Regions  Common threads of language and religion unite Latin America. Once claimed as European colonies, Latin American countries today are primarily Roman Catholic, and most still use either Spanish or Portuguese as the official language. These two languages are based on Latin, which is how the region gets its name. **In what ways can language and religion both unite and divide a region?**
Section 1: History and Governments

BIG IDEA All living things are dependent upon one another and their surroundings for survival. Native American civilizations of Latin America developed ways of living that used the resources of their environment. People who lived in different areas depended on trade to obtain the goods they wanted. In colonial times, the people of Latin America exchanged goods with Europeans.

Section 2: Cultures and Lifestyles

BIG IDEA The characteristics and movement of people impact physical and human systems. The different groups who have settled Latin America include Native Americans, Europeans, Africans, and Asians. These groups have influenced the cultures and lifestyles of the region.

Foldables™ Study Organizer

Organizing Information Make this Foldable to help you organize information about the history, peoples, cultures, and daily life of Latin America.

Step 1: Fold a sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Leave a ½-inch tab along the left edge.

Step 2: Cut the top layer only to make four equal tabs.

Step 3: Label the tabs as shown.

Reading and Writing Use the notes in your Foldable to write a short essay that describes the development of the countries and peoples of Latin America.

Social Studies ONLINE

To preview Chapter 8, go to glencoe.com.
Guide to Reading

BIG Idea
All living things are dependent upon one another and their surroundings for survival.

Content Vocabulary
• maize (p. 209)
• jade (p. 209)
• obsidian (p. 209)
• hieroglyphics (p. 209)
• empire (p. 210)
• cash crop (p. 211)
• caudillo (p. 213)
• communist state (p. 215)

Academic Vocabulary
• complex (p. 210)
• transform (p. 211)
• stable (p. 213)
• revolution (p. 215)

Reading Strategy
Identifying Central Issues Use a chart like the one below to organize key facts about the Native American civilizations of the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olmec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toltec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aztec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

History and Governments

Picture This A Mayan village in Guatemala remembers its dead in a spectacular way. For their Day of the Dead celebration—when people remember relatives and friends who have died—villagers create enormous kites of tissue paper, bamboo, and wire. Finished kites can reach 40 feet across! Sailing above local cemeteries, the kites create a symbolic link between the living and the dead. Read this section to learn more about the historical traditions that have shaped Latin America.
Early History

Main Idea  Some Native Americans developed advanced civilizations in the region. Europeans later conquered much of the region and set up colonies.

Geography and You  What sorts of things do you like to read? History books, novels, comics? Read to find out what kinds of things the Maya wrote down.

The first people to arrive in Latin America were the ancestors of today’s Native Americans. They came many thousands of years ago. Some settled and farmed. Eventually, some groups developed advanced civilizations. Figure 1 on the next page shows these Native American civilizations.

Early Native American Civilizations

The Olmec of southern Mexico built Latin America’s first civilization, which lasted from 1500 B.C. to 300 B.C. Each Olmec city focused on a certain activity, and they all depended on one another. Some cities were located near farming areas that grew maize, or corn, as well as squash and beans. Others controlled important mineral resources such as jade, a shiny green semiprecious stone; and obsidian, a hard, black, volcanic glass useful in making weapons. Some cities were religious centers with pyramid-shaped stone temples.

A people called the Maya lived in Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula and surrounding areas between A.D. 300 and A.D. 900. The Maya built huge stone temples in the shape of pyramids with steps. They were skilled at astronomy and used their knowledge of the stars, moon, and planets to develop a calendar. They also had a number system based on 20. Using hieroglyphics (HY-ruh-GLIH-fihks), which is a form of writing that uses signs and symbols, the Maya recorded the history of their kings. About A.D. 900, the Maya civilization mysteriously collapsed. Despite intensive research, historians have not yet been able to determine what happened to the Maya.

Toltec, Aztec, and Inca

As the Maya civilization declined, a people called the Toltec seized what is now northern Mexico. These warriors built the city of Tula, northwest of present-day Mexico City. From Tula, they conquered lands all the way to the Yucatán Peninsula.

Toltec rulers tightly controlled trade. They held a monopoly (muh-NAH-puh-lee), or sole right, to the trade in obsidian. As a result, the Toltec had the most powerful weapons in the surrounding areas. For many years this weaponry gave them the advantage they needed to maintain their rule.

