

Location, Climate,
& Natural Resources:

Mexico,
Venezuela,
Cuba, & Brazil

Where People Live
& How They Trade



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

	Mexico	Venezuela	Brazil	Cuba
Location				
Climate				
Natural Resources				
Where People Live				
Trade				

	Mexico	Venezuela	Brazil	Cuba
Location	south of the US, east of the Pacific Ocean, and west of the Gulf of Mexico & Caribbean Sea	northeast part of South America, just north of equator	on the eastern side of South America, along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean	90 miles south of Florida, in the Caribbean Sea
Climate	The northern part is mostly desert (hot). The beaches have a tropical climate. Mountains and plains have a more mild climate	Hot, tropical climate. It's cooler in the mountains	mostly hot and tropical	tropical but moderated by trade winds
Natural Resources	Oil, silver, fruits, vegetables, coffee, & cotton	oil	coffee, oranges, papayas, sugar cane, and soybeans	Sugar cane, coffee, fish, fruits, & tobacco
Where People Live	In cities in central Mexico	Cities along the coast	Most Brazilians live along the coasts; 80% live within 200 miles of the ocean	20% of Cubans live in Havana
Trade	7 seaports recently expanded railroads, airports, and electric generating plants	90% of all money comes from oil exports; has 4 major seaports	7 major seaports; US is top trading partner	3 major seaports, Venezuela is Cuba's largest trading partner

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Mexico

Location

- It's south of the US, east of the Pacific Ocean, and west of the Gulf of Mexico & Caribbean Sea.
- It's great that it's located between major bodies of water because:
 - great opportunities for trading
 - can easily ship goods around the world
- Another advantage: close to US, so trade between two countries is convenient.



Climate

- In Mexico, the climate varies according to location:
- The northern part is mostly desert (hot).
- The beaches have a tropical climate.
- Mountains and plains have a more mild climate.



Chihuahua (Mexican state)

Sierra Madre Occidental





Chiapas (Mexican state)

Natural Resources

- Oil is one of the top exports:
 - Exports 1.7 million barrels/day.
 - Money from oil sales provides 1/3 of government's budget.
- Mexico is one of the world's top producers of silver.
- Other exports include fruits, vegetables, coffee, & cotton.
- Tourism is also a major industry.

Where People Live

- Most people live in central Mexico:
 - arable farmland with enough rain to grow crops
 - many manufacturing centers are located here (provide jobs to 75% of the country's population)
- urban: 77%
- rural: 23%

Mexico City



Mexico City



How They Trade

- Mexico has a mix of new and old industries.
 - recently expanded railroads, airports, and electric generating plants
- 7 major seaports
- exports: oil, manufactured goods, silver, fruits, vegetables, coffee, & cotton
- tourism



Venezuela

Location

- Venezuela is in the northeast part of South America, just north of equator.
- It has coasts on 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.
- There are mountains in the north and south, so only about 3% of the land is arable.





Climate

- Venezuela has a hot, tropical climate.
- It's cooler in the mountains.
- Rain varies by region (16 inches on the coast; over 100 inches in the mountains).





Natural Resources

- Venezuela is the sixth-largest oil exporter in the world.
 - It produces 2.8 million barrels/day.
 - 90% of the money the government makes on trade comes from oil exports.
- Farming provides jobs for 10% of the population.



Where People Live

- urban: 88%
- rural: 12%

- Caracas is the largest city.
- Most people live in the northern highlands, along the coast.

Caracas



Caracas



How They Trade

- 90% of money made on exports comes from oil.
- 4 major seaports
- Other exports: bauxite and aluminum, steel, chemicals, agricultural products, basic manufactures
- Tourism



Cuba

Location

- Cuba is an island 90 miles south of Florida, in the Caribbean Sea.
- It's only 700 miles long.
- It's the largest island in the West Indies.
- It's location on ocean trading routes has been an important influence on its history and economy.



Climate

- The 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.
- Cuba is a target for hurricanes.
 - Hurricane season runs from June to November.





Natural Resources

- 28% of Cuba's land is arable.
- It's most important export is sugar cane.
 - Other exports include: coffee, fish, fruits, & tobacco.
- Tourism is a fast-growing industry.

