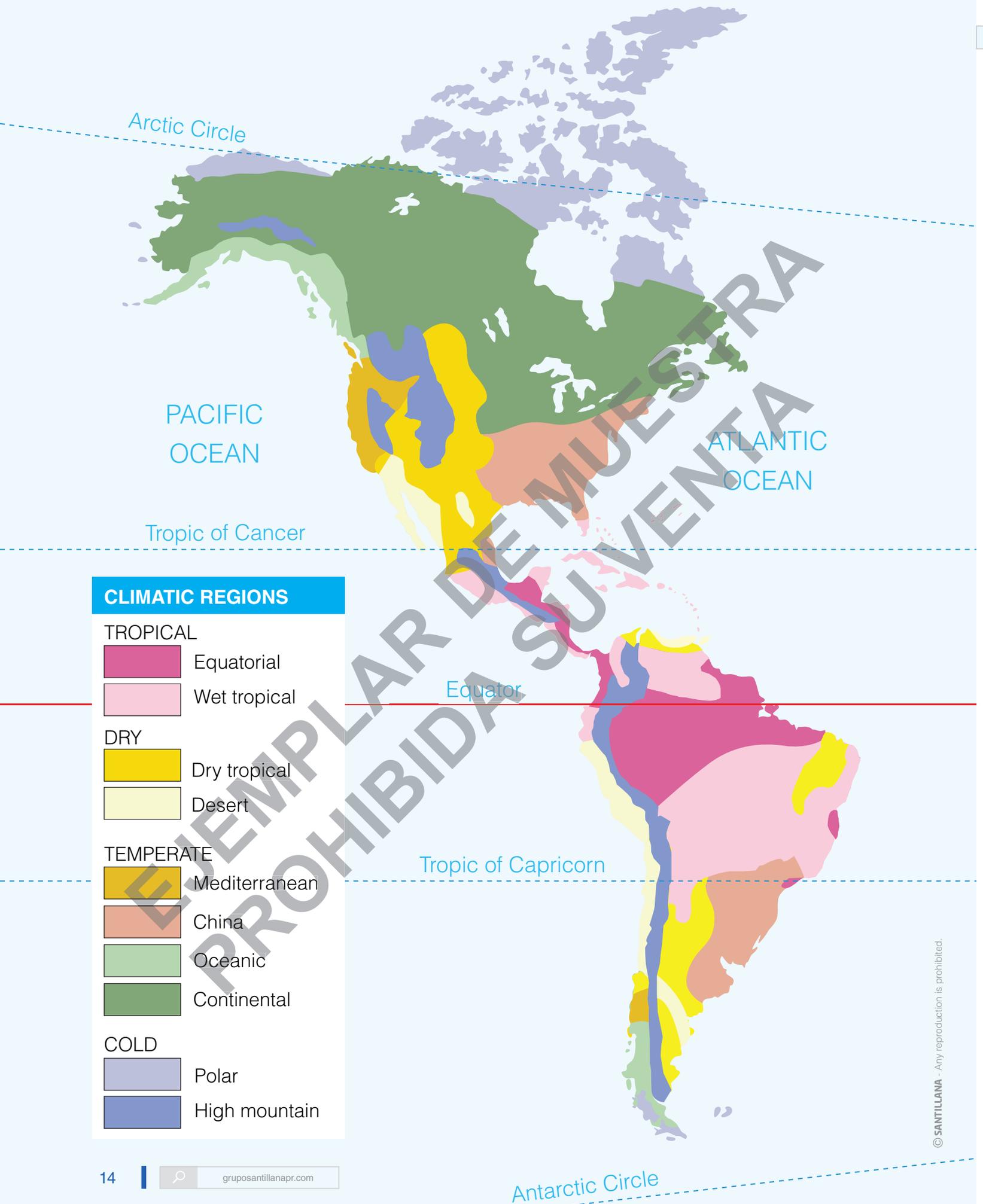
Most of Central America and South America enjoys tropical climates and high temperatures.



Steppes are large areas of uncultivated land with few inhabitants.



Some of the main features of the desert climate are low rainfall and little vegetation, composed of small trees and cacti.



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Biomes

Throughout the different regions of Earth, we can find large areas that share the same type of climate, soil, relief, flora, and fauna. These are called **biomes**. The distribution of animal and plant species throughout the Earth basically depends on climatic differences. This occurs because plant life is conditioned by climate. In the same way, plant life determines the kind of animals that live in each zone. In America, we can find different biomes.

■ **Rainforest and savanna** - These are located in tropical areas and, therefore, experience a warm climate all year round. **Rainforests** are characterized by high temperatures, heavy rains, and swampy terrain. The diversity of the flora and fauna promotes a variety of economic activities, such as mining, agriculture, and farming, among others. In America, rainforests are found in southeastern Mexico, Central America, and the Amazon Basin.

A **savanna** surrounds the rainforest area. In the savanna, temperatures are high and there are two rainy seasons. Its rich vegetation is composed of grasslands and medium-sized trees. It is the habitat of wildcats and armadillos, among other animals. In America, this region is located in the western coast of Mexico and in certain areas of Ecuador, Colombia, and the Amazon Rainforest.

■ **Tundra and taiga** - The **tundra** surrounds frozen zones in the northern regions of the globe. This biome is also found on the top of mountains. It has an ever-present white landscape and a very cold climate. When the ice recedes, vegetation of low height, such as moss and lichens, appears. A tundra is located near the snow-covered Arctic Circle, in the highest peaks of the Andes and, also, in the southernmost region of South America.

The **taiga** presents a very cold climate, and snow falls year round. This biome occurs in the central region of Alaska, in the central and northern region of Canada and in the northwestern region of the United States. This biome only exists in the Northern Hemisphere. The prevailing vegetation is composed of pine trees and cedars.