Around A.D. 1200, the Aztec people from the north moved into central Mexico and captured Tula. They adopted Toltec culture, conquered neighboring peoples, and took control of the region’s trade.
Tenochtitlán (tay·NAWCH·teet·LAHN), the Aztec capital, was a beautiful city built on an island in a lake. It held about 250,000 people, which was a large population at that time. Tenochtitlán had huge temples, including one that was more than 100 feet (30 m) tall. Roads and bridges joined the city to the mainland, allowing the Aztec to bring food and other goods to their busy markets. Aztec farmers grew their crops on “floating gardens,” or rafts filled with mud. The rafts eventually sank to the lake bottom and piled up. Over time, many of these rafts formed fertile islands.

During the 1400s, the Inca had a powerful civilization in South America in what is now Peru. Their empire stretched more than 2,500 miles (4,023 km) along the Andes. An empire is a large territory with many different peoples under one ruler. The Inca ruler founded military posts and put in place a complex, or highly developed, system of record keeping. Work crews built irrigation systems, roads, and suspension bridges that linked regions of the empire to Cuzco, the capital. You can still see the remains of magnificent fortresses and buildings erected centuries ago by the skilled Inca builders.

**European Conquests**

In the late 1400s and early 1500s, Spanish explorers arrived in the Americas. They were greatly impressed by the magnificent cities and the great riches of the Native Americans.

In 1519 a Spanish army led by Hernán Cortés landed on Mexico’s Gulf coast.
He and about 600 soldiers marched to Tenochtitlán, which they had heard was filled with gold. Some Native Americans who opposed the harsh rule of the Aztec joined forces with the Spanish. The Aztec’s simple weapons were no match for the guns, cannons, and horses of the Spanish. The Spanish also had the help of unknown allies—germs that carried diseases, such as measles and smallpox. These diseases killed more Aztec than did the Spanish weapons. Within two years, Cortés’s conquest of the Aztec was complete.

Another Spanish explorer named Francisco Pizarro desired the Inca’s gold and silver. In 1532 Pizarro took a small group of Spanish soldiers to South America. The Spanish attacked the Inca with cannons and swords. Pizarro captured the Inca ruler and had him killed. The Inca had already been weakened by smallpox and other European diseases. After the death of their ruler, the Inca soldiers collapsed into disorder. Pizarro then quickly conquered the Inca Empire.

**Colonial Latin America**

The Aztec and Inca conquests provided Spain with enormous wealth and control over vast territories. Spain then built an empire that included much of South America, the Caribbean, Middle America, and parts of the present-day United States. Other European countries wanted the same power and influence that Spain had achieved. So, these countries seized different parts of the Americas. Portugal became the colonial ruler of what is today Brazil. France, Britain, and the Netherlands took control of some Caribbean areas and parts of North America.

European rule transformed, or greatly changed, the populations of these lands. Europeans settled the land, set up colonial governments, and spread Christianity among the Native Americans. They also used Native Americans as workers to grow cash crops, or farm products grown for export.

When hardship and disease greatly reduced the numbers of Native Americans, Europeans brought enslaved Africans to meet the labor shortage. A busy trade eventually resulted. Ships carried enslaved people from Africa and manufactured goods from Europe to the Americas. On the return trip, products including sugar, cotton, tobacco, gold, and silver went from the Americas to Europe. Despite European control, many Native American and African ways survived, leading to a blending of cultures.
Main Idea  Most of Latin America gained independence in the 1800s, but hardships followed for many of the new nations.

Geography and You  Suppose you have just been elected class president. What challenges would you face? Read to find out what challenges faced new governments in Latin America.

In the late 1700s, revolutions in North America and France stirred the people of Latin America to action. Colonists tried to take charge of their own affairs. While European colonists called for self-rule, Native Americans and enslaved Africans wanted freedom from mistreatment and slavery.

Independence  
Latin America’s first successful revolt against European rule took place in Haiti, a territory located on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. There, enslaved Africans under François-Dominique Toussaint-Louverture began a revolt that threw off French rule in 1804. Haiti, which was established as a republic, became the only nation ever created as a result of a successful revolt by enslaved people.

In Spanish and Portuguese Latin America, the fight for freedom increased in the next decade. In Mexico, two Catholic priests, Miguel Hidalgo and José María Morelos, urged poorer Mexicans to fight for freedom from Spanish rule. Both men were defeated and executed.

