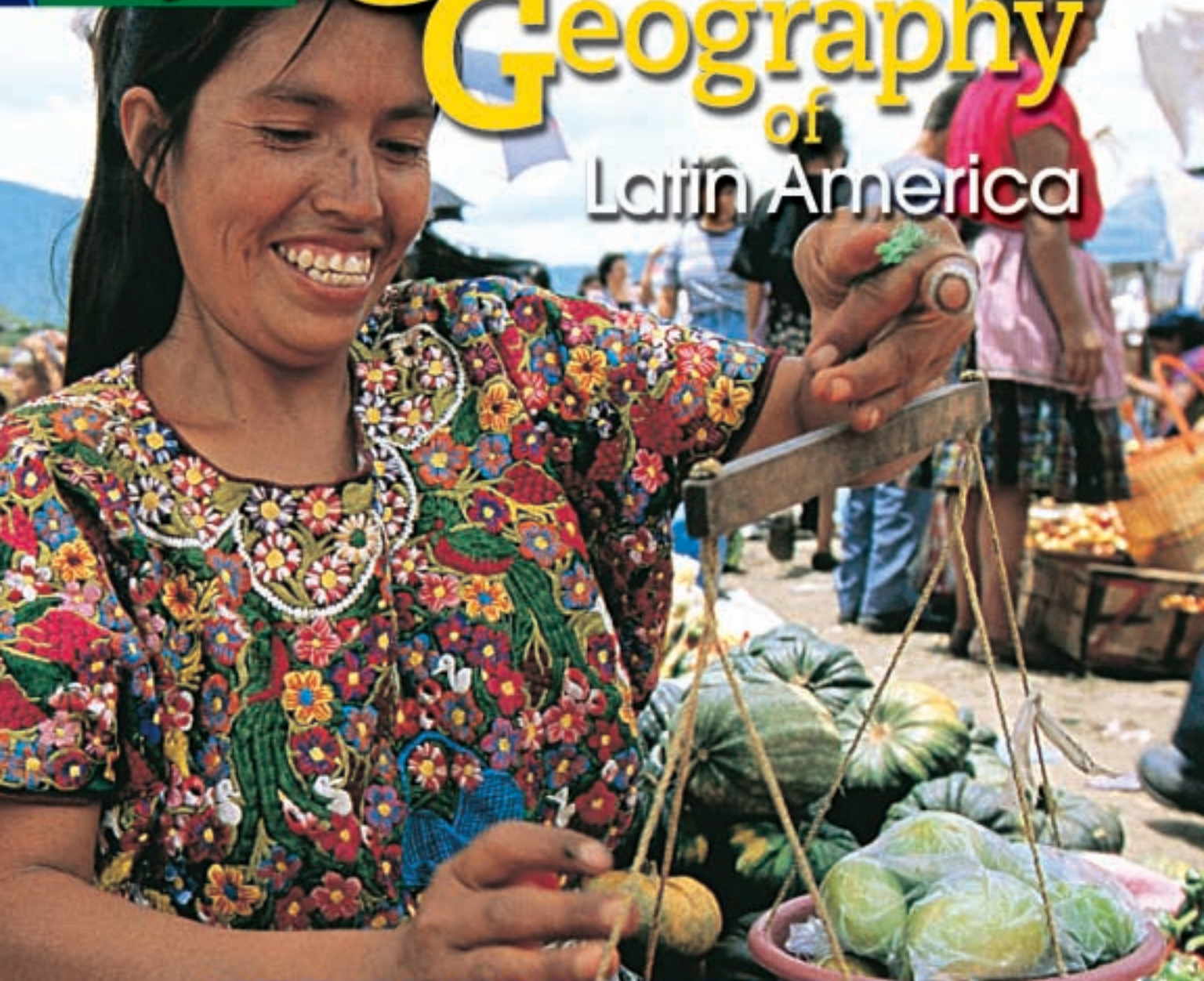


CHAPTER

9

# The Cultural Geography of Latin America



## GeoJournal

As you read this chapter, use your journal to list and describe the cultural influences that have shaped life in Latin America. Note how both native and imported cultures have formed a uniquely Latin American way of life.

