

Latin America Current Events
Thomson World History

From MapMaster

- 1. Answer these multiple choice questions**
- 2. Answer the essay questions required**
- 3. Fill in the map with all Central and South American countries**
- 4. Fill in the states and countries for 5 periods of U.S. involvement**

ECUADOR

- _____1. The billion barrels of crude oil in the jungle reserve represent about enough oil to last 12 (A. years B. months C. days)
- _____2. Ecuador wants \$350 (A. million B. billion C. trillion) a year to block oil drilling in the jungle reserve.
- _____3. Ecuador is the (A. third B. fifth C. seventh) largest oil producer in South America.
- _____4. If the money is not secured by June 15, the government will open bidding for oil drilling the next day. (A. true B. false)
- _____5. The government wants the international community to pay the oil subsidy for (A. 100 B. 50 C. 10) years?

BOLIVIA

- _____1. President Morales is the first indigenous person to be elected president of Bolivia (A. true B. false)
- _____2. Morales is willing to divide the country before he will rewrite the constitution (A. True B. False)
- _____3. The provinces that declared autonomy are in the (A. western B. southern C. eastern) part of Bolivia.
- _____4. The provinces that declared autonomy want more of a share of the proceeds from their (A. oil B. gold C. natural gas) reserves?
- _____5. At least (A. three B. thirty C. three hundred) people were killed in protest over the proposed Bolivian constitution?

CHILE

- _____1. An estimated (A. 15,000 B. 150,000 C. 1.5 mil) people were left homeless by the earthquake?
- _____2. The quake's epicenter was near Chile's (A. coal B. copper C. gold) mining region?
- _____3. The quake caused the most damage in the (A. southern B. central C. northern) part of Chile?
- _____4. Earthquakes are very rare occurrence in Chile as the region is not known for seismic activity (A. true B. false)
- _____5. The president of Chile stood calmly as an aftershock struck the town of Tocopilla while she was speaking with local residents (A true B. false)?

VENEZUELA

1. Columbia staged a cross-border raid on a FARC rebel camp in [A. Venezuela B. Brazil C. Ecuador]?
2. The United States agreed with other OAS members in condemning Columbia's cross-border raid [A. True B. False]?
3. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez ordered [A. 9,000 B. 90,000 C. 900,000] troops to its border with Columbia?
4. Chavez threatened to nationalize some Colum-bian businesses in Venezuela [A. True B. False]?
5. Annual trade between Columbia and Venezuela averages around [A. \$6 million B. \$600 million C. \$6 billion]?

CIA Factbook: Venezuela was one of three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 (the others being Ecuador and New Granada, which became Colombia). For most of the first half of the 20th century, Venezuela was ruled by generally benevolent military strongmen, who promoted the oil industry and allowed for some social reforms. Democratically elected governments have held sway since 1959. Hugo Chavez, president since 1999, sought to implement his "21st Century Socialism," which purports to alleviate social ills while at the same time attacking globalization and undermining regional stability. Current concerns include: a weakening of democratic institutions, political polarization, a politicized military, drug-related violence along the Colombian border, increasing internal drug consumption, overdependence on the petroleum industry with its price fluctuations, and irresponsible mining operations that are endangering the rain forest and indigenous peoples.

Discussion Questions:

1. Should the US be condoning Columbia's cross-border raid?
2. Does Venezuela have a legitimate concern about war with Columbia?
3. Should Columbia be punished by the OAS for conducting a raid into Ecuador?
4. Are there times when a country should be allowed to cross another country's border in order to deal with an issue of law and order?
5. What should the US do if Venezuela nationalizes Colombian businesses in Venezuela?

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Cuba

Fidel Castro has been Cuba's leader since
[A. 1949 B. 1959 C. 1969]?

2. Castro remains the first secretary of the ruling Communist party [A. True B. False]?
3. President Bush said that he is willing to change US policy if Raul Castro becomes president of Cuba [A. True B. False]?

4. The US trade embargo has been in effect for [A. 25 years B. 35 years C. 45 years]?

5. Raul Castro has been the acting president of Cuba since July [A. 2005 B. 2006 C. 2007]?

BOLIVIA:

CIA Factbook: Bolivia, named after independence fighter Simon Bolivar, broke away from Spanish rule in 1825; much of its subsequent history has consisted of a series of nearly 200 coups and countercoups. Democratic civilian rule was established in 1982, but leaders have faced difficult problems of deep-seated poverty, social unrest, and illegal drug production. In December 2005, Bolivians elected Movement Toward Socialism leader Evo Morales president - by the widest margin of any leader since the restoration of civilian rule in 1982 - after he ran on a promise to change the country's traditional political class and empower the nation's poor majority. However, since taking office, his controversial strategies have exacerbated racial and economic tensions between the Amerindian populations of the Andean west and the non-indigenous communities of the eastern lowlands.

Discussion Questions:

- Should the wealth of Bolivia's natural gas resources be shared among the entire population?
- Is it possible to find a fair way to enact land reform in a country like Bolivia?
- Should the population of eastern Bolivia have to give up some of their wealth for the indigenous population of the west?

ECUADOR:

CIA Factbook: What is now Ecuador formed part of the northern Inca Empire until the Spanish conquest in 1533. Quito became a seat of Spanish colonial government in 1563 and part of the Viceroyalty of New Granada in 1717. The territories of the Viceroyalty - New Granada (Colombia), Venezuela, and Quito - gained their independence between 1819 and 1822 and formed a federation known as Gran Colombia. When Quito withdrew in 1830, the traditional name was changed in favor of the "Republic of the Equator." Between 1904 and 1942, Ecuador lost territories in a series of conflicts with its neighbors. A border war with Peru that flared in 1995 was resolved in 1999. Although Ecuador marked 25 years of civilian governance in 2004, the period has been marred by political instability. Protests in Quito have contributed to the mid-term ouster of Ecuador's last three democratically elected Presidents.

Discussion Questions:

- Is the idea for the international community to pay Ecuador not to drill for oil fair?

CHILE:

CIA Factbook: Prior to the coming of the Spanish in the 16th century, northern Chile was under Inca rule while Araucanian Indians (also known as Mapuches) inhabited central and southern Chile. Although Chile declared its independence in 1810, decisive victory over the Spanish was not achieved until 1818. In the War of the Pacific (1879-83), Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia and won its present northern regions. It was not until the 1880s that the Araucanian Indians were completely subjugated. A three-year-old Marxist government of Salvador Allende was overthrown in 1973 by a military coup led by Augusto Pinochet, who ruled until a freely elected president was installed in 1990. Sound economic policies, maintained consistently since the 1980s, have contributed to steady growth, reduced poverty rates by over half, and have helped

secure the country's commitment to democratic and representative government. Chile has increasingly assumed regional and international leadership roles befitting its status as a stable, democratic nation.

- **Discussion Questions:**

- How does the reaction of Chile's president Michelle Bachelet compare to what would be expected of President Bush after a US disaster?

Discussion Questions

Answer any THREE from any country. Answer the questions on the sheet attached. Restate the question in the answer.

1. Country_____

2. Country_____

3. Country_____