Sugar cane Farm



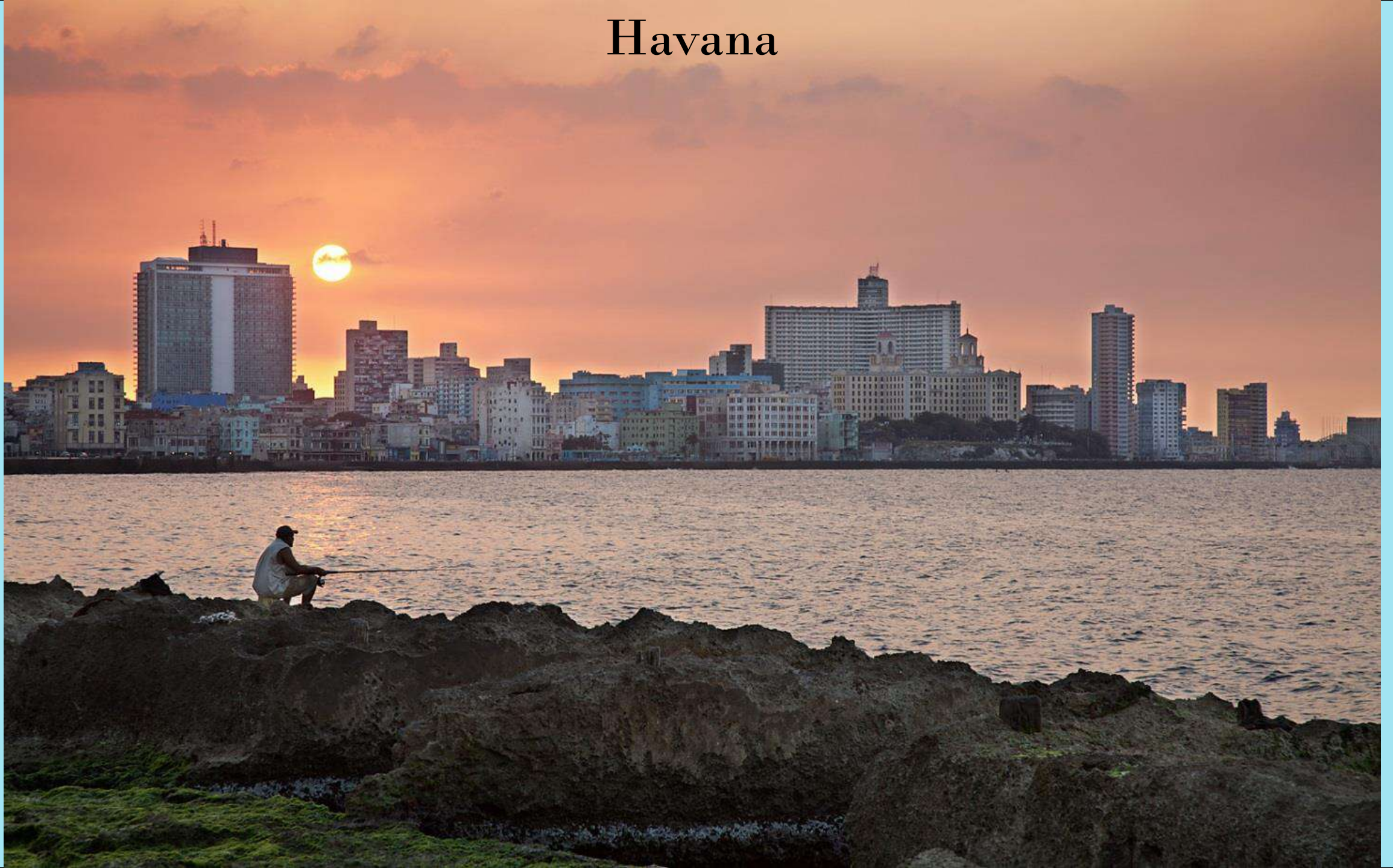


Where People Live

- urban: 76%
- rural: 24%

- Havana is the largest city.
 - 20% of Cubans live in Havana.

Havana



Havana



How They Trade

- 3 major seaports
- Exports: sugar, nickel, tobacco, fish, medical products, citrus, coffee
- Tourism
- Venezuela is Cuba's largest trading partner; it sells oil to Cuba at a reduced price.

How They Trade

- The Communist government of the Soviet Union helped support Cuba for many years.
 - When it collapsed in 1991, Cuba faced difficult times.
- Trade from other countries does not bring in enough money to meet needs of Cuba's people.
 - Government sometimes orders businesses & factories to close.
 - Also orders *blackouts*—times when all electricity is cut off in order to save electricity.



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!
- Amazon River and other large rivers stretch across Brazil.