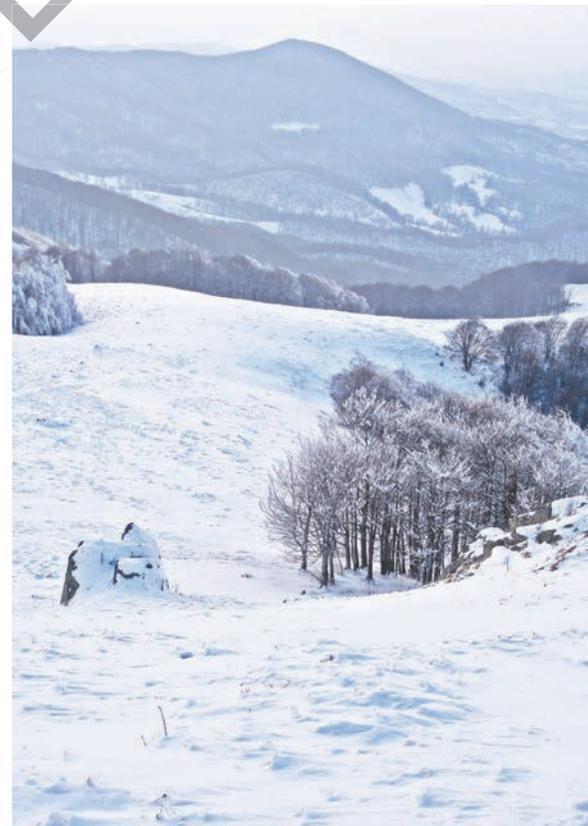
■ **Forest and grassland** - These two biomes occur in the temperate regions of America, located between the tropics and the polar circles. Their distinguishing features are their flora and the amount of rain.

Forests have moderate rain. Temperature varies according to the season. In America, there are forests in the northwestern and southeastern regions of the United States, as well as in southern Bolivia, central Chile, in Uruguay, southern Brazil, and northern Argentina.

Forests are classified according to the type of trees that grow in them. The fauna is diverse: forests in the north are home to bears, moose, and squirrels. In the south, however, forests are the habitat of llamas, alpacas, condors, and vultures. America has all the types of forests.



Tropical rainforests are the most productive ecosystems of the planet, as well as the ones with the most biodiversity.



The animals that live in the tundra have special adaptations that allow them to survive the extremely low temperatures of the region.



The Atacama Desert is one of the driest in the world. It extends from the north of Chile and Peru's coastline.

In the **grasslands** it rains less than in the forests. Grasslands are found in the southwestern and northeastern regions of the United States, in the central and southern regions of Chile, in the center of Brazil, and in the north of Argentina. The flora consists of grass, bushes, and shrubs.

■ **Steppe and desert** - In the **steppe**, temperatures are high in the summer and low in the winter. The steppe experiences a few rains during only one season. The center of the United States, northern Mexico and parts of Argentina are examples of this biome. Steppe vegetation is scarce: it is mainly composed by cacti. In this region, we encounter coyotes, deer, rabbits, and reptiles.

The **desert** shows high temperatures during the day and very low temperatures during the night. Its main characteristic is that rains are infrequent. There are deserts in areas of the United States, Mexico, Peru, and Chile. The desert's flora is composed of cacti and shrubs. In spite of the rough living conditions, some animals such as snakes, coyotes, rabbits, and hares live in the desert.

The Atacama Desert, one of the most arid deserts of the world, extends along the coastal strip of Peru and northern Chile. Periods of up to forty years without rain have been registered in its central area.

Outline

Skills and Concepts ●●●●

Prepare an outline to organize the characteristics of America's biomes.

Natural Resources

Renewable and Non-renewable Resources

Natural resources are natural elements that human beings need and use in order to survive. However, not all natural materials are considered natural resources. Human beings determine what can be considered a natural resource according to their social needs and their ability to extract and process materials in order to use them. Some materials we now consider resources were not seen as such in the past; they had no use.

There are two types of natural resources: renewable and nonrenewable. **Renewable resources** are those continually replenished by nature and which can be used for a long period of time if we protect them. **Non-renewable resources** cannot be replaced naturally. There are limited amounts of these resources or nature cannot produce them at the same rate they are consumed by humans.

Some natural resources, such as solar energy, water, and soil are valued around the globe. Other resources, such as trees and rocks, are appreciated because they are used as raw materials in factories. Wood, carbon, fossil fuels, and river waters are very important in the production of energy. America has a variety of natural resources such as mineral, agricultural, marine, and forest resources.

Mineral Resources

American countries are rich in mineral resources. The Andean region, for example, has important metal resources. Gold and silver mines provided precious metals both to the natives and to the conquerors. Nonetheless, conquerors pillaged Brazilian and Mexican gold, as well as Bolivian silver. Nowadays, modern industries extract copper, tin, manganese, lead, nitrates, iron, and zinc from our continent.

Historiographic Reference

Culture and Environment

“At present, major ecological disturbances force us to look with greater care the relationship between ecosystem and culture. In the new global context, it is clear the relationship between biodiversity conservation and the role cultural diversity plays in this process.”

(translated)

Felipe Cárdenas Tamara, *Antropología y ambiente. Enfoques para una comprensión de la relación ecosistema-cultura*, (2002)

	Place	Type of Resource
Mineral Resources in America	Chile	main source of copper and nitrate deposits (Atacama Desert)
	Mexico	copper, iron, and coal
	Peru	copper
	Bolivia	tin
	Costa Rica, Panama and Jamaica	bauxite (used in the production of aluminum)
	Dominican Republic	gold
	Orinoco River and Amazon River	iron
	U.S.A. and Canada	coal (Appalachian Mountains), oil
	Mexico, Venezuela, and Ecuador	top oil producers



Coffee is a drink obtained by mixing toasted coffee grains with water or milk. It is very popular because of its stimulating effects.