**GEOGRAPHY**  
*Online*

**Chapter Overview** Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at [tx.geography.glencoe.com](http://tx.geography.glencoe.com) and click on Chapter Overviews—Chapter 9 to preview information about the cultural geography of the region.

**CLICK HERE**

**CONTENTS**



## Guide to Reading

### Consider What You Know

Think about what you have read about the physical geography of Latin America. What geographic factors influence where people have settled in this region?

### Read to Find Out

- What ethnic groups make up the population of Latin America?
- How have geography and economics influenced the distribution of Latin America's population?
- How has migration affected the Latin American culture region?
- In what ways does Latin America's cultural diversity present both benefits and challenges for its people?

### Terms to Know

- indigenous
- dialect
- patois
- urbanization
- megacity
- primate city

### Places to Locate

- Ecuador
- Caracas
- Peru
- Santiago
- Bolivia
- Patagonia
- Guyana
- Rio de Janeiro
- Buenos Aires
- Barbados

◀ Woman at a Guatemalan market

# Population Patterns

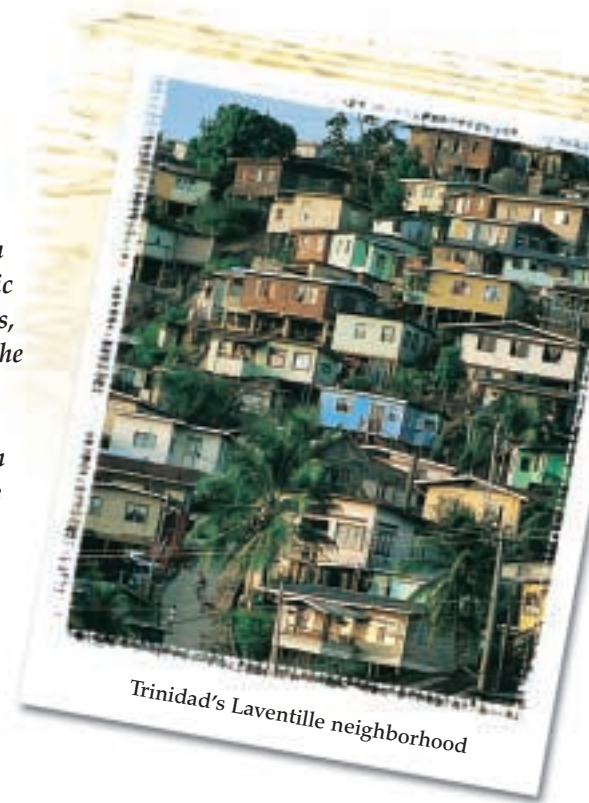
## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

### A Geographic View

#### A Flavorful Mix

*More than any other Caribbean island, Trinidad is a multiethnic stew. Africans and East Indians, each with about 40 percent of the population, make up the base, while smaller groups add their own flavor. Spanish and French families trace their roots to the 18th century, when their ancestors came to clear the land for plantations or to trade. . . . Portuguese, Chinese, and Syrian immigrants became merchants and shopkeepers. Today Trinidadians compare the resulting mix to callaloo, a soup with many ingredients.*

—A. R. Williams, “The Wild Mix of Trinidad and Tobago,”  
National Geographic, March 1994



The island country of Trinidad and Tobago reflects in miniature Latin America's diverse population. In this section you will learn how Latin America's multiethnic population came about, how the land shaped patterns of human migration, and what benefits and challenges population growth and diversity bring to the region.

## Human Characteristics

Latin America's 525 million people—about 9 percent of the world's population—live in 33 countries that span more than half of the Western Hemisphere. The region's population includes Native Americans, Europeans, Africans, Asians, and mixtures of these groups. The bar graph on page 212 shows you the ethnic diversity that characterizes Latin America today.

