A satellite-style map of Latin America, showing the continent and surrounding regions like the Caribbean and parts of North and South America. The map is centered on the continent, with the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The text "Geography of Latin America" is overlaid in the center. The map is framed by a green border with a pattern of small circles, and the corners are decorated with a blue and white pattern of larger circles.

# Geography of Latin America






# Latin America's Physical Features

<p><b>Gulf of Mexico</b></p> <p><u>What:</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p><u>Illustration:</u></p>	<p><b>Sierra Madre Mountains</b></p> <p><u>What:</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p><u>Illustration:</u></p>
<p><b>Panama Canal</b></p> <p><u>What:</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p><u>Illustration:</u></p>	<p><b>Caribbean Sea</b></p> <p><u>What:</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p><u>Illustration:</u></p>
<p><b>Andes Mountains</b></p> <p><u>What:</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p><u>Illustration:</u></p>	<p><b>Atacama Desert</b></p> <p><u>What:</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p><u>Illustration:</u></p>
<p><b>Amazon River</b></p> <p><u>What:</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p><u>Illustration:</u></p>	<p><b>Pacific Ocean</b></p> <p><u>What:</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p><u>Illustration:</u></p>



A satellite-style map of Latin America is centered in the image. The map shows the continent's diverse terrain, including the Andes mountains in the south and the Amazon basin. The map is framed by a central green vertical bar and two side bars with a blue and white polka-dot pattern. The title 'Geography of Latin America' is overlaid on the map in a stylized font.

# Geography of Latin America



# Geography

Latin America is divided into three regions:

1. Mexico and Central America
2. The Caribbean
3. South America





# Mexico & Central America

- 2,500 miles (about as wide as the US)
- Mountains dominate the region
  - Part of a huge system that extends from Canada, through the US, and all the way to the tip of South America
- Central plateau in Mexico
  - Lies between Sierra Madre mountains and makes up more than half the country's area
- Central America is an Isthmus
  - Isthmus = a narrow strip of land that has water on both sides and joins 2 larger bodies of water
  - Many volcanoes in Central America, as a result, their soil is arable (fertile) and many people farm lands





# Gulf of Mexico

- The Gulf of Mexico is a body of water.
- It is bordered by:
  - United States to the north,
  - 5 Mexican states to the south, &
  - and Cuba to the east.





# Sierra Madre Mountains

- A mountain system in Mexico
- Three major chains: the Sierra Madre Occidental in the west, the Sierra Madre Oriental in the east, and the Sierra Madre del Sur, which extends along the southern coast.
- The Sierra Madre range contains some of the highest mountains and volcanoes in Latin America.





Sierra Madre Occidental

Sierra Madre Oriental

Sierra Madre del Sur











# Panama Canal

- A canal across the isthmus of Panama in Central America
  - A major “shortcut” that allows ships to travel between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.
- It handles a large volume of world shipping and enables vessels to avoid traveling around South America, reducing their voyages by thousands of miles and many days.
- It consists of artificially created lakes, channels, and a series of locks, or water-filled chambers, that raise and lower ships through the mountainous terrain of central Panama.















# Caribbean Islands

- The smaller islands are made of coral.
  - (Skeletons of tiny sea animals, rock-like substance)
- The larger islands are tops of underwater mountains.
  - Examples: Cuba, Jamaica





# Caribbean Sea

- It surrounds the islands of the West Indies.
- It's east of Central America.
- It's a major trade route for Latin American countries.
- A popular tourist area—noted for its mild tropical climate and beautiful waters











A satellite-style map of South America, showing the continent's topography and vegetation. The Amazon basin is a prominent dark green area in the north and west, while the Andes mountain range is visible as a brownish-tan strip along the western coast. The southern tip of the continent is also visible. The map is set against a dark blue background representing the ocean.

# South America



# Andes Mountains

- 4,500 miles along west coast of South America
- They rise at some points to 20,000 feet—same height as twenty 100 story buildings stacked on top of each other!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest mountains in the world--Himalayas are the 1<sup>st</sup>.















# Amazon Rain Forest

- Located in Brazil, in the Amazon River Basin
- It is the largest tropical rain forest in the world.
- It covers 1/3 of the continent of South America.











# Atacama Desert

- It is located in Chile.
  - Between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains
- It's one of the driest places on earth; very little rainfall year round.















# Amazon River

- It's the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest river in the world (1<sup>st</sup> is the Nile River).
- It stretches 4,000 miles from Peru across to Atlantic Ocean.
- The river contains 20% of all fresh water in the world!
- It serves as a natural highway where it's hard to build roads.
- It provides food and hydroelectric power.