Agricultural and Marine Resources

Agricultural resources are regarded as the soil's potential for food production. In the regions of the continent where altitude causes a temperate climate, agriculture focuses on the production of wheat, corn, and soy. However, regions with tropical climate easily produce coffee, sugar, cotton, and plantains.

Wheat and corn are exported from Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil, on the other hand, export coffee. Plantains are grown in Ecuador, Brazil, and Colombia. Meanwhile, soy is grown in Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. Brazil and Chile also export wood.

In Chile, fish is used in the frozen food market and in the production of fish oil. The United States and Canada stand out for the amount of fish they catch. Canadian fisheries mainly exploit codfish, hake, tuna, lobster, and other types of sea-food. The United States specializes in the production of oysters, herring, prawn, tuna, mackerel, anchovies, and sardines. Their abundant marine resources are a consequence of shallow ocean banks, predominantly temperate temperatures, and the encounter of the cold Greenland currents with the warm waters of the Gulf Stream.

Forest Resources

America has a large amount of forest resources. Because of this, plantations have been established in many places to provide raw material for the production of a variety of products.

Fifty-two percent of tropical forests that exist in the world are located in the Americas. The exploitation of forest resources is based on the use of forests in both tropical and subtropical areas, such as the Amazon Basin and the Orinoco Basin, in South America, as well as in other regions in the south of Ecuador, Central America, and the Caribbean.

The Amazon Rainforest used to cover an area of 2,860,000 kilometers; however, nowadays it only has 1,800,000 kilometers. Around the year 1500, sixty-nine million indigenous natives inhabited the rainforest. Now, only two hundred thousand remain. Furthermore, each year about two thousand plant and bird species disappear as a consequence of pollution and the felling of trees.

In North America, forest resources come from the cold forest of Canada and the temperate forest of the United States. Nevertheless, it must be said that in the United States, forest areas have decreased considerably during the last few decades.

Water Resources

■ **Rivers in the Americas** - The Americas have the largest fresh-water reserve in the world. Because of the extension of its territories, the elevation of its mountains, and its heavy rains, America is home to important river basins.

The basins that flow into the Pacific Ocean are usually small, steep, and unnavigable. Some of them are used for irrigation and hydroelectric plants.

The rivers that flow into the Atlantic are greater in number and have more water volume and extension. As a consequence, they are more useful for navigation and irrigation of crops. Finally, rivers that drain into the Arctic Ocean cannot be used because they remain frozen for most of the year.

- **The Amazon River** - Located in Brazil, this river system forms the largest basin in the world, and also has the greatest volume of flow. It is the largest river of the continent, with 7,025 kilometers, and it crosses several countries, including: Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela. Most of its course is navigable.
- **Orinoco River** - It originates in Guiana, flows through the Venezuelan plains, and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The Orinoco has an array of tributaries. It joins the Amazon River through the Río Negro.
- **La Plata River Basin** - It is the fifth largest river system of the world. Its tributaries are the Paraná, the Paraguay, and the Uruguay rivers. It runs through five countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. Its basin has been used for the construction of large hydroelectric plants, such as the one in Iguazú. It serves as an excellent means of communication and trade route.
- **Mississippi River and Missouri Rivers** - The river system composed of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers is one of the most productive in the continent. The whole river system, which drains in the Gulf of Mexico, is 6,210 kilometers long. These rivers flow throughout the central regions of the United States.
- **The São Francisco River** - Its waters, which run through Brazilian territory, are used in hydroelectric plants. It flows out to the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Colorado River** - It runs through the Grand Canyon. It travels a great distance from its origins in the Rocky Mountains down to its river mouth in the Gulf of California, in Mexico. Its mighty current is 2,250 kilometers long.



The length of the Amazon River, in South America, is equivalent to the distance from New York to Rome.



The Uros are direct descendants of one of the most ancient cultures of the continent. Their main activities are fishing, hunting, and weaving.



Lake Huron is the second largest among the Great Lakes, which are located in the United States and Canada.

- **The Rio Grande** - It is the natural border between the United States and Mexico. The 3,034 kilometer long river runs through the city of El Paso up to the Gulf of Mexico. Both countries use it for irrigation and hydroelectric power production.

Other minor systems are the Usumacinta, in Mexico, and the Magdalena, in Colombia. The Greater Antilles, however, has shorter rivers, such as the Cauto River, in Cuba, and the La Plata River, in Puerto Rico.

Rivers located in the Antilles are not usually navigable since they have a lower flow and run through uneven slopes.

- **Antarctic Circumpolar Current** - The largest ocean current of the world, it connects the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. Because of its dimensions, its abundant waters flow clockwise from west to east around Antarctica. It is equivalent to one hundred times the water in all the rivers on Earth.

■ **Lakes of America** - Many lakes in America function as a means of transportation and communication. Among the most famous lakes of the Americas, we can mention the Great Lakes, Lake Nicaragua, Lake Enriquillo, and Lake Titicaca.

- **The Great Lakes** - These are located in the border between Canada and the United States. These navigable lakes are used to transport goods among the cities in their banks. They constitute the largest group of freshwater lakes, containing a fifth of the world's surface fresh water. These lakes are connected by rivers and have an extension of about 248,500 kilometers, the equivalent to half the territory of Spain. The lakes are connected to the Atlantic Ocean by the Saint Lawrence Seaway. The Great Lakes of North America are Lake Superior—the largest one—, Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Ontario.
- **Lake Nicaragua** - Also known as Cocibolca lake, it is located in Nicaragua and drains in the Caribbean Sea. With an area of 8,264 kilometers, it is the largest freshwater lake in Nicaragua. It is also the largest freshwater reserve of Central America, and the 19th of the world. It has over a thousand islands and cays. Among them, there are two volcanic islands: Ometepe and Zapatera. Ometepe is formed by two volcanoes: the volcanoes of Concepción and Maderas. In the lake there is also the Solentiname Islands, an archipelago made up of four large islands and 32 smaller islands. The Solentiname Islands are located in the southern end of Lake Nicaragua.
- **Lake Enriquillo** - Located in the Dominican Republic, it is the largest lake of the Caribbean. It is forty meters below sea level and it has an area of 286 square kilometers. The semiarid vegetation of the dry forest and the hypersaline waters of the lake and its springs, combined with the coconut, mango, and banana plantations of its shores, make Enriquillo Lake an outstanding place. It is also considered the only habitat of the American Crocodile (*Cocodylus acutus*).
- **Lake Titicaca** - Located in the Collao Plateau in the Andes, specifically in the southern Peruvian mountains, although the lake is in both Peruvian and Bolivian territories. With a surface elevation of 3,830 meters above sea level, it is the highest lake in the world. This body of water is the greatest freshwater reserve in South America, with a surface area of 8,340 square kilometers. It is a navigable lake. Furthermore, the temperatures of its waters vary throughout the year, and in certain seasons they can be used for swimming and fishing.

