

## Study Guide – Unit 3 – Latin America

SSWG 5cde

### Terms to know

Extreme Weather – *severe or unusual weather conditions, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, or blizzards. Extreme weather usually leads to a natural disaster, but not all natural disasters come from extreme weather.*

Meteorology – *the scientific study of climate and weather patterns to help people plan for daily life and prepare for extreme weather events.*

Tropical Cyclone – *a severe storm with high winds that spiral around a calm center. Depending on where they form, tropical cyclones are called hurricanes, typhoons, or cyclones.*

Tropical Depression – *a storm near the equator with winds moving in a circle at speeds of up to 38 miles per hour.*

Tropical Downpour – *Heavy rains from a tropical storm.*

El Niño – *a warm ocean current that flows off the west coast of South America every few years. An El Niño event changes weather patterns around the world. It may also cause extreme weather in some regions.*

Coriolis Effect – *the curving pattern of wind and ocean*

*currents caused by Earth's rotation.*

Eye Wall – *the ring of thunderstorms that surround the eye, or center, of a hurricane or other tropical cyclone.*

Rainband – *a band of dense clouds that swirls around the eye wall of a hurricane.*

Storm Surge – *a wall of water that is pushed ashore by a storm. It is the most dangerous part of a tropical cyclone to life and property.*

Amazon Rainforest – *a type thick evergreen forest found in the Amazon Basin with heavy rainfall. Most of this rainforest lies in the northern portion of the country of Brazil.*

Amazon Basin – *A bowl-shaped depression, or hollow, in Earth's surface in northern South America.*

Amazon River – *The largest river in the world, flowing through the Amazon Basin and Rainforest.*

Carbon-Oxygen Cycle – *the process by which carbon and oxygen cycle among plants, people and animals, and the environment.*

Land-Use Conflict – *disagreement over how to use a*

*particular area of land, like the Amazon Rainforest.*

Sustainable Development – *using resources in ways that meet the needs of people today without hurting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This means finding ways to use resources without using them all up.*

Deforestation – *removing or clearing away the trees from a forest. Deforestation is often done to clear land for farming or ranching.*

Biodiversity – *the variety of plants and animals living in one area, or on Earth.*

Ecotourism – *a form of tourism that brings people to unique ecosystems while trying to avoid damage to these special places.*

Shade-Grown Crops – *growing certain types of crops, like coffee in the shade instead of direct sunlight. This is a form of sustainable development that does not require deforestation to create cropland.*

Tropical Rainforest – *a broadleaf evergreen forest found in wet and hot regions near the equator.*

**Questions to consider – Be specific in your answers and provide examples**

1. What are at least three forms of extreme weather? *Tropical cyclones, tornadoes, blizzards and heat waves*
2. Why do meteorologists study extreme weather? *To help save damage to life and property*
3. What happens when a tropical cyclone makes landfall? *It starts to lose energy, strength, and power*
4. What are the stages from tropical disturbance to tropical cyclone? *Disturbance, depression, storm, cyclone*
5. Where is the Amazon Rainforest? *South America, mostly in the northern part of Brazil*
6. Why are forests like the Amazon Rainforest considered the “lungs of the Earth”? *Because of their role in the carbon-oxygen cycle. The vast number of trees in the rainforest provides the atmosphere with a significant amount of oxygen for humans and animals to breathe in.*
7. Why is there land-use conflict in the Amazon Rainforest? *Different groups like loggers, environmentalists, settlers, rubber tappers, ranchers, and native Amazonians all have different ideas about what is the best way to use and/or preserve the rainforest. They don’t always agree. In fact, they often disagree.*
8. Describe what each interest group in the Amazon Rainforest land-use conflict wants. *Loggers want the trees of the rainforest to use for building materials like lumber. Environmentalists would like to only preserve the rainforest and use it for research of its biodiversity. Settlers would like to clear some of the land to provide housing and farmland for humans. Rubber tappers would like to leave rubber trees standing so that they can continue to collect sap from the trees to manufacture products made with rubber. Ranchers would like to clear some of the land to provide grazing lands for their livestock like cattle (cows), sheep, pigs, goats, etc. Native Amazonians would like to continue their way of life of hunting and gathering in the rainforest that they have done for thousands of years.*
9. Why does each interest group believe what they want is right? *Some groups like the loggers, ranchers, and settlers believe the economic benefits of their activities surpass any environmental concerns. Other groups like the environmentalists and native Amazonians believe that the natural environment/ecosystem/biosphere takes priority over any economic concern. Rubber tappers see what they do as a balance between economic activity and environmental protections.*
10. Which group’s activities are most responsible for the deforestation of the rainforest? *Loggers, settlers, and ranchers.*
11. What is happening to the Amazon Rainforest? *It is being cleared through deforestation in most parts.*
12. Describe the different layers of the ecosystem that is the Amazon Rainforest. *The top layer is called the “forest canopy” the middle layer is the “lower story” and the bottom is called the “forest floor.”*
13. How have native Amazonians been affected by newcomers? *They have been killed off by disease, land-use conflict and war. Those remaining have been pushed deeper into the rainforest and their traditional way of life disturbed.*
14. What are examples of sustainable and non-sustainable activities in the Amazon Rainforest? *Examples of sustainable development: rubber tapping, strip logging, shade-grown crops, and eco-tourism. Examples of non-sustainable development: logging, settling, and ranching.*
15. How can consumers help protect the rainforest? *By purchasing products harvested in a sustainable way*