Despite many battles, Mexicans did not gain their independence until 1821. After a short period of rule under an emperor, Mexico became a republic in 1823. That same year, the countries of Central America won their freedom from Spain.

In northern South America, a wealthy military leader named Simón Bolívar (see-MOHN buh-LEE-vahr) led the fight for independence. In 1819 Bolívar defeated the Spanish and won freedom for the present-day countries of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia.

While Bolívar fought for self-rule in the north, a soldier named José de San Martín (hoh-SAY day san mahr-TEEN) was fighting for freedom in the south. In 1817 San Martín led his army from Argentina across the Andes Mountains and into Chile. Although the crossing was difficult, San Martín was able to take Spanish forces by surprise, and

History at a Glance

1250

- c. 1200 Aztec settle in central Mexico

1400

- c. 1400 Inca Empire expands in South America

1550

- 1521 Cortés conquers the Aztec
- Atahuallpa, last Inca ruler
he began winning battles. A few years later, the armies of San Martín and Bolívar jointly defeated Spanish forces in Peru.

**Political and Economic Challenges**

By the end of 1824, all of Spain’s colonies in Latin America had won their independence. The 1820s also saw Brazil break away from Portugal without bloodshed. Brazil was the only independent monarchy in Latin America before becoming a republic in 1889.

After winning independence, many of the new Latin American countries passed laws that ended slavery. Some people of African descent made economic and political gains. However, they generally did not have the advantages of Latin Americans of European background. On the other hand, African Latin Americans were better off than Native Americans, most of whom lived in poverty.

Although independent, many Latin American nations hoped their countries would become stable, or secure, democracies with prosperous economies. Because of a variety of problems, these goals proved hard to reach.

One major problem was frequent political conflict. Latin Americans quarreled over the role of religion in their society. Individual countries fought over boundary lines, and tensions developed between the rich and poor.

Meanwhile, strong leaders made it difficult for democracy and prosperity to develop. These leaders were known as caudillos (kow·THEE·yohs). Caudillos were usually high-ranking military officers or rich men supported by the upper class. They often ruled as dictators. Some built roads, schools, and new cities.

Many caudillos, however, favored the wealthy over the poor. Wealthy Latin Americans owned almost all of the land. The caudillos did nothing to help workers in the countryside. The workers remained landless and struggled to make a living.

**Exporting Products**

During the late 1800s, Latin America’s economy depended on agriculture and mining. At this time, the United States and other industrial countries in Europe began to demand more of Latin America’s food products and mineral resources. Businesspeople from these outside countries set up companies throughout Latin America. The companies exported Latin American products such as bananas, sugar, coffee, copper, and oil.
As the number of exports rose, some Latin American countries chose to grow only one or two key products. Prices and profits increased as a result, but a decline in demand had serious effects. Prices dropped, and people lost income and jobs.

Despite the problems it caused, Latin America’s dependence on exports also brought benefits. Foreign investors built ports, roads, and railroads. Cities grew in size and population, and a middle class of lawyers, teachers, and businesspeople formed. Nevertheless, the wealthy still held the power.

The United States and Latin America

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the United States increased its political influence in Latin America. In 1898 the United States and Spain fought a war over Spanish-ruled Cuba. Spain was defeated, and Cuba became a republic under U.S. protection. The United States also gained control of the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico.

In 1903 the United States helped Panama win its freedom from Colombia. In return, Panama allowed the United States to build the Panama Canal. Over the next 25 years, American troops landed in Haiti, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic to protect U.S. political and economic interests.

Many Latin Americans distrusted the United States because of its great wealth and power. They thought the United States might try to control them as their former rulers had. To improve relations, the United States announced the Good Neighbor Policy toward Latin America in the 1930s. Under this policy, the United States promised not to send military forces to Latin America. It also pledged a greater respect for the rights of Latin American countries.

Modern Times

In the mid-1900s, agriculture was still important in Latin America, but many industries had developed there as well. To encourage economic growth, Latin American leaders borrowed heavily from banks in the United States and other countries. As a result, Latin America owed large sums of money to other parts of the world. The increasing debt seriously weakened Latin American economies. Prices rose, wages fell, and people lost jobs.

Dissatisfied political and social groups in some countries rebelled against leaders who ruled ruthlessly or were in power too long.
For example, in 1959 a young lawyer named Fidel Castro carried out a revolution, or a sudden, violent change of government, in Cuba. Instead of favoring democracy, Castro set up a communist state, in which the government controlled the economy and society.