# Pacific Ocean

- World's largest ocean
- Covers the western coast of South America











# LATIN AMERICA





# POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL FEATURES OF LATIN AMERICA

Part One: Use a pen to label the following eight countries on the map:

- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Haiti
- Mexico
- Panama
- Venezuela

Next, use a marker to outline the political border of each country.

---

Part Two: Use a pen to label the following eight physical features on the map:

- Amazon River
- Caribbean Sea
- Gulf of Mexico
- Pacific Ocean
- Panama Canal
- Andes Mountains
- Sierra Madre Mountains
- Atacama Desert

1. Color the Pacific Ocean, Amazon River, and the Gulf of Mexico DARK BLUE.
2. Color the Caribbean Sea LIGHT BLUE (or TEAL).
3. Draw a RED box where the Panama Canal is located.
4. Draw triangle symbols around the Andes Mountains and color them GREEN.
5. Draw triangle symbols around the Sierra Madre Mountains and color them YELLOW.
6. Color the Atacama Desert BROWN.



# POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL FEATURES OF LATIN AMERICA

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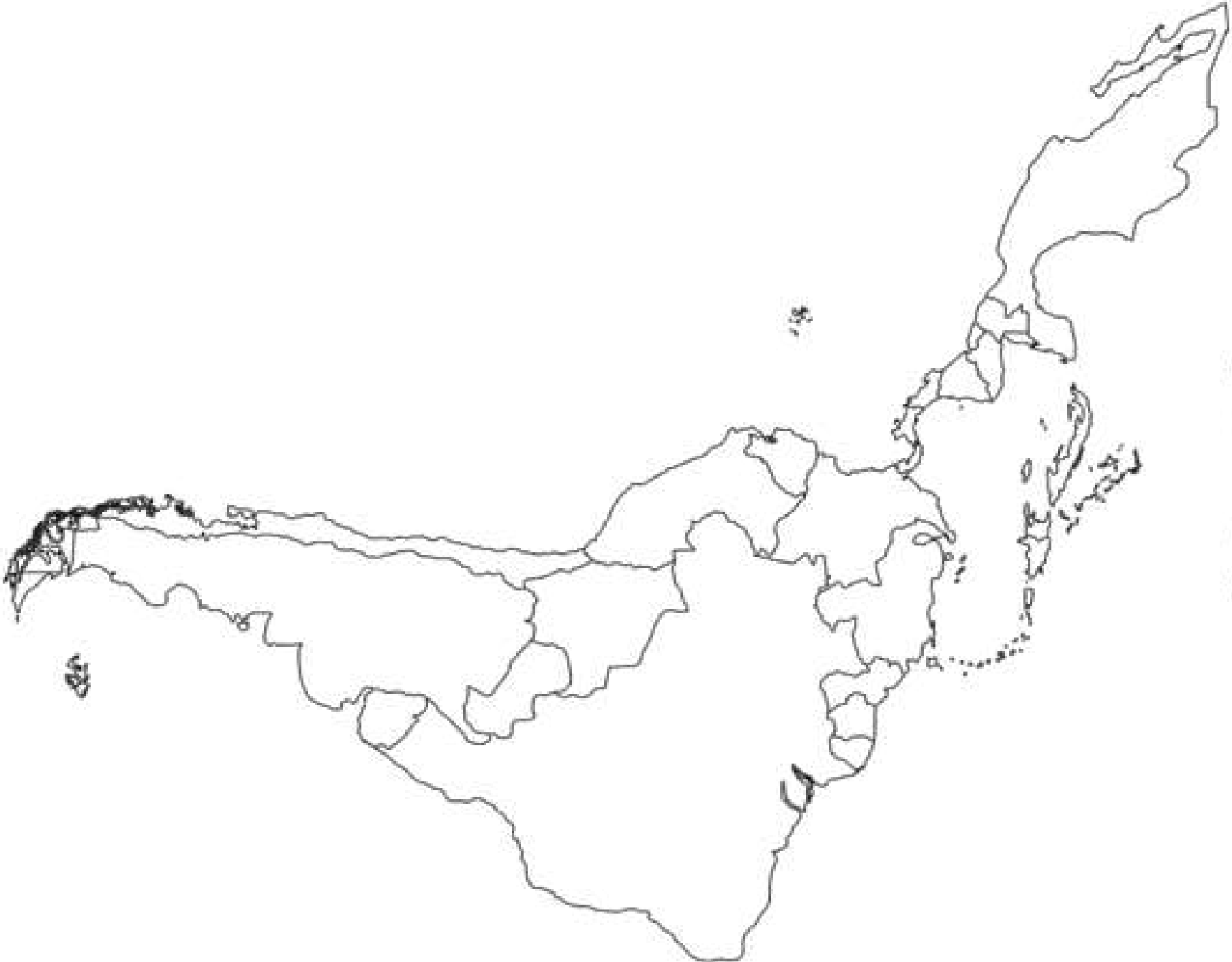
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**LATIN AMERICA**