Historiographical Reference

Water: The Blood of the Earth

“Water allows the integration of living beings, the articulation of nature and human society. It is the blood of the Earth and of the Andean universe. It allows reciprocity among family members, family groups, and communities... It organizes the life of individuals, and it presents difference not as an opposing factor, but as a complementary one”.

Geologist Ramón Vargas, *La cultura del agua, Lecciones de la América*, UNESCO 2006

Heritage

Uros Floating Islands

Lake Titicaca, the highest lake in the world, is located in South America, in the Andes Mountain Range, between Peru and Bolivia. This lake is home to a group of floating islands made of layers of *totora* reeds, a type of aquatic plant. These islands are inhabited by the Uros, a Pre-Columbian culture. Each island is inhabited by three to ten families. Some islands have schools and temples. Nowadays, you can visit the islands to learn about the customs and traditions of the Uros.

Explain

Choose a natural resource and explain its importance to humanity.

Strategic Thinking ●●●●



The variety of explorers that arrived in Latin America opened the door to a process of racial mixing.



In Anglo-Saxon America, most of the population is of English descent, although in Canada there is also a population of French descent.

Cultural Regions

The encounter with the New World transformed the ways of thinking of the 15th century. It was the start of the modern era and of a period in which Spain, England, France, and the Netherlands carried out a series of explorations and conquests.

The Conquest was a violent process. It was a process that significantly reduced the indigenous populations that lived in the Americas. In the Antilles and in some parts of North America, these communities practically disappeared due to forced labor, disease, and confrontations with the conquerors.

However, after the Colonization two distinct cultural regions emerged. A **cultural region** is an area that shares similar characteristics, such as language and religion.

■ **Latin America** - It extends from Mexico down to Argentina. It comprises the countries that were formerly colonies of Spain, France, and Portugal. One of the main characteristics of its population is the great cultural diversity of its peoples and cities. The conquerors that arrived in Latin America were mainly Spaniards, French, and Portuguese that mixed up with the native population and with African slaves. This diversity gave way to a new ethnic group: **Mestizos**.

In some countries, there are still indigenous groups. This is the case of Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Guatemala. Indigenous peoples have made a contribution to the development of the cultural identity of countries.

Most of the Black population is concentrated in regions of Central America, the Caribbean, and Brazil. In these territories, we can observe a variety of elements of African cultural heritage, such as dances, music, certain dishes, and religious beliefs.

■ **Anglo-Saxon America** - It comprises Canada and the United States. These countries were colonized by the English, French, and other Anglo-Saxon countries. In these two countries, the predominant population is of English origin, although Canada is also characterized by people of French descent. The indigenous population that inhabited these regions in ancient times practically disappeared after these territories were conquered. Currently, Native Americans hardly surpass 2% of the national population. Still, some well-known Native American communities remain both in the United States and Canada. Among these communities, we can mention the Inuit, who inhabit the cold territories of northern Canada.



Ethnic Configuration of the Americas

During the Colonization, white people from Europe came to the Americas. Historically, white people avoided mixing themselves with other groups, especially in North America.

In the Caribbean, the lack of indigenous workforce motivated the forced migration of people from different regions of Africa. During the 16th century, they started working in goldmines and, later on, in the production of cacao, coffee, cotton, and sugar.

Most of the black population is concentrated in the United States, the Antilles, Peru, and Brazil. However, this population is smaller in countries such as Mexico, Chile, and Argentina. Argentina also received migratory flow of Caucasian descent, mainly from Germany and Italy.

In Latin America, 70% of the population is considered to be of mixed race or Mestizo. In all America, the indigenous population represents a very small percentage of the total population. For example, in Brazil, indigenous peoples constitute 0.2% of the population. These peoples live in the Amazon Rainforest, like the Yanomami tribe.

The most relevant Asian groups started arriving towards the middle of the 20th century. There are large Asian communities, particularly in the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia. Other immigrants, such as the English, the French, and the Dutch successfully established themselves in the Caribbean. Between the 19th and 20th century, Indian immigrants arrived in Trinidad-and-Tobago.

These migrations were a source of cultural enrichment for the region.

The Legendary Chinatown, in New York. Many immigrants have come to America to establish businesses.

Humanity

Immigrants

Sometimes, migratory processes incite racial and ethnic prejudice in a society. However, the truth is, most of the time, immigrants come ready to share their knowledge, learn about the nation that receives them, and work to make a contribution to the country. Hatred towards foreigners is called *xenophobia*. Learning about the cultural differences of other ethnic groups is a key element in fighting against intolerance.



In the cities, we find housing, as well as administrative and industrial centers. Among other things, cities stimulate commercial activity.

Population Distribution

America is known for its variety of environments. Sometimes, this is favorable for human development, but in others, not so much. Because of this, Americans have responded to their environment in a variety of ways.

America's relief has influenced population distribution. Population groups usually concentrate around valleys. As a consequence, there exist small densely populated areas separated by mountains.