At the same time, other countries were divided by civil wars among political, ethnic, or social groups. In El Salvador, fighters supported by Castro battled government troops armed by the United States. Thousands of people died before a settlement ended the fighting.

Difficult economic and political reforms made during the 1980s helped strengthen many Latin American countries. These changes were often very harsh, which turned many Latin Americans against dictators. During the 1990s, democratic movements succeeded in several countries.

Today’s Latin American governments face many challenges. Population is growing rapidly, but resources are limited. Growing trade in illegal drugs has increased crime and corruption. Differences between rich and poor still create social tensions. In the early 2000s, angry voters in Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, and Chile elected new leaders. These leaders promised significant changes that would weaken the power of the wealthy and benefit the poor.

**Analyzing Information**

Why were economies in Latin America hurt by focusing on one or two products?

**Vocabulary**

1. Explain the significance of:
   - a. maize
   - b. jade
   - c. obsidian
   - d. hieroglyphics
   - e. empire
   - f. cash crop
   - g. caudillo
   - h. communist state

**Main Ideas**

2. **Comparing and Contrasting** Use a Venn diagram like the one below to show similarities and differences between the Aztec and Inca civilizations.

   ![Venn Diagram]

3. **Explaining** What was the social status of African Americans and Native Americans in the newly independent countries of Latin America?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Drawing Conclusions** How did European colonial rule change the populations of the region?

5. **Big Idea** How were the economies of Latin American colonies and European countries connected by trade?

6. **Challenge** Write a paragraph explaining whether you think U.S. involvement in Latin America has helped or hurt the region.

**Writing About Geography**

7. **Using Your Foldables** Use your Foldable to write a paragraph that explains how political unrest in much of Latin America can be tied to social and economic challenges in the region.
The Pan-American Highway extends from Alaska to the tip of South America. The road stops short in Panama, at Darien National Park. In Colombia, the road starts again, where it continues for the length of South America. Roads have not been built through the Darien Gap because of its unique environment. Supporters of a road believe that it will help the region’s economy and that the rain forest can still be preserved. Others, however, think that the forest could be lost forever.

**Construction**

I cannot understand why, having [come] to the end of the twentieth century and beginning of the twenty-first, we still have no Pan-American Highway. . . . We are behind in identifying the point in the Darien where the highways should interconnect. And they must first be built. The ecological issue must be confronted realistically. It is easier to safeguard our ecology by opening up the avenues so that we can watch over it than to keep that ecology hidden, just to wake up and suddenly find that it has been destroyed.

—Álvaro Uribe Vélez
President of the Republic of Colombia
I get very angry, seeing how the Panamanian economy . . . places value on felled trees and does not recognize the terrible damage to an area suffering constant deforestation. . . . One of the most comforting and encouraging sights that you can see today in the Darien is the presence of eco-tourists. . . . The worst enemy of a rain forest is the road. . . .

We should look at the Darien rain forest as a highly productive mine of eco-dollars. That is really the value of it. . . . If the Darien were to be lost, Panama would lose its soul, because nature is the base of everything.

—Hernan Arauz
Panamanian naturalist guide

You Be the Geographer

1. **Analyzing** What argument does Vélez make for building the highway?
2. **Critical Thinking** What does Arauz claim is an encouraging sight in the Darien Gap? Why do you think he feels that way?
3. **Read to Write** Write a paragraph describing how a road might benefit trade between North America and South America.
The characteristics and movement of people impact physical and human systems.

**Content Vocabulary**
- migration (p. 219)
- mestizo (p. 221)
- pidgin language (p. 221)
- carnival (p. 224)
- mural (p. 224)

**Academic Vocabulary**
- element (p. 219)
- comment (p. 224)
- style (p. 224)

**Reading Strategy**

**Summarizing** Use a diagram like the one below to summarize the cultures of Latin America by adding one or more facts to each of the outer boxes.

---

**Picture This** Teenage girls celebrate their African heritage during Trinidad’s Children’s Carnival Competition. Carnival is celebrated in the days before Lent begins. Lent is a time of prayer and fasting in the Roman Catholic Church. During Carnival, both young people and adults dress in costumes. Costumes include characters from nursery rhymes and movie superheroes. As you read this section, you will learn about the different cultures of the people of Latin America.
The People

Main Idea Latin Americans come from a variety of cultures, but many share common characteristics.

