

# Location, Climate, & Natural Resources of Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, & Cuba



## STANDARD:

**SS6G3** The student will explain the impact of **location**, **climate**, distribution of **natural resources**, and **population distribution** on **Latin America and the Caribbean**.

- a. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of **Mexico** and **Venezuela** affect where people live and how they trade.
- b. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of **Brazil** and **Cuba** affect where people live and how they trade.

# Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, & Cuba

Directions: Complete the chart below with information that you learn during the presentation.

	Mexico	Venezuela	Brazil	Cuba
Location				
Climate				
Natural Resources				
Where People Live				

# Mexico



# Location

Mexico is south of the US, with the Pacific Ocean on its western border, and the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea on its eastern side.

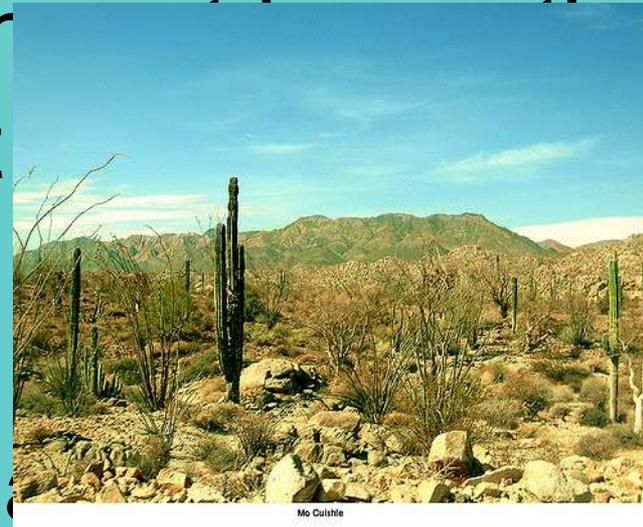
Its location between major bodies of water makes it easy to ship goods around the world which is great for trading.

Another advantage of its location is that it is close to US, so trade between the two countries is convenient and cost-effective.



# Climate

Mexico has a wide variety of climates. The northern part of Mexico has a desert climate. The southern part of Mexico has a tropical climate. The mountains and plains have different climates.



# Natural Resources

Oil is one of the top exports of Mexico. The country exports about 1.7 million barrels a day. Money from oil sales provides for 1/3 of government's budget.

Mexico is one of the world's top producers of silver.



Other exports include fruits, vegetables, coffee and cotton.

# Population Distribution

Most people live in central Mexico where there is arable farmland with enough rain to grow crops. Twenty-three percent of the country's population lives in rural areas.

Seventy-five percent of the population is employed in manufacturing jobs, many which are located in Mexico City. Another major manufacturing hub is located near the US border, since the US is one of Mexico's major trading partners.



# Mexico City

Mexico City is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest city in the world.

FYI:  
1<sup>st</sup> Tokyo, Japan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jakarta, Indonesia  
3<sup>rd</sup> New York City, USA



# Trade

Mexico has a mix of new and old industries. Recently expanded capital goods such as railroads, airports, and electric generating plants have helped the country's economy.

With miles of coastline, it is not surprising that Mexico has 7 major seaports. They use these ports to export oil, manufactured goods, silver, fruits, vegetables, coffee, and cotton.

Mexico's proximity to the US is one reason why the two countries are major trading partners.



Venezuela

# Location

Venezuela is in the northeast part of South America, just north of the equator. It has coasts on the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. This gives it easy access to trade with other countries. The nearby Panama Canal provides a shortcut to the Pacific to trade with Asian countries.



# Climate

Venezuela has a hot, tropical climate with about



It's cooler and wetter in the mountains.

Over  
of rain



every year.

# Natural Resources

Venezuela is the sixth-largest oil exporter in the world. It produces 2.8 million barrels/day. Ninety percent of the money the government makes on trade comes from exporting oil.