Sociocultural factors also determine the place of **settlement**, that is, the place in which a population establishes their residence. For example, the center of the Mexican Plateau, where the Aztec empire was established, attracted new settlers. In Southeastern Brazil, the production of coffee influenced the development of ports. This allowed the arrival of European immigrants, which in turn intensified commercial exchange between South America and Europe.

On the other hand, many places in America are scarcely populated because of the harsh climatic and physical conditions, which prevent the settlement of large populations over a long period of time. This is the case in places such as the Amazon region, the Atacama Desert, the Andean region, the Patagonian Plateau, and the rainforests of Colombia, Venezuela, and Central America.

In Anglo-Saxon America, there is a contrast between Canada and the United States. In Canada, population concentrates in the southeastern territories, in the region of the Great Lakes, and in the Saint Lawrence Valley. There are populated areas in the center of the country, but of less relevance. In the United States, the population is less concentrated than in Canada, nonetheless, it is distributed among the region of the Great Lakes and the north coast of the Atlantic Ocean. To the west, the population is less up to the Pacific Coast, where there is another densely populated region: California, between San Francisco and San Diego.

In Latin America, the most densely populated areas are found in the central valleys of Mexico, in the valleys and shores of Central America, in Colombia and Venezuela, in the Caribbean Islands, and also on the Brazilian coast.

Most Populated Cities of America	City	Inhabitants
	Los Angeles, U.S.A.	13 million
	Buenos Aires, Argentina	13 million
	Mexico City, Mexico	20 million
	New York, U.S.A	20 million
	São Paulo, Brazil	21 million



Urban Growth

In the early 19th century, most people lived in rural areas. Afterwards, in the period between the mid-19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, populations in cities increased. The reason for this growth was mainly the creation of factories in the cities, which offered new working opportunities for the people. Many peasants moved into the city, where they not only got a new job, but a new life. By the mid-19th century, countries in Anglo-America were the most urbanized of the world. However, the urbanization process of Latin America occurred later on. In 1950, almost 60% of Latin Americans lived in rural areas. From this year on, migration from the country to the cities increased. Work opportunities in the country diminished. Meanwhile, cities became attractive places, since people could find a greater variety of job opportunities and had access to basic services that were not available in rural areas.

By 1994, 74% of Latin America's population lived in urban areas.

Cities with more growth were those that became industrial centers, like Mexico, São Paulo, and Buenos Aires.

One of the largest urban areas of the world is located in the United States. It encompasses the cities on the Atlantic Coast, from Boston to Washington, and is home to more than sixty million people.

Mexico City is one of the most populated urban areas of the Americas.

Environment

Sustainable Development

The rapid population growth around the Earth has made it inevitable to consider new ways of coexisting with other living beings and the environment. The goal of sustainable development is to protect natural resources without stopping economic growth. In other words, by following this approach, both our society and future societies can keep up their development in a balanced way, living in harmony with the environment.

Compare and Contrast

Compare and contrast the population of Anglo-America and Latin America.

Skills and Concepts ● ● ● ●

Complete the sentences with the vocabulary words.

1. A mountain in form of a cone, formed by the accumulation of hot materials in the interior of the earth, is known as a _____.
2. Moderate rain and temperatures that change according to the season is a characteristic of a _____.
3. _____ is the science that studies the terrestrial space and its process, the differences and the relations that are established between places.
4. High temperatures during the day and very low at night are found in the _____.
5. The _____ has less abundant rain.
6. The _____ surrounds the frozen zones to the north of the continents.
7. Mountains, valleys, and many other natural shapes form the _____.
8. In the _____ the weather is cold and snow falls all year.

Vocabulary

- Geography
- Relief
- Volcano
- Weather
- Tundra
- Taiga
- Forest
- Steppe
- Prairie
- Desert

The Americas

1. **Search information about the oceans and the geography of America. Compare them and contrast.**
 - a. Make a list of the five oceans of the planet. Then, specify how many and which of them border the American continent.
 - b. Search information about two countries that are located in Central America. Compare and contrast these characteristics of both countries:
 - type of geography
 - type of weather
 - type of natural resources
 - c. Answer:
 - Which are the four big units in which you can group the American relief?
 - Which are the most important highlands of America?
 - Which are the five big plains of the American territory?
 - d. Search information about volcanoes in America. Make a chart with three columns titled *Active Volcanoes*, *Intermittent Volcanoes* and *Extinct Volcanoes* respectively. Classify the volcanoes in the chart in the categories where they belong.
 - e. A consequence of a volcano's eruption is the dispersion of ashes that cover the air and the ground of communities near it. Investigate about the consequences that ashes can provoke in the population, flora and fauna.

The Americas and their Environment

1. Read the instructions and complete the activities.

- a. Identify the approximate latitudes and longitudes of these countries. Write in your notebook the coordinates of each one.

- Colombia
- Brazil
- Mexico
- Puerto Rico
- Panama



- b. Provide examples of professions that need to know longitudes and latitudes of the planet. Explain how learning the coordinates help the job that these professionals do. Then explain how knowing the coordinates of countries helps you.
- c. Make a list in which you detail the factors that are taken into consideration when the weather of a region has to be classified. Also include the three basic criteria.
- d. Search information about the climate of five countries located in South America.
- e. Prepare a chart with two columns. In the first, write the names of five countries that you chose. In the second, write the characteristics that you found about each of the climates.
- f. Write a paragraph in which you discuss how you think climate can influence the lifestyle of people and even their personalities. Validate your opinion offering several examples of situations in which the weather has affected you positively or negatively.

2. Answer:

- Which are the five types of climate that are found in America?
- Which are the most outstanding characteristics of two of these types of climate?
- What are the natural regions of a territory?