Geography and You Does anyone in your neighborhood speak a foreign language? Read to discover the mix of languages and cultures in Latin America.

Latin Americans come from many different backgrounds. Native Americans, Europeans, Africans, and others all have left their mark. Most Latin Americans today practice the Roman Catholic faith and speak either Spanish or Portuguese.

Population Patterns

Latin America has a high population growth rate. The region’s highest birthrates are in Central America, except for Costa Rica, whose birthrate is relatively low. As a result, the Central American countries are growing most quickly in population. In fact, Guatemala and Honduras are expected to double in population by 2050.

Latin America’s varied climates and landscapes affect where people live. Temperature extremes, rain forests, deserts, and mountains are common in many parts of Latin America. In these areas, harsh living conditions and poor soil limit where people live. As a result, most Latin Americans live in more favorable climates along the coasts of South America or in an area reaching from Mexico into Central America. These areas provide fertile land and easy access to transportation.

Migration

Migration, or the movement of people, has greatly shaped Latin America’s population. In the past, Europeans, Africans, and Asians came to Latin America in large numbers, either willingly or by force. Today, people from places as far away as Korea and Syria come to Latin America looking for jobs or personal freedom.

In addition to people immigrating into the region, some leave Latin America for other parts of the world. Many Latin Americans move north to the United States to escape political unrest or to find a better way of life. Some go through the process of legally entering the United States, while others enter illegally. All of these new arrivals bring elements, or parts, of their culture with them. Most stay in close contact with family and friends in their home countries. Many also plan to return when economic conditions in their home countries improve.
Latin Americans also move within their country or the region. As in many parts of the world, Latin America’s rural areas have increased greatly in population. In certain areas, this growth has resulted in a shortage of fertile land. Smaller farms cannot always support large families. People often leave to find jobs elsewhere, usually in cities. The result is urbanization, or the movement of people from the countryside to the cities.

**Growth of Cities**

In the past, most Latin Americans lived in the countryside and worked the land. Today most of them live in rapidly growing cities. Some of the largest urban areas in the world are in Latin America, including Mexico City, Mexico; São Paulo (sow POW-loo) and Rio de Janeiro (REE-oow deezhay-NAY-roo) in Brazil; and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The number of urban dwellers, however, varies throughout the region. In South America, about 80 percent of people live in cities—about the same as in the United States. In Central America and the Caribbean, only about 65 percent of people are urban dwellers.

Most Latin Americans leave villages for the cities to find better jobs, schools, housing, and health care. In many cases, people do not find what they seek. As city populations grow, jobs and housing become scarce. At the same time, rural dwellers often lack the education and skills to find good jobs. There have been too few schools and health care centers to serve the growing number of city dwellers. Unable to return to the countryside, many people have been forced by poverty to live in crowded neighborhoods with poor housing, lack of sanitation, and rising crime.

**Ethnic Groups and Languages**

Latin America’s people include Native Americans, Europeans, Africans, Asians, and mixtures of these groups. The blend of ethnic groups varies from area to area.

Most of Latin America’s Native Americans live in Mexico, Central America, and the Andes countries of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Great Native American empires thrived in these places before Europeans arrived there. Today, Native Americans work to keep their languages and traditions alive while adopting features of other cultures.

Since the 1400s, millions of Europeans have settled in Latin America. Most settlers have been Spanish or Portuguese. Over the
years, other Europeans—Italians, British, French, and Germans—have come as well. In the 1800s, many Spanish and Italian immigrants settled in Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile. As a result, these three nations today are mainly populated by people of European descent.

African Latin Americans form a high percentage of the populations in the Caribbean islands and northeastern Brazil. They are descended from enslaved Africans whom Europeans brought as laborers during colonial days. Over the years, Africans have added their rich cultural influences to the food, music, and arts of Latin America.

Large Asian populations live in the Caribbean islands and some countries of South America. Most Asians came during the 1800s to work as temporary laborers. They remained and formed ethnic communities. In Guyana about one-half of the population is of South Asian or Southeast Asian ancestry. Many people of Chinese descent make their homes in Peru, Mexico, and Cuba. About 1 million people of Japanese descent live in Brazil, making Brazil home to the largest number of Japanese in one place outside of Japan.

Over the centuries, there has been a blending of the different ethnic groups throughout Latin America. In countries such as Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, and Colombia, mestizos, or people of mixed Native American and European descent, make up the largest part of the population. In Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil, people of mixed African and European descent form a large percentage of the population.

