

# Physical Geography of Latin America

**-Latin America covers 7,000 miles**

**-From the border of the U.S. and Mexico to Tierra del Fuego**

**-Also includes the Caribbean Islands**



**-Andes Mountains: part of mountain chain that includes the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Madres**

**-Barrier for movement into the interior of South America**

**-More settlement has occurred along eastern and northern coasts**

# South America



-Llanos: grassy, treeless areas used for farming and livestock grazing found in Colombia and Venezuela

-Cerrado: flat plains found in the interior of Brazil

-Moderate rainfall makes it suitable for farming

-Pampas: grasslands with rich soil located in Northern Argentina and Uruguay

-Main products are cattle and wheat grain

# River Systems

-Orinoco River: flows more than 1,500 miles, partly along the Colombia/Venezuela border

-Amazon River: flows about 4,000 miles from west to east, empties into Atlantic Ocean

- Flows across Brazil

- Has over 1,000 tributaries





# Natural Resources

-Mineral resources: gold, silver, iron, and copper

-Many minerals are mined in Latin America and shipped to other areas of the world for production

# Natural Resources

**-Energy resources: oil, coal, natural gas, and hydroelectric power**

**-Venezuela and Mexico have major oil reserves**

**-Brazil is rich in hydroelectric power because of its many rivers**

**-Caribbean Islands: main resource=tourism**

# Climate and Vegetation of Latin America

**-Climate is extremely varied**

**-Ranges from hot and humid conditions of the Amazon Rainforest to the dry desert regions of Northern Mexico**

# 1.) Tropical Climate Zones

-rainforests: dense forests made up on different species of trees

-Climate is hot and rainy year-round

-Amazon rainforest covers more than 2,000 square miles of South America

-Contains many exotic plants and animals, such as jaguars and piranhas



## 2.) Dry Climate Zones

-Only found in Mexico and South America

-semiarid: generally dry, with some rain

-Grass-covered plains found in this region

-Found in Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina

**-desert: found in Northern Mexico as well as Chile (Atacama Desert)**

**-Also in Southern Argentina (Patagonia)**

**-Vegetation is mainly shrubs growing in gravel or sand**













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### 3.) Mid-Latitude Climate Zones

-Mediterranean: hot, dry  
summers and cool, wet winters

-Located along parts of the  
Western coast of Chile

-similar to weather  
conditions in some parts of  
California

**-marine west coast: cool, rainy  
winters and mild, rainy  
summers**

**-Found in parts of  
Southern Chile and  
Argentina**

**-Similar to weather  
conditions in Oregon  
and Washington in the U.S.**