3. Compare and contrast the ecosystems.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. The forest and desert | c. The savannah and tundra |
| b. The jungle and prairie | d. The steppe and taiga |

4. Classify these places as forest, desert or jungle.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| a. El Yunque | c. Sahara | e. Congo | g. Gobi |
| b. Atacama | d. Amazon | f. Guajataca | |

Natural Resources

1. Identify:

- the natural resources that are presented in the chapter.
- three examples of countries in Central and South America that harvest the same products. Write which are those products.

2. Analyze.

- How do natural resources influence in the economic and social development of a country? Offer two examples that validate your answer.
- In the past centuries, communities used to live near rivers. Think about why they did it. Then create a chart with two columns in which you identify the advantages and disadvantages that, in your perspective, this location could represent for the communities.
- What do you think is the reason why the Amazonian jungle is known as the *lung of the world*? What does the phrase mean? Do you agree with the name the jungle is given? Why?



3. Discuss:

- a. the relationship between human beings and the natural resources that surround them. Answer the questions and use your answers as a guide to develop your argument.
 - Are people of the different regions exercising an adequate use of the resources?
 - Which do you think are the natural resources less respected? What human practices threaten the natural resources on a daily basis?
 - What organizations or community groups do you know that work to defend the environment? What activities they perform to raise awareness about the correct use of natural resources? Are you interested in supporting one of these groups? Why?
- b. about five alternatives for people to create awareness and learn to use natural resources in a correct way.

4. Research:

- a. five entities that work defending natural resources. Identify the country where they operate and the resource or the natural resources that they defend as a group.

5. Design the model for an entity that works defending some of the natural resources mentioned in the chapter. As the founder, you should establish these points:

- The name of the entity
- The place where the central offices will be located
- The resource or natural resources that will be protected
- The mission of the entity, in other words, what is the purpose that you have as a group?
- The three main methods that the entity will use to create awareness among the population about the protection of the resource or the resources that you will be protecting.

Population in the Americas

1. Draw a small mural using paper that represents graphically the arrival of the conquerors and the impact in the Indigenous culture and populations. Include:

- An image of the indigenous life before the arrival of the European conquerors. Identify the indigenous culture that you have selected and the American country where that culture lived.
- An image of the European invasion into the indigenous town selected.
- An image that shows the long term effect of the invasion on the population selected: their disappearance, its relocation in a reserve or the consequent mix of races.

2. Create a graphic organizer that clearly represents the distinctive elements between Latin America and Anglo America. For each one, include:

- the countries that form it
- the countries that conquer it
- the main languages

Reading

■ The forms of indigenous resistance

The way in which the indigenous people lived through the trauma of the Conquest was not the only topic in which historians of new currents focused on. Other questions awakened their interests: what role did they play in the conquest, the alliances and agreements? Which were the resistance practices and how they influenced the Conquest? What aspects of the indigenous societies still persist today in spite of conquest and dominance? All these topics have been given an answer in the voice of the own indigenous people.

Contrary to what was traditionally highlighted, the indigenous resistance to Spanish dominance was a very generalized attitude that adopted different methods: rebellion and armed confrontations, constant harassment and sabotage, and also passive actions of resistance, like the retreat to inaccessible places of the jungle or refusing to do orderly tasks for the Spaniards.

One of the aspects of the indigenous cultures that has survived is the language. In Latin America, hundreds of indigenous languages are still spoken. A large number of languages, like the Nahuatl, are located in the center of Mexico; the Quechua and the Aymara, with fewer speakers, are found in the Andes zone. Some countries recognized the indigenous language as official: in Paraguay, the Guaraní is the official language along with Spanish.

"We lost ... We won ... They took the gold and they left the gold ... They took everything and left it all ... They left the words". Pablo Neruda, *I confess I have lived* (*Confieso que he vivido*), 1974.

Before reading

1. Name the indigenous towns in America that you remember or have studied.

2. Write four adjectives that describe in general the first inhabitants of America.

3. Do you consider that indigenous people showed resistance when facing the conquest of America? Explain your answer.

While reading

1. What indigenous resistance manifestations does the text mention?

2. What aspects of the indigenous resistance survived the conquest according to the text?

3. What indigenous languages are spoken today that are mentioned in the text?

After reading

1. What do you think Neruda was trying to express? What resources did he use to express the complexity of these historic processes?

2. Research. What languages did Tainos speak? Name several words that are still used today in our vocabulary in Puerto Rico.

3. Locate in a map the regions in which indigenous languages are still alive according to the text. Include a map key with colors.

Listen and discuss

1. Search on the Internet for an example of indigenous resistance in Spanish America during the 16th century. Join a classmate and summarize the event in your own words and compare them.
2. Join two classmates to discuss about the recent claims of the Wichí in Argentina, that are demanding to have their lands back in the northeastern Formosa province. Discuss about the argument that the leader presents and the alternatives that the government should consider to solve the conflict.

“The territory in which we are is ours because our grandfathers prepared us for it. My grandfather used to tell me that we cannot lose our land because it is what gives us wisdom, strength and life”, argument to IPS the *qom* Amanda Asijak, of the community of Potae Napocna Navolgo (The Spring, in the language of *qom*).