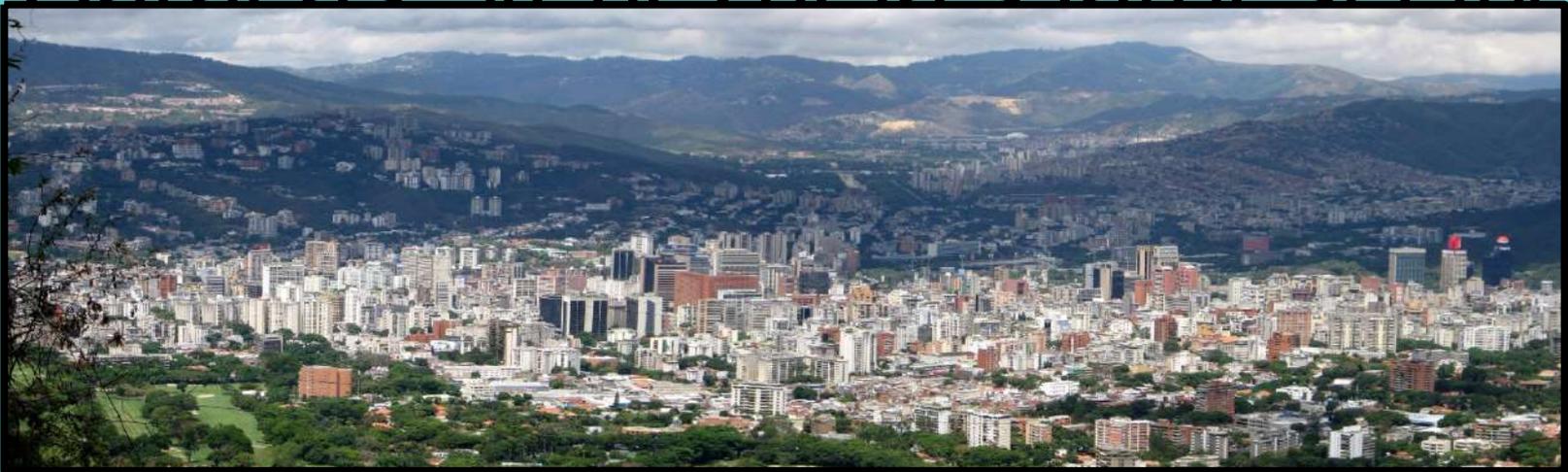
Farming provides jobs for only 10% of the population. Only 3% of the land is arable

Lake Maracaibo, home of V's oil pollution problem.



# Population Distribution

The majority, 88%, of Venezuelans live in urban areas in the northern highlands, along the coast. This is where Caracas, Venezuela's largest city



# Trade

Venezuela is VERY dependent on its oil exports since 90% of the country's money comes from this source. When the price of oil goes down, the whole country is negatively impacted by the lower GDP.

Venezuela has other, less valuable, exports: bauxite, aluminum, steel, chemicals, and some agricultural

Cuba



# Location

Cuba is an island 90 miles south of Florida, in the Caribbean Sea. While it is the largest island in the West Indies, it's only 700 miles long.



# Climature

Cuba's climate is tropical but moderated by trade winds. It's warm-to-hot all year long, but the winds provide relief from the heat.)

There's a rainy season from May to October and a dry season from November to April.



# Climate

Like most islands in the Caribbean, Cuba is a target for hurricanes. Hurricane season runs from June to November.



# Natural Resources

Twenty-eight percent of Cuba's land is arable. Its most important export is sugar cane. Other exports include coffee and tobacco.



sugarcane stalks



child labor in a tobacco shed

# Population Distribution

Most, a total of 76%, of Cubans live in urban areas. Havana, the capital city, is home to 20% of



# Trade

Cuba uses its 3 major seaports to export sugar, nickel, tobacco, fish, medical products, citrus, and coffee.

Venezuela is Cuba's largest trading partner; it sells oil to Cuba at a reduced price.

Trade from other countries does not bring in enough money to meet the needs of Cuba's people. The government sometimes orders businesses & factories to close. It also orders *blackouts*—times when all electricity is cut off in order to save electricity.

# Trade

Because of the US/Cuba embargo put in place in response to the Cuban Missile Crisis, the two countries do not trade with each other.

The Communist government of the Soviet Union helped support Cuba for many years. When it collapsed in 1991, Cuba faced difficult times.

Due to the acts of former President Obama, some of the trade and travel restrictions have been lifted. Delta Airlines and other American companies like Coca Cola are working on business opportunities in Cuba. Will the embargo be lifted?