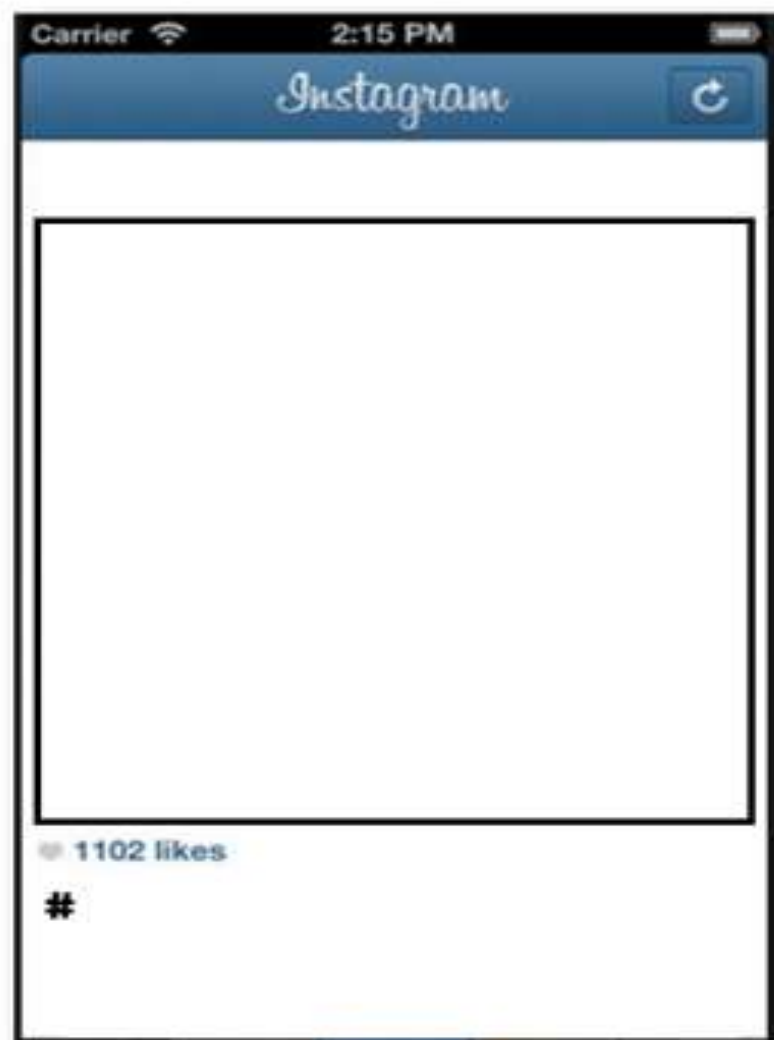
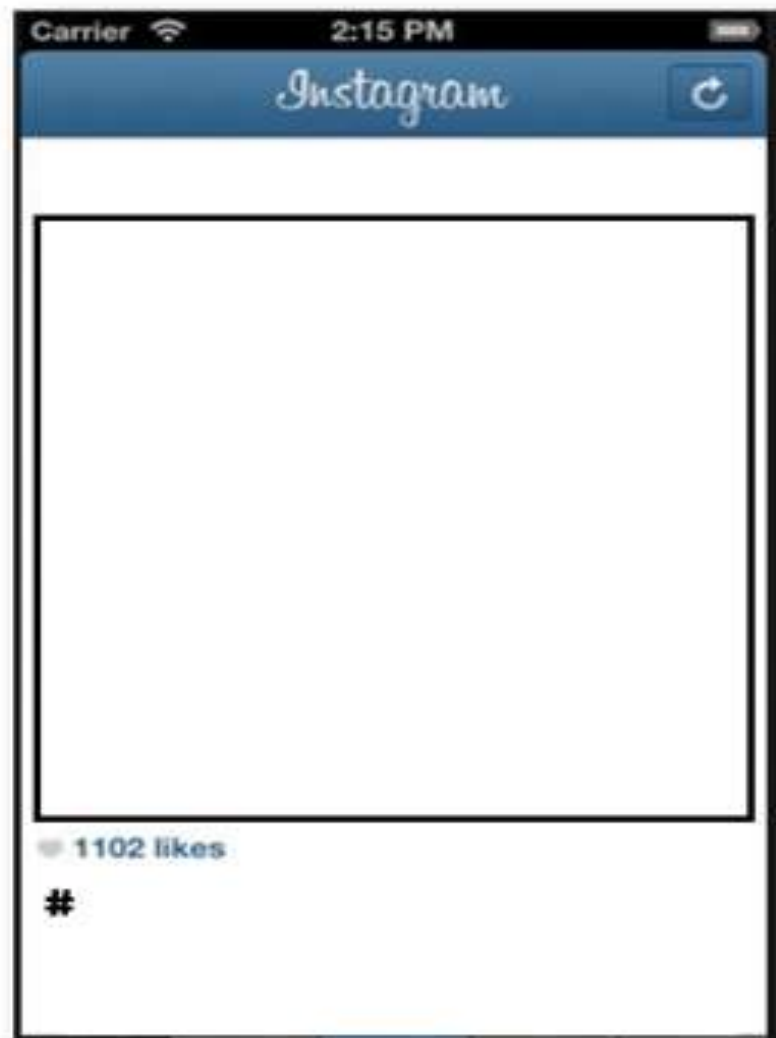
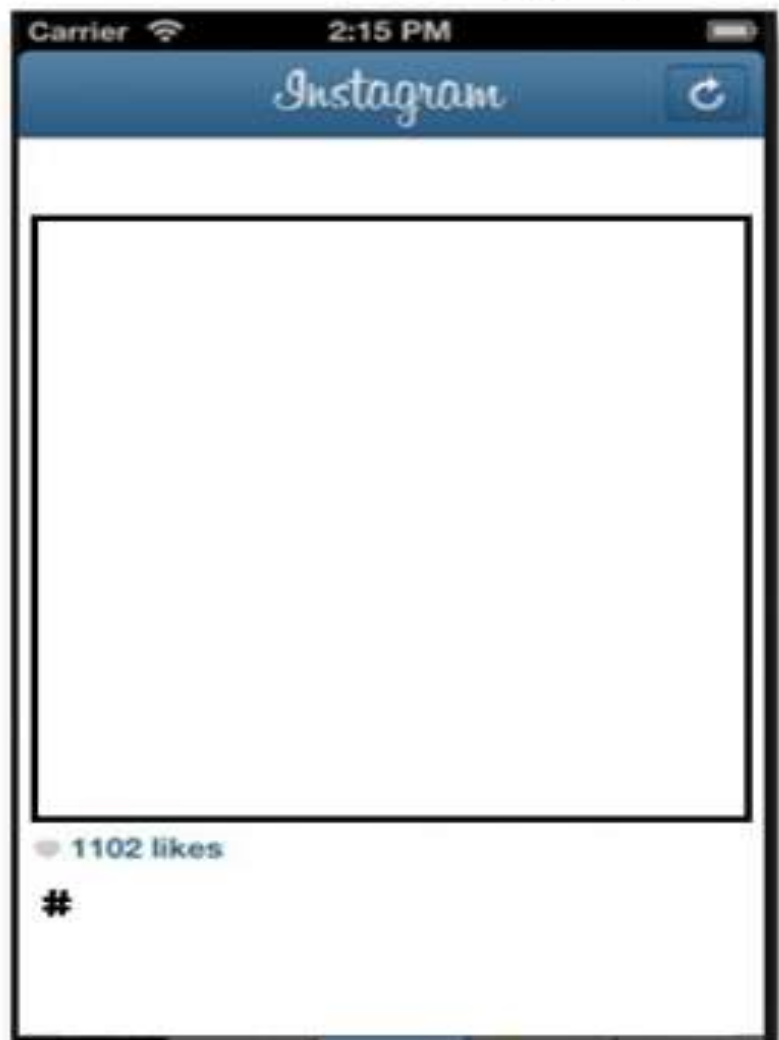






# Instagram Your Trip!

**Directions:** Imagine that you just took a trip around Latin America. What are three noteworthy things that you would want to take a picture of and post on Instagram for all of your followers to see? Make sure you include a #\_\_\_\_\_ so that they know what you're picture is showing. Yes, you can use filters when coloring your pictures! Be creative!



# Example

Can you believe it? I didn't even exist until about 100 years ago. Everyone says that I'm super important to the economy and blah, blah, blah, but I am so tired of everybody always using me. Chug, chug, chug across me all day long. I wish I had some lush, tropical trees to look at. I miss the good ol' days when I lived in the jungle. All I see now are people in such a hurry to reach the other side.



# Panama Canal!