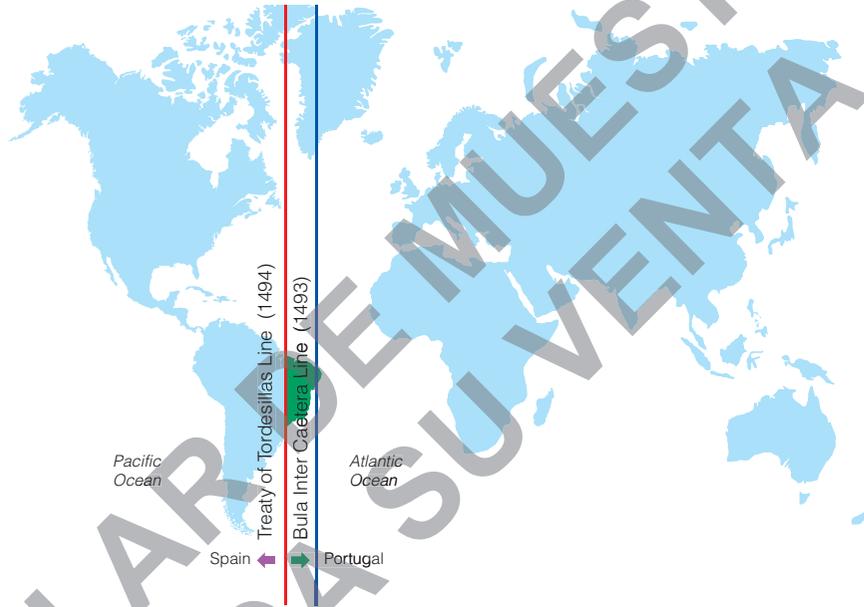
(Source: <http://www.ipsnoticias.net/2015/08/reclamo-indigena-intenta-hacerse-oir-en-capital-argentina/>)

1

KNOW

Tordesillas Treaty

In 1494, the Tordesillas treaty was signed between the Catholic monarchs and the king of Portugal. In the agreement they set the dominions of each empire in the territories of the New World through a division line in the Atlantic Ocean, three hundred and seventy leagues east of the Cape Verde Island. Portugal was assigned the lands of Africa as well as the eastern part of Brazil. The majority of the American lands and the Philippine islands corresponded to the Spanish crown. The treaty lost validity at the end of the 16th century, when Spain controlled the Kingdom of Portugal. In 1750, through the Madrid treaty, the borders of the South American colonies were redefined for both empires.



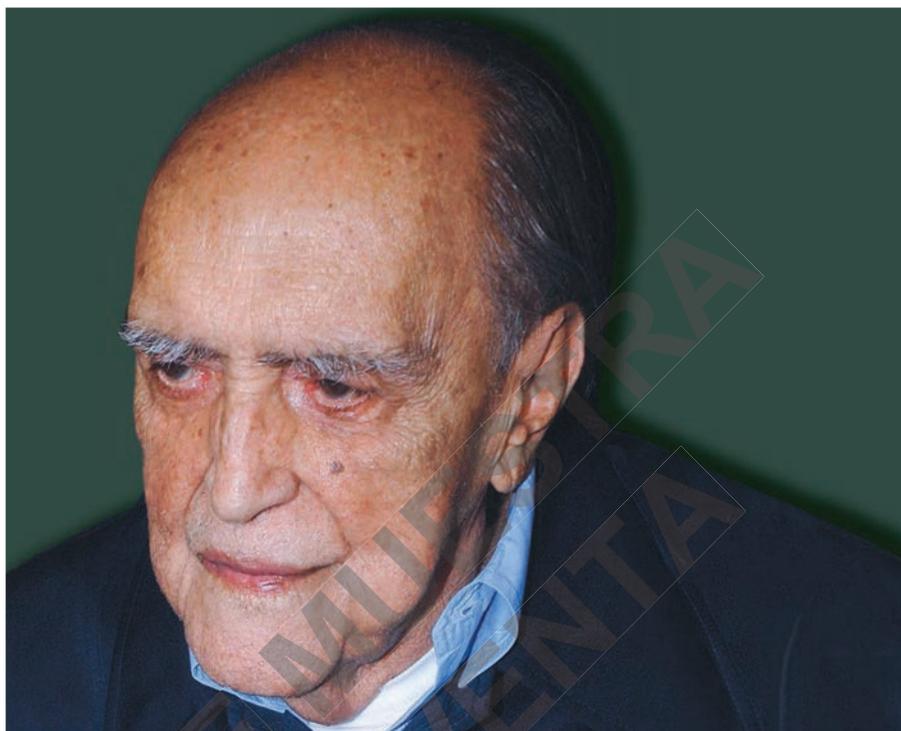
2

ANALYZE

The signing of the Treaty of Tordesillas divided territories between Spain and Portugal. This treaty established an agreement settled to delimit territorial possessions in America. Who pledged to respect the territorial division with the Treaty of Tordesillas? Which were their reasons? Do you consider that the division made with the Treaty of Tordesillas was fair in South America? Explain your answer.



Brasilia's cathedral is one of Niemeyer's largest works.



Oscar Niemeyer

■ Architect ■ Designer ■ Educator ■ Pioneer

Oscar Niemeyer's revolutionary vision in architecture has left a remarkable mark not only in his native country of Brazil, but also around the world.

Born in 1907, in Rio de Janeiro, he was considered one of the founding fathers of modern architecture.

In 1932, he started his professional career in the architecture studio of Lúcio Costa and Carlos Leão and two years later, he achieved the title of architect engineer. When, in 1936, he was requested to design the Education Ministry and Sanitary building of Rio de Janeiro, he began a research to adapt the building to the environment. From that moment he promoted the architectural functionalism, that later made him a visionary and pioneer for solidifying, little by little, the connection between architecture and nature.

Among his main creations you will find, without a doubt, Brasilia, the capital city of Brazil, created along with Lúcio Costa. In 1956, they began the project. Costa designed the blueprint from which the new capital would be built. Niemeyer was in charge of creating the emblematic buildings of the city, which include the outstanding presidential palace, the national congress, the government offices and the cathedral. Some of his international creations are the Haifa University, in Israel; the Mondadori editorial house, in Milan, Italy; and the Brazilian embassy in Havana, Cuba.