Because Spain once ruled most of Latin America, Spanish is the most widely spoken language in the region. In Brazil, which was once a colony of Portugal, most people speak Portuguese. Native American languages are still spoken in many countries. For example, Quechua (KEH-chuh-wuh), spoken centuries ago by the Inca, is an official language of Peru and Bolivia. In the Caribbean, where the British and French once ruled many islands, English and French are widely spoken. In some countries, people have developed a pidgin language by combining parts of different languages. An example is Creole, spoken in Haiti. Most Creole words are from French, but sentence structure, or organization, reflects African languages.

Analyzing What challenges do Latin America’s growing cities face?
The Hard-Hearted Son

Mexican Folktale

There was an old couple who had a married son. They were very poor, and one day they went to visit their son to see if he would give them some corn and ask them to dinner. His corn bins were full, and his table was laid out with many good things. For dessert there was candy in a large dish made of crystal.

When he saw his parents coming, he told his wife, “There come those old people! Put the cover on the candy dish and hide the food, so we won’t have to ask them to dinner.”

The wife did so, and when his parents came in and saw it all, they asked their son for a few handfuls of corn. But he told them he didn’t have anything, that he hadn’t harvested his crop yet. “It’s all right,” his parents said. “God bless you and give you more.” And they left.

When [the son and his wife] sat down to dinner, they found the food had spoiled. The man went to his corn bins and found it all eaten by weevils. He came back, and when he was going to eat the candy, a serpent came out and wound itself about his neck and strangled him.

It [wasn’t] his parents’ curse; rather, [it was] a punishment for his greed and hard-heartedness.

Daily Life

Main Idea  Many aspects of daily life in Latin America reflect the region’s blend of cultures.

Geography and You  Do you enjoy eating tomatoes, potatoes, and chocolate? These foods were first eaten in Latin America. Read to find out about other features of Latin American daily life.

Religion and family play an important role in Latin American life. The region’s history and politics are reflected in celebrations and art.

Religion

Religion has long played an important role in Latin American cultures. During colonial times, most Latin Americans became Christians, and Christianity still has the most followers. Roman Catholics form the largest Christian group. In recent years, however, Protestant missionaries have encouraged many people to convert, or to change their beliefs, to Protestant forms of Christianity.

Other faiths are also practiced in the region. For example, many traditional Native American and African religions thrive, often mixed with Christianity and other faiths. Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, brought by Asian immigrants, are practiced in the Caribbean region and coastal areas of South America. Judaism has followers in the largest Latin American cities.

Family

Family life is important in Latin America. Often several generations live together, and adults are expected to care for their aged parents. Adult brothers and sisters often live near each other, and their children—who are cousins—can form close relationships. Traditionally, the father is the family leader and the chief decision maker. In some parts of the Caribbean, however, the mother is the leader of the family.

Recreation and Celebrations

Most Latin Americans are devoted sports fans. Soccer is popular throughout the region, and Brazil and Argentina have produced outstanding players and world championship teams. Cuba was the second country in the world—after the United States—to play baseball. This sport has taken hold throughout the Caribbean, Central America, and northern South America. Several countries have their own leagues, and many skilled players have gone to play in the United States. In Caribbean countries that were once ruled by the British, cricket is a favorite sport.
Religious and patriotic holidays are celebrated throughout Latin America. Each spring, many countries hold a large festival called carnival on the last day before the Christian holy period called Lent. The celebration is marked by singing, dancing, and parades. The Carnival held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is famous for its color and excitement. On the Mexican holiday known as the Day of the Dead, people honor family members who have died.

Feasting is an important part of Latin American celebrations. The foods of Latin America blend the traditions of the region’s many peoples. Corn and beans—crops grown by Native Americans since ancient times—are important in Mexico and Central America. Beans and rice are a standard meal in the islands of the Caribbean and in Brazil. Fresh fish from the sea is also popular in those areas. Beef is the national dish in Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile.

The Arts
Culture in Latin America shows the influence of its ethnic mix. Cuban music is famous for its use of African rhythms. During the 1930s, Mexican artists, such as Diego Rivera, painted murals, or large paintings on walls, that recall the artistic traditions of the ancient Maya and Aztec. In Latin America, many writers have used their work to comment on, or talk about, social and political conflicts.