## History

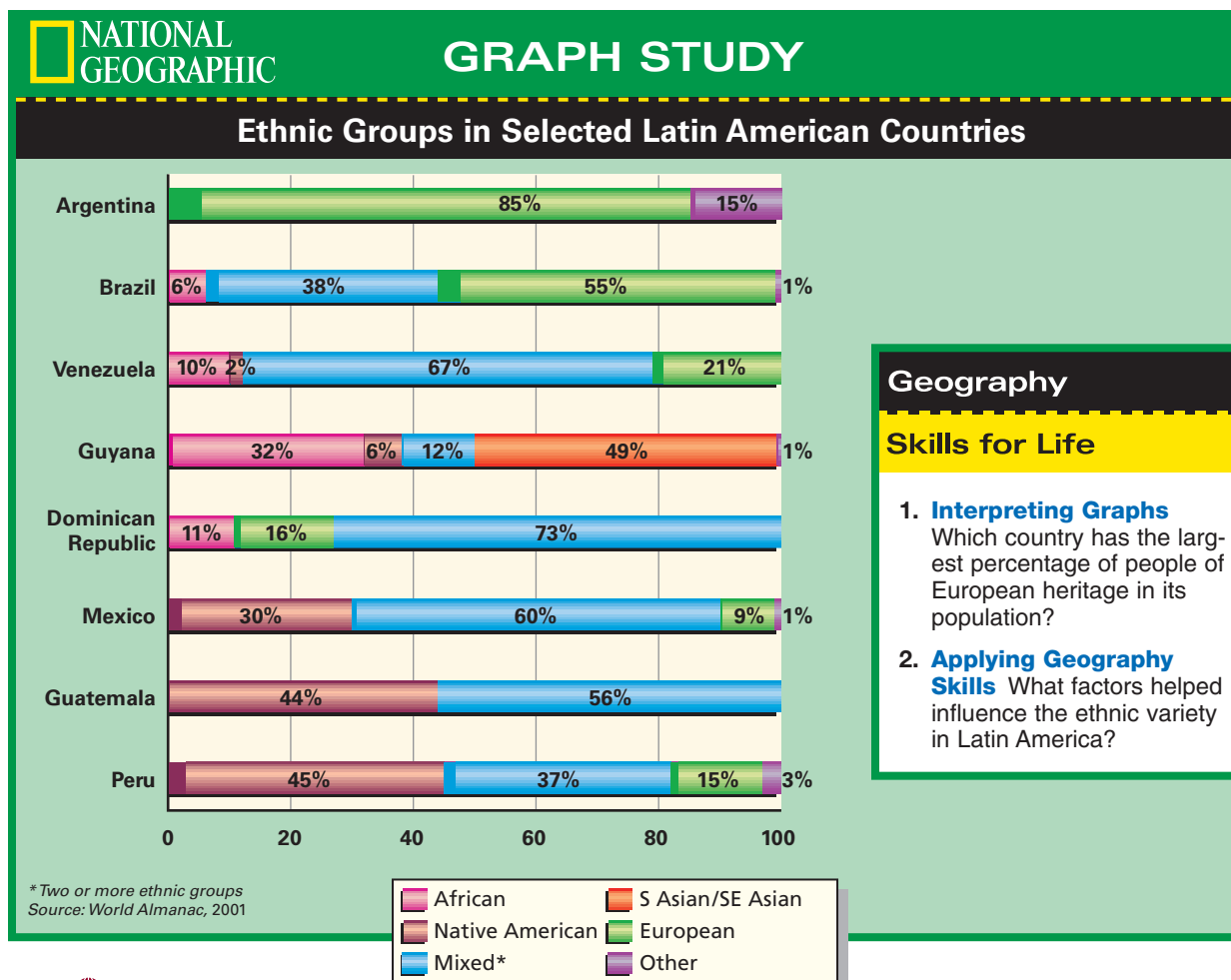
### A Blending of Peoples

The ancestors of Native Americans were the first people to settle Latin America. As a result, Native Americans today are known as an **indigenous** (ihn•DIH•juh•nuhs) group, people descended from an area's first inhabitants. Centuries ago three Native American groups—the Maya of the Yucatán Peninsula and parts of Central America, the Aztec of Mexico, and the Inca of Peru's highlands—developed great civilizations with important cities and ceremonial centers.

Today many Native American cultural features still remain in parts of Latin America. Most of Latin America's present-day Native Americans live in Mexico, Central America, and the Andes region of **Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia**. In areas where they are a large part of the population, Native American peoples have worked to preserve their traditional cultures while adopting features of other cultures.