ACTIVITIES

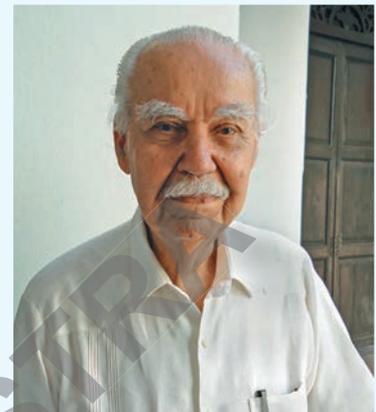
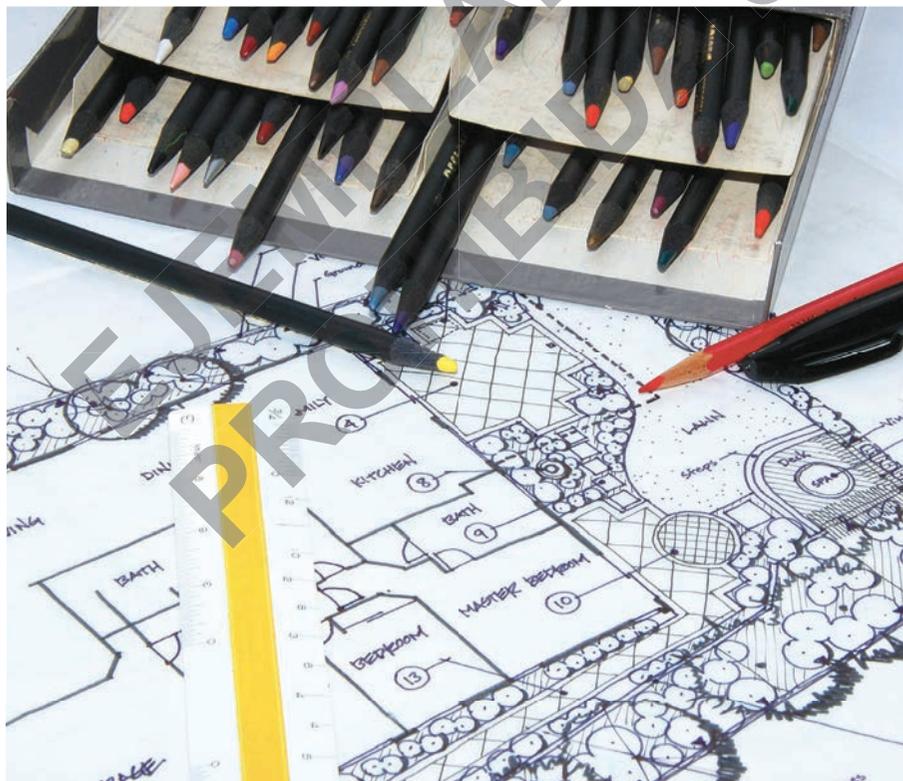
1. Create a list that includes five of the most famous creations of Oscar Niemeyer.
2. Imagine an interview with Oscar Niemeyer. Write five questions you would like to ask him.

Landscape architecture

The history of architecture is as ancient as mankind. The first humans on the Planet had to abandon their natural shelters and started building artificial shelters to create better protection for them. Then, in recent centuries, and with the rapid growth of the population, the need for designing and building structures that took into consideration the space available was generated. Those measures were taken, with the purpose of preserving natural environments.

Landscape architecture or, landscaping, first appeared professionally in the United States by the end of the 19th century and in England, at the beginning of the 20th century. In Latin America, the first type of landscaping took place in Brazil, by the hands of Roberto Murle Marx, in the 40's and 50's. Since then, this profession is still discreetly accessible, but rapidly gaining popularity; especially with all the deterioration caused to the environment, produced in part by urbanization, and industrialization, among other phenomena associated to modern civilizations.

It is for this reason that the preservation of landscapes is more present in architectural practices. Inside landscaping designs, there are a lot of references to the cohesion of art and construction designs, with the preservation and rehabilitation of Earth. It is to say, that you may contemplate the harmony between architectural design, environmental restoration and the urban design that includes parks and recreational areas, among others.



Since 2004 in Puerto Rico, the Ricardo Alegria Architecture medal is granted.



Medal awarded by the College of Architects and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico.

IN GROUPS

1. Name two Puerto Rican architects.
2. Identify three internationally renown architects.
3. Choose a structure that is well known due to its architecture. Write three characteristics that distinguish it.

Travel Guide: Brazil



Location: shares its borders with all South American countries, with the exception of Chile and Ecuador.

Capital: Brasilia

Currency: Brazilian Real

Language: Portuguese is the official language; however, Spanish, English and French are also part of the languages spoken in the country, but to a lesser degree.

Government: Federal Republic. It has three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.

Geography: It is the largest extended territory of South America and the fifth largest country in the world. It is divided in three large topographic units including the Amazonian river, which covers the northern third part of the country.

Population: It ranks fifth in largest population of the world, with 182,032,600 inhabitants.



Ouro Preto

Located in Minas Gerais state, Ouro Preto, in English “black gold”, represents an architectural gem for its picturesque baroque structures and style. Since 1698, Portuguese colonizers established themselves in Ouro Preto, motivated by the gold reserves of its land.



Morro beach of São Paulo

This beautiful beach can be found at the bottom of a hill, on a Brazilian island. A wide sandy shore, and clean crystal-line waters transform it into a natural paradise. On the island you can enjoy different adventure activities, like diving and horseback riding.



RESEARCH

Make a chart and in a column identify ten tourist Brazilian attractions. In the second column, write the city where it is located.

PLAN

Make a list of five places that you would visit in Brazil and put them in order, beginning with the most interesting. Then, explain why you chose them.

SHARE

Join a classmate and exchange lists. Choose a place that is not on your list and talk about it. Share it with the rest of the class.



Capoeira

This artistic expression, created in Brazil, combines martial arts, rhythmical dance and sports. Although its origin can be attributed to the black slaves that came from Africa, that used it to express their emotions in a rebellious manner, the discipline was established in Brazil and it is an important part of its cultural legacy.



The Toucan

It is known as the emblematic bird of the Amazonian jungle. The striking colors and intense singing that can be heard from half a mile away are its distinctive traits. It is said that Amazon natives gave it a sacred meaning, since they believe it is a link between humans and the spirit world.