Latin American artists have influenced those in other countries. The music of Cuba and Brazil has shaped American jazz. Latin American writers of the late 1900s invented a style, or form, of writing called magic realism that combined fantastic events with the ordinary. This style was adopted by European and Asian writers.
Native American Civilizations
- The Olmec built the first civilization in Latin America.
- The Maya created a calendar and a complex number system.
- The Aztec set up a large empire in central Mexico.
- The Inca developed a network of roads to unite their territories.

Colonial Rule
- Spanish explorers conquered the Aztec and Inca Empires.
- Spain and Portugal ruled most of Latin America from the 1500s to the early 1800s.
- Colonial rule brought a mixing of different cultures.

Forming New Nations
- Most Latin American countries achieved independence during the 1800s.
- Dictators, the military, or wealthy groups ruled Latin American countries, while most people remained poor and powerless.
- Many Latin American countries developed more democratic systems in the 1900s.

People
- About 80 percent of South Americans live in urban areas.
- Most people in Latin America are of European, Native American, or African background.
- Most Latin Americans speak Spanish or Portuguese, and most practice the Roman Catholic faith.

Culture
- Family life is important to most Latin Americans.
- Soccer and baseball are major sports in Latin America.
- Food, arts, and music reflect the diverse ethnic mixture of the region.
- Religious and patriotic holidays are important throughout Latin America.

Study anywhere, anytime! Download quizzes and flash cards to your PDA from glencoe.com.
CHAPTER 8

STANDARDIZED TEST PRACTICE

TEST-TAKING TIP
On answer sheets for standardized tests, neatly print information, such as your name, and carefully fill in ovals.

Reviewing Vocabulary
Directions: Choose the word(s) that best completes the sentence.

1. The Olmec made weapons with a volcanic glass called ______.
   A jade
   B obsidian
   C maize
   D copper

2. The Inca of Peru established an ______ in the Andes.
   A empire
   B caudillo
   C communist state
   D Good Neighbor Policy

3. Creole is an example of a ______.
   A mestizo
   B cash crop
   C hieroglyphic
   D pidgin language

4. In Mexico, some artists painted ______, or large paintings on walls, recalling the artistic traditions of the Maya and Aztec.
   A mestizos
   B carnivals
   C murals
   D caudillos

Reviewing Main Ideas
Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

Section 1 (pp. 208–215)

5. The Maya built their civilization in an area that is known today as ______.
   A Brazil
   B the Caribbean
   C central Mexico
   D the Yucatán Peninsula

6. What happened because Latin American leaders borrowed heavily from United States banks in the mid-1900s?
   A Wages fell and people lost jobs.
   B Prices in their countries dropped.
   C Latin economies became stronger.
   D American troops landed in Nicaragua.

Section 2 (pp. 218–224)

7. ______ is populated mainly by people of European descent.
   A Bolivia
   B Ecuador
   C Guatemala
   D Argentina

8. In ______, Quechua is an official language.
   A Peru
   B Brazil
   C Honduras
   D El Salvador
Critical Thinking

Directions: Base your answers to questions 9 and 10 on the table below and your knowledge of Chapter 8. Choose the best answer for each question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internet and Cell Phone Users in Central America</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Internet Users</th>
<th>Cell Phone Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>287,730</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>93,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>7,326,496</td>
<td>223,000</td>
<td>1,282,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>12,293,545</td>
<td>756,000</td>
<td>3,168,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>4,075,261</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,101,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Divide the population by the number of cell phone users to find out the number of people per cell phone in each country. Which country has the fewest cell phones in proportion to its population?
   A. Belize
   B. Honduras
   C. Guatemala
   D. Costa Rica

10. Divide the number of Internet users by the population. Which country has the most Internet users in proportion to its population?
    A. Belize
    B. Honduras
    C. Guatemala
    D. Costa Rica

Document-Based Questions

Directions: Analyze the following document and answer the short-answer questions that follow.

The following passage is by a Catholic priest who came to the Yucatán Peninsula in the 1560s.

The following passage is by a Catholic priest who came to the Yucatán Peninsula in the 1560s.

Before the Spaniards subdued [overcame] the country the Indians lived together in well ordered communities; they kept the ground in excellent condition, free from noxious [harmful] vegetation and planted with fine trees. The habitation was as follows: in the center of the town were the temples, with beautiful plazas, and around the temples stood the houses of the chiefs and the priests, and next those of the leading men. Closest to these came the houses of those who were wealthiest and most [respected], and at the borders of the town were the houses of the common people. The wells, where they were few, were near the houses of the chiefs; their plantations were set out in the trees for making wine, and sown with cotton, pepper and maize. They lived in these communities for fear of their enemies, lest [for fear that] they be taken in captivity; but after the wars with the Spaniards they dispersed [scattered] through the forests.

