South America

Unit 3
Textbook pages. 272-371
Section 1: Chapter Atlas
South America Vocabulary

- **Cordilleras**: chain of a mountain
- **Llanos**: lowland plains in Colombia and Venezuela
- **Ecosystem**: plants and animals that depend on each other for survival
- **Terraced farming**: sculpting the hillside into different levels for crops
Learning Target

I can identify and describe Caribbean South America using criteria related to landform, climate, population, culture, and economies.
Key Ideas

- A variety of landforms characterizes Caribbean South America.
- Some nations in the region enjoy many natural resources, such as oil.
- Population density varies dramatically in this region of diverse ethnic groups.
Physical Features

- Colombia
  - Andes Mountains extend up the west coast
    - Split into 3 ranges, known as cordilleras.
    - The central range is volcanic and has fertile soil for growing coffee plants.
  - On the eastern side of the Andes, there are lowland plains, or Llanos in Colombia and Venezuela
  - In the southeastern corner of Colombia, the Amazon rainforest creeps over the corner from Brazil
- The Eastern coastline has mangrove swamps and salt water grasses.
Climate

- Climates vary from tropical wet to tropical wet and dry to semi-arid to arid maritime.
- The hottest temperatures are found in Northern Colombia and Venezuela.
- The climate varies in the Andes because of the differences in elevation. Higher up = cooler air
Ecosystems

- Animals and plants depend on each other in an ecosystem.
- Unique species of plants and animals thrive in rainforests in Colombia.
- In the Llanos, there are grasslands and wetlands that supports many different kinds of plants and animals.
  - Capybaras (large rodents) feed on plants
  - Anacondas prey on capybaras
People and the Landscape

- Most European settlement was along the coast and river valleys.
- Settlers were attracted to the coastal areas and highlands because the climate and landscape are hospitable and easier to reach than those of interior regions.
Where People Live

- Most people live in cities.
- Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, is the largest city in the region.
- In Colombia, most people live in the higher, cooler elevations of the Andes.
How People Use Their Land

- Along the eastern coastal plain sugar cane, bananas, and rice are grown.
- Coffee is grown in rich soil, high rainfall, and warm climate.
- In the mountains, people gain flat land through terraced farming.
A Diverse Population

- Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans live in Caribbean South America.
  - Dances show influence of culture mixing
  - Cricket and baseball
  - Traditions like carnival
A Caribbean Cruise Activity- See assignment handout for details.
Assessment Questions

Textbook p. 289 # 1-5 on loose leaf
1. Use cordillera, Llanos, ecosystem, terraced farming to describe Caribbean South America.

The cordilleras break into 3 mountain ranges in Colombia. Llanos and lowlands in Colombia and Venezuela. Ecosystems in this area are diverse. Farmers use terraced farming to support crops on hills.
2. What are some features shared by all nations in this region?

- Tropical wet and dry climates
- Diverse wildlife and plants
- Diverse population
3. What are some natural resources in this region?

Oil, minerals, fertile soil.
4. Where does most of the population live in Caribbean South America?

Along the coast and in the highlands
5. Look at the population map. What factors explain these settlement patterns?

People settle in more hospitable climates of the highlands and coastal areas.
Section 2: History of Caribbean South America
South America Vocabulary

- **El Dorado**: Legendary gold-rich region
- **Caudillos**: chief or dictator
- **Paramilitaries**: private army unauthorized by the government
- **Nationalized**: government taking ownership of a company
Learning Target

I can identify ways in which European colonization changed human and physical geography of Caribbean South America.
Key Ideas

- Colonization by European nations changed the physical and human geography of Caribbean South America.
- Simon Bolivar’s campaigns liberated what are now Venezuela and Colombia.
- Political tensions and conflicts have often troubled Caribbean South America.
El Dorado

- Soldiers, missionaries, and gold hunters arrived in Caribbean South America in the 1500s.
- Spanish soldiers searched for gold based on a story about El Dorado— the legendary gold rich kingdom.
Cultures Collide

Spanish people came to Caribbean South America

- Some came looking for gold and treasure
- Some came to establish settlements.

The Spanish start importing slaves because they killed off so many Native Americans through mistreatment and disease, that they needed another source of cheap labor.