Climate

- Brazil's location on the equator gives it the climate needed to support one of the world's largest rain forests.
- Its climate is mostly hot and tropical.
- In the south, the climate is temperate (mild).



Natural Resources

- Only 7% of land is arable, but Brazil makes the most of this resource.
- Farmers grow 1/3rd 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.

Coffee Plantation



Where People Live

- urban: 84%
- rural: 16%
- It's the most populated country in Latin America.
 - It's the largest Portuguese-speaking country in the world.
- Most Brazilians live along the coasts; 80% live within 200 miles of the ocean.





How They Trade

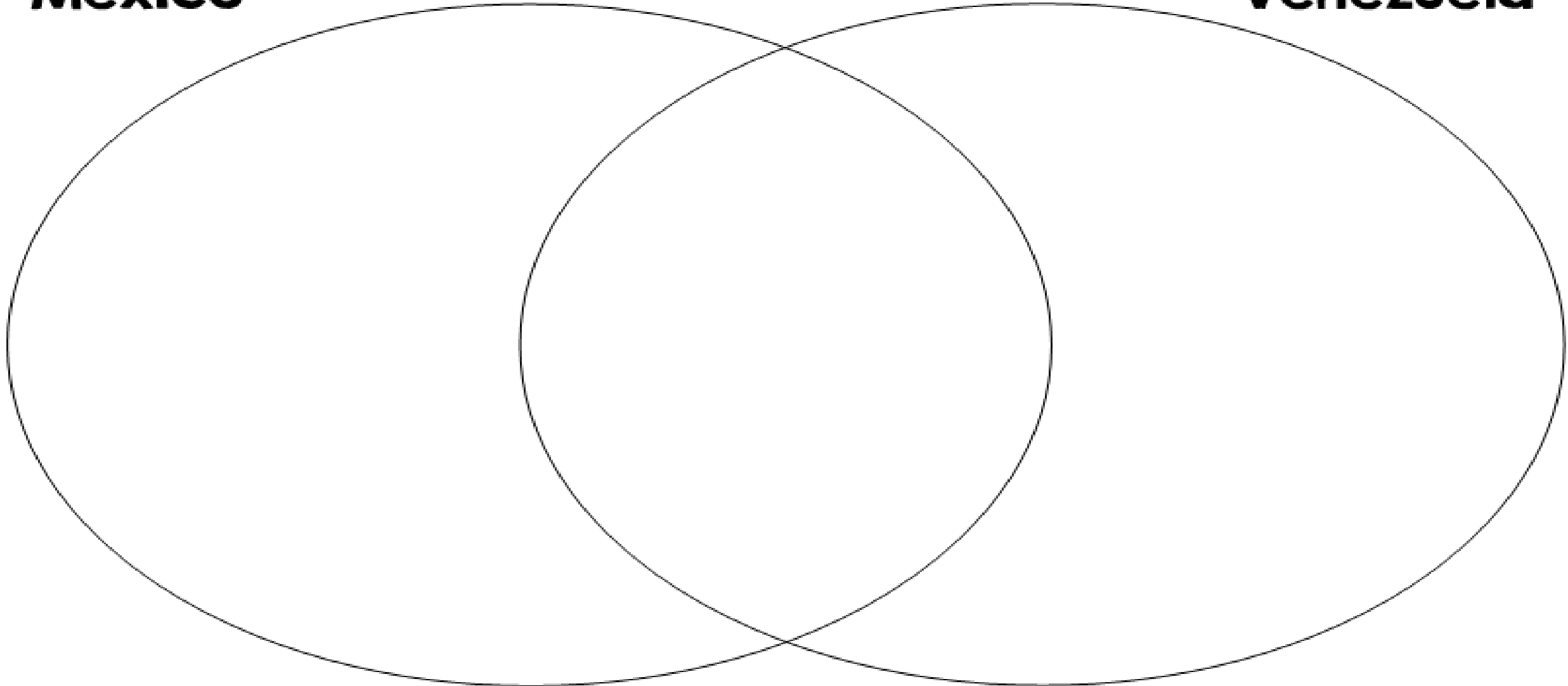
- 7 major seaports
- Exports: transportation equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, autos, sugar, fruits
- tourism
 - Amazon Rainforest attracts many visitors.
 - Beaches are another attraction.
- USA is Brazil's largest trading partner.