# Brazil



# Location

Brazil is on the eastern side of South America, along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. It shares a border with nearly every country in South America! The Amazon River stretches across Brazil.



# Climate

- Brazil's location on the equator gives it the climate needed to support one of the world's largest rainforests.



- Its climate is mostly hot and tropical.
- In the south, the climate is temperate (mild).

# Natural Resources

- Only 7% of Brazil's land is arable, but the country makes the most of this resource. Farmers grow 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the world's coffee, and lead the world in production of oranges, papayas, sugar cane, and soybeans. Only the US exports more farm products than Brazil.

• The Amazon, the second longest river



**Coffee  
Plantation**



**Soybeans**



**Papaya Plantation**

# Natural Resources

The Amazon, which is number one for volume of water, is the second longest river in the world. It has a major impact on the country.



A river *basin* is the area that is drained by a river. In your house, a sink is called a basin.

# Population Distribution

Most Brazilians live along the coasts; 80% of the 84% that are urban dwellers live within 200 miles of the ocean. They live in urban areas like Rio de Janeiro. It is the most populated country in Latin America.



# Trade

Brazil's 7 major seaports export transportation equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, autos, sugar, and fruits. The USA is Brazil's largest trading partner.

Tourism brings in a lot of money as well. Visitors want to experience the Amazon Rainforest and the many miles of beautiful beaches that Brazil has to offer.

# Extension Activity Choices

## (DOK 2)

Complete one of the following activities.

1. Create a help wanted ad and action shot for a job that would be available in one of the four countries mentioned in this ppt. See the next slide for assistance in setting up your ad and action shot. Be specific in your details.
- 2.

# Help Wanted. Apply Within.

**Directions:** After learning about this area's geography, choose one of the 4 countries mentioned. Create a Want Ad for a job that could be found in this country. Be sure to include a brief description of the job, as well as an illustration. Do not write where the job is located, because your group members are going to guess the mystery country based on the description of the job!

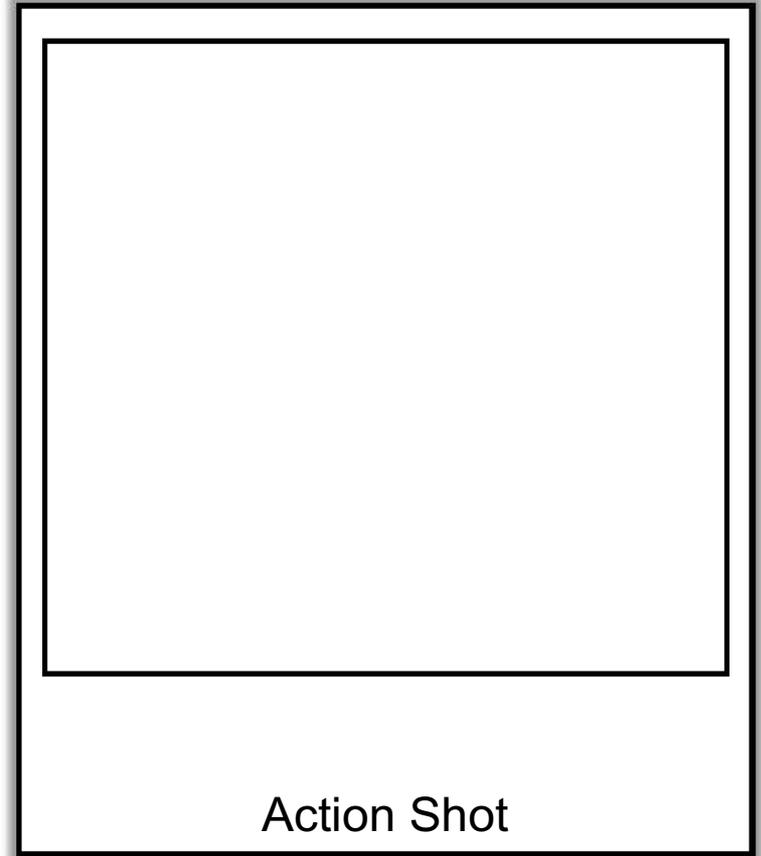
Job Title:

Pay:

Who is eligible to apply:

Job Description:

Skills Needed:



**Group members: Can you guess the mystery region where this type of job could be found?**