# Physical Geography of Latin America

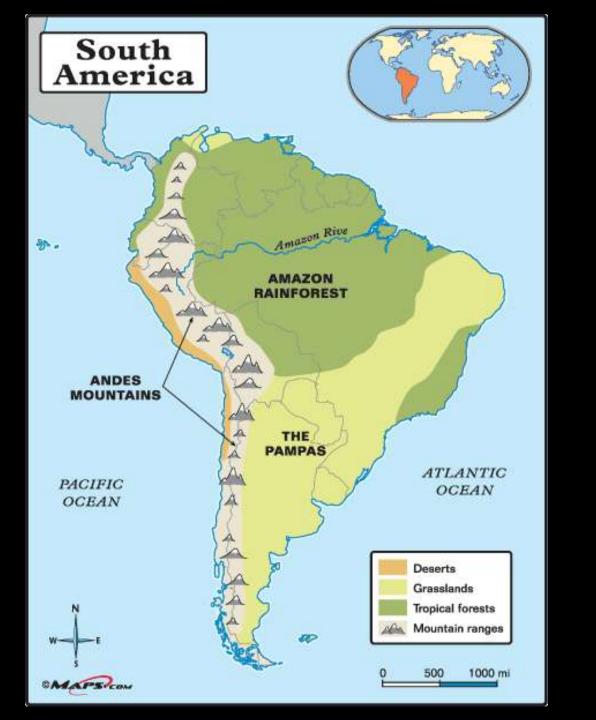
- -Latin America covers 7,000 miles
- -From the border of the U.S. and Mexico to Tierra del Fuego
- -Also includes the Caribbean Islands



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

-Barrier for movement into the interior of South America

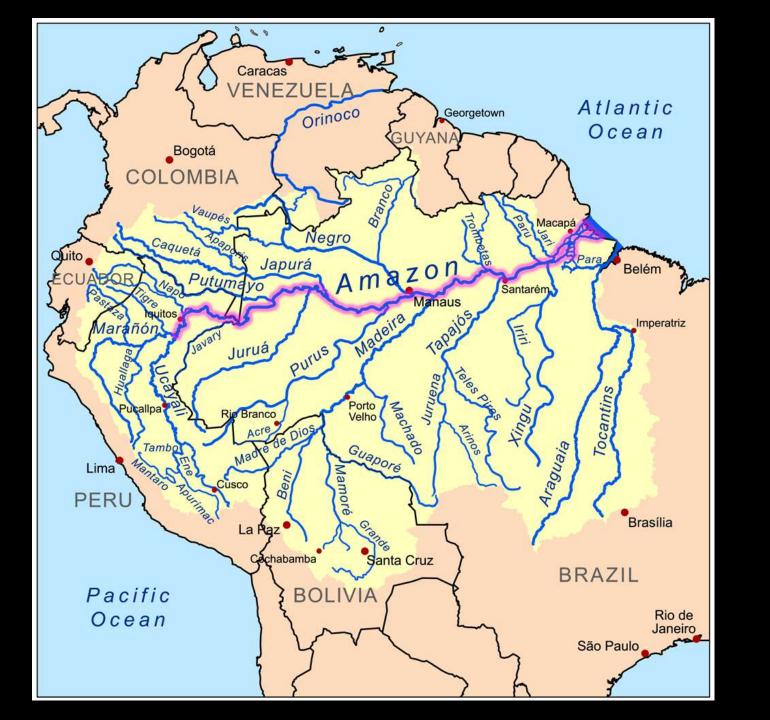
-More settlement has occurred along eastern and northern coasts



- -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 Northern Mexico

- 1.) Tropical Climate Zones
- -<u>rainforests</u>: dense forests made up on different species of trees
- -Climate is hot and rainy yearround
- -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







- 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.