Mexico Vs. Venezuela

Compare & Contrast

Mexico

Venezuela

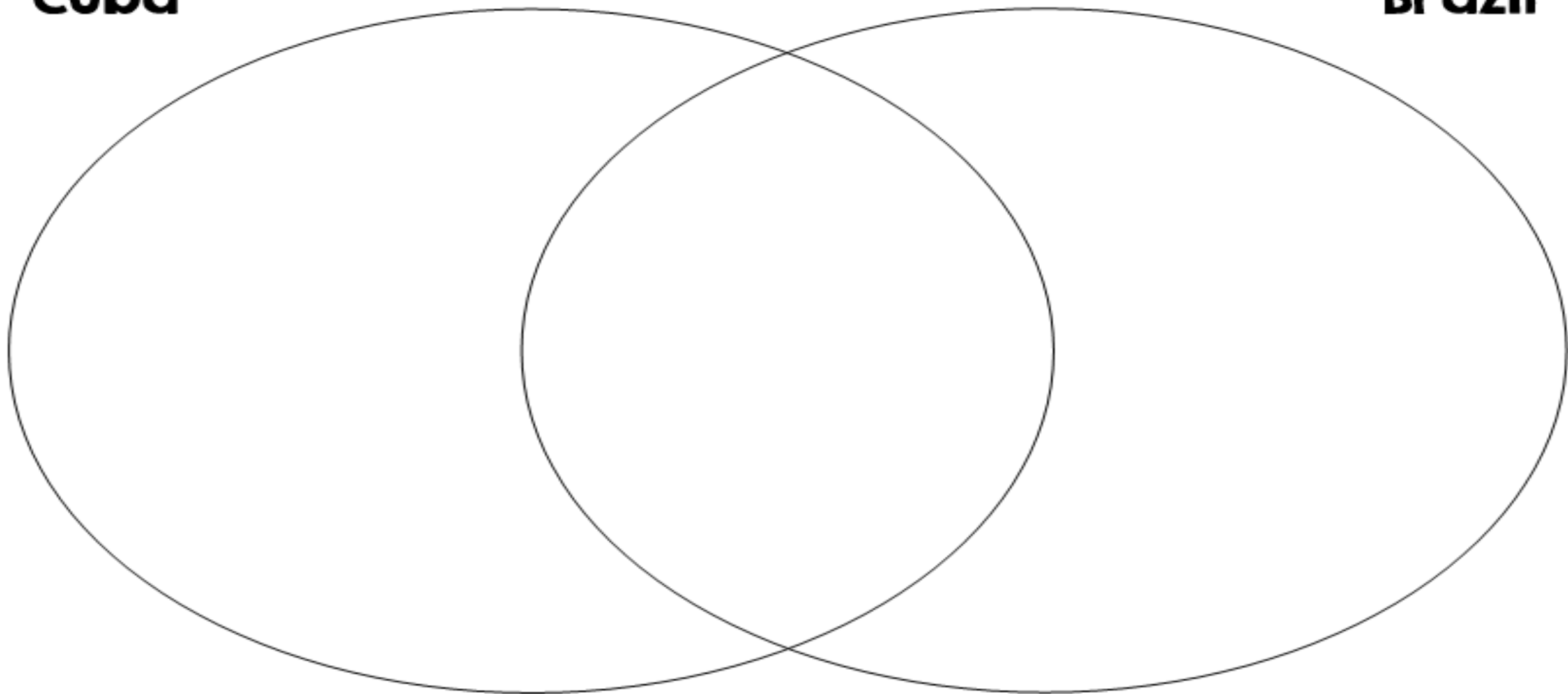


Cuba Vs. Brazil

Compare & Contrast

Cuba

Brazil





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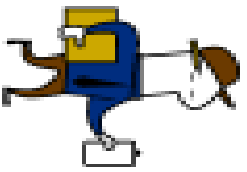
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Help Wanted

Directions: After discussing today's notes, choose one of the 4 countries mentioned: Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, or Cuba. Create a Want Ad for a job that could be found in the 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!

1. What is the job?
2. Who is eligible to apply for this job?
3. Describe the job.
4. Draw an illustration of someone doing the job.

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

Group Members' Names: _____



Latin American Mascots

Directions: Your group has been chosen by the United Nations to come up with a mascot to represent each of the following countries: Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, and Venezuela. Think about all of the information that you learned today. Your group will need to create an illustration of each mascot. On the back, your group will also need to write an explanation as to why the mascots were chosen to represent each country. Please use the chart below to brainstorm your ideas. Finally, you will vote on your favorite one and your group will create a life-size mascot on butcher paper.

Team Cuba!	Team Brazil!
Team Mexico!	Team Venezuela!