—Friar Diego de Landa,
Yucatán Before and After the Conquest

11. How did the friar feel about the Indian communities? Explain your answer.

12. How did conquest by the Spaniards affect communities in the Yucatán Peninsula?

Extended Response


Stop

Social Studies ONLINE
For additional test practice, use Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 8 at glencoe.com.
“Hello! My name is Miguel.

I’m 14 years old and I live in San Cristóbal Ecatepec, a town near Mexico City, the capital of Mexico. I live in a small house with my mother, sister, and grandmother. Read about my day.”

**6:15 a.m.** I wake up and get dressed then have breakfast with my family. This morning, my two young cousins come over to eat with us. We have quesadillas, which are corn tortillas with melted cheese. My grandmother also puts out a plate of bananas and papayas.

**6:45 a.m.** I comb my hair, brush my teeth, and put my books in my backpack. It’s time to leave for school, even though it’s still pretty dark outside. I walk to school with my sister, Areli (ah•ray•LEE).

**7:00 a.m.** The sun is starting to come up as we arrive at José María Morelos y Pavón Middle School. The school is named for a famous leader in Mexico’s struggle for independence from Spain. (We have learned about him in history class!)

**7:10 a.m.** During a short recess, I sit outside and talk with my friends Alejandra, Ismael, and José.

**7:45 a.m.** It is time for my least favorite class—math. Today, though, I get a break. The local police visit our school to lead an assembly on crime prevention. They talk to us about staying safe and drug-free.

**8:45 a.m.** In physical education class, we play fútbol, or soccer. Then I move on to music, where I practice my skills on the recorder. I am learning to play a song from a musical.

**10:30 a.m.** I change clothes and feed my dogs. Then I help my grandmother with lunch. I squeeze oranges for juice while she makes chicken and rice. My mom comes home for lunch from her job as a secretary.

**10:45 a.m.** I go to history class, then to Spanish. I am working hard for a good grade in both classes. In Mexico, we are graded on a 10-point scale. A passing grade is a 6 or higher.

**12:45 p.m.** It is time for my elective class—family values. It’s about respecting family and friends, and doing community volunteer work.

**1:00 p.m.** The school day is over. While I walk home, I chat with my dad on my cell phone. He and my mother are separated, so he does not live with us. I see him often though.

**1:10 p.m.** I go back home and play soccer outside with my cousins. Then I start my homework.

**4:30 p.m.** I go back home and play soccer outside with my cousins. Then I start my homework.

**4:30 p.m.** I go back home and play soccer outside with my cousins. Then I start my homework.

**6:30 p.m.** For dinner, we have pollo con mole. It is chicken in a delicious black sauce made with chocolate and spices. Later, I watch some TV (I like to watch reality shows).

**10:00 p.m.** I am tired, so I go to bed.

**WHAT'S THE WORD?** Miguel works on a team project in Spanish class.

**MAKING MUSIC** Miguel plays the recorder in music class. He also knows how to play the flute.

**AT HOME** Miguel, his sister, cousins, and grandmother spend time together.

Adriana Zehbrauskas/Polaris
FROM A STUDENT IN MEXICO

What’s Popular in Mexico

Murals Mexico’s early inhabitants, the ancient Maya, painted scenes from their daily lives on rock walls. Today, large murals or wall paintings are still a popular art form.

Turning 15 In Mexican tradition, a girl’s fifteenth birthday calls for a special celebration. The event is called quince años, or “fifteen years.”

Mariachi music Lively mariachi bands often play at Mexican festivals and weddings. The musicians play violins, guitars, and trumpets and often dress like traditional Mexican cowboys called charros.

Say It in Spanish

There are still several native Indian languages spoken in Mexico, but the national language is Spanish. It was brought to Mexico in the sixteenth century by Spanish settlers. Try these everyday Spanish expressions.

Hello
Hola (oh-lah)

Good-bye
Adios (ah-dee-ohs)

My name is _______.
Me llamo (may YAH-moh) _______.

ALL SMILES In his spare time, Miguel Rodriguez (mee-GELL rod-REE-guez) helps care for his uncle’s roosters.