- English and Dutch pirates threatened trading posts and settlements along the easternmost coast of the Caribbean.
The Fight for Independence

- Colonists wanted independence from Spain.
  - Colonists wanted to trade with other nations around the world.
  - Colonists wanted to self-rule.
- The rebels found the great leader, Simon Bolivar, who swore not to rest until they gained independence.
After Independence

- The new nations faced economic problems after independence.
  - Economies were weak and dictators ruled.
  - One or two product economies were vulnerable to price changes.
- Oil discovery led to an economic boom.
  - Venezuela has nationalized the oil industry and helped use oil revenues to fund social programs.
- Conflicts between rebels and paramilitary groups come from the legacy of few people controlling land and power.
Shipwreck Discovery

You are an archaeologist who has the job of analyzing the cargo of a shipwreck from the Caribbean coast. You will use information to determine where and when the ship got its cargo. See assignment for details.
Assessment Questions:
Textbook p. 293 # 1,2,3,7
1. Use Eldorado, caudillo, paramilitary, and nationalized to describe the region.

- The myth of El Dorado fueled gold lust.
- After independence, caudillos rose to power.
- Paramilitary groups fought left-wing rebels.
- The Venezuelan government nationalized the oil industry.
2. What changes did Europeans bring to the region?

European diseases killed many Native Americans. Europeans forced Native Americans to work in mines and plantations. Europeans imported slaves.
3. Who liberated the colonies in Caribbean South America?

Simon Bolivar, along with many patriots, freed the colonies.
7. What modern conflicts in Caribbean South America have their roots in colonial history?

Conflicts between rebels and paramilitary groups come from the legacy of few people controlling land and power.
Section 3: Caribbean South America Today
Key Ideas:

- Caribbean South America is ethnically diverse.
- Some countries in the region have important reserves of oil and gas.
- Countries in the region struggle with environmental and political problems.
Learning Target

I can describe the cultural diversity of Caribbean South America today.
South America Vocabulary

- **Latin America**: describes the areas of the Americas influenced by the cultures of Spain, France, or Portugal--people speak Spanish, a language derived from Latin.
- **Subsidence**: sinking of the ground
- **Insurgents**: rebels fighting a civil war
Diverse Cultures

● The region of Caribbean South America is culturally diverse.
  ○ Guyana and Suriname: influences of Europe and Asia
  ○ Colombia and Venezuela: Spanish influences.
● Colombia and Venezuela are called Latin American countries because people there speak Spanish, a language derived from Latin.
● Major ethnic groups in this region are Spanish, French, English, Indian, African, and also Native American and Asian.
Environmental Problems

- All countries in Caribbean South America share the environmental problem of deforestation.
- Commercial farming causes pesticide contamination.
- Oil processing can cause pollution and land subsidence.
- To help these issues, governments are working on reforestation, conservation, and establishing reserves.
Governments and Conflicts

- Most nations in the region suffer from various tensions and conflict
- Ethnic tensions trouble eastern parts of the region.
- In Colombia, the government has been fighting a civil war against insurgents for decades.
  - The United States is helping restore order.
Economies

- Caribbean South America is trying to diversify, or change its economies.
  - Venezuela is dependent on oil exports, but is trying to create tourist industries.
Chapter Review

Textbook p. 306 #1-8, 12, 13, 16, 17
p. 307 #1-2

on loose leaf; in complete sentences
1. Through which countries do the Andes extend?

Colombia and Venezuela
2. How do the cordilleras affect transportation in Colombia?

Cordilleras make east-west travel difficult.
3. What happened to the indigenous people of the region under Spanish rule?

They lost their land, died of European diseases, and were forced to work in mines and on plantations.
4. How did the legend of El Dorado encourage Spanish exploration of the region?

El Dorado fueled Spanish exploration in the region, as the legend raised hopes of undiscovered gold.
5. What social problems led to conflict in Colombia?

The unequal distribution of wealth and property maintained historical, economic, and social inequalities that led to conflict.
6. What is causing subsidence around Lake Maracaibo?

Years of draining oil from the area causes subsidence.
7. What natural resources could help the economies of the region?

- Venezuela’s oil reserves
- newly discovered oil reserves in Colombia, gold, coal, and emeralds in Colombia
8. Why is it dangerous for a nation to base its economy on only one or two exports?

One or two exports make an economy vulnerable to changes in demand and changes in prices.
12. Bogota
13. Cordillera Occidental
16. Llanos
17. Caracas
1. What does the information in Document A show about Venezuela’s economy?

B: why petroleum is so important to Venezuela’s economy
2. What does document B reveal about how President Chavez regards Venezuela’s oil reserves?

B: They are a limited resource, but the country will be able to profit from them in the short term.