Europeans first arrived in what is now Latin America in the late 1400s. Since that time millions of European immigrants have come to the region. Most of these settlers were Spanish and Portuguese. Over the years other European groups—Italians, British, French, and Germans—came as well. In modern times so many Europeans settled in Argentina and Uruguay that these countries became known as *immigrant nations*. In Latin America today, descendants of European immigrants continue to follow many of the ways of life their ancestors brought with them.

Africans first came to Latin America in the 1500s. They arrived as enslaved people, brought forcibly by Europeans to work sugar and other cash crop plantations in Brazil and the Caribbean islands. The labor of enslaved Africans helped build Latin American economies. By the late 1800s, slavery had finally ended in the region. Many Africans whose families had been in Latin America for generations remained in parts of the region. They added their rich cultural



influences to the food, music, arts, and religions of Latin America.

Asians first settled in Latin America during the 1800s. They labored as temporary workers, and many remained to form ethnic communities. Today the Caribbean islands and some countries of South America have large Asian populations. In **Guyana** about one-half of the population is of South Asian or Southeast Asian descent. Many people of Chinese descent make their homes in Peru, Mexico, and Cuba, and many people of Japanese descent live in Brazil and Peru.

Over the centuries there has been a blending of these different ethnic groups throughout Latin America. For example, in countries such as Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador, people of mixed Native American and European descent make up the largest part of the population. In other countries, such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic, people of mixed African and European descent form a large percentage of the population.

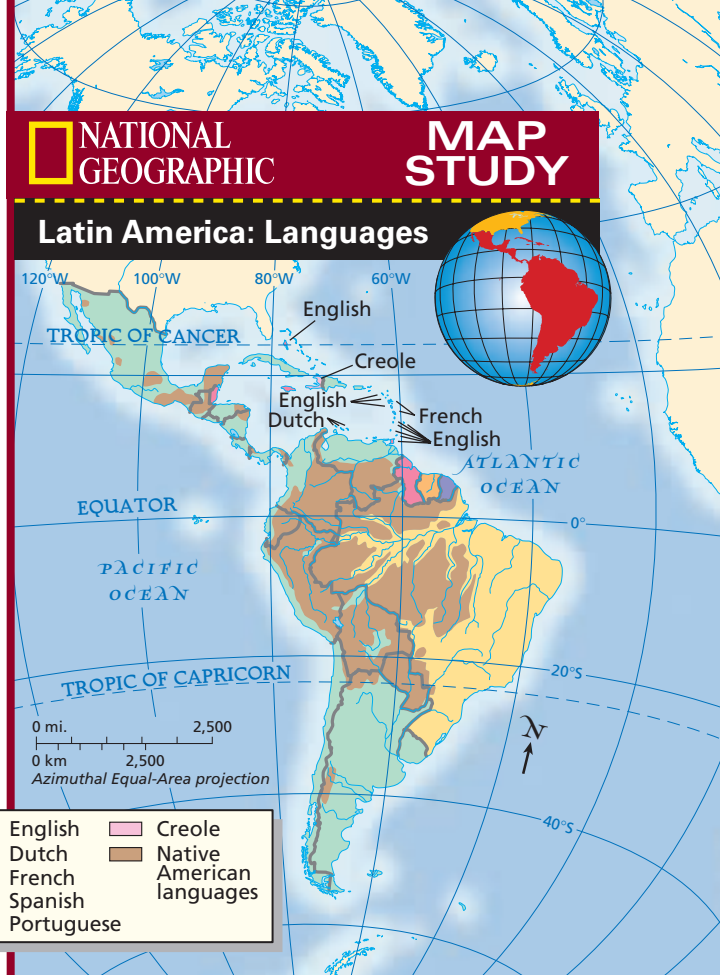
## Language

Language is a major factor in bringing together the diverse ethnic groups of Latin America. Most people in the region have adopted the languages of the European countries that once colonized the region. Today Spanish is the primary language of most countries of Latin America. However, other languages also are spoken. For example, the official language of Brazil is Portuguese; of Haiti and Martinique, French; and of Jamaica, Belize, and Guyana, English.

Not all Latin Americans, however, speak these European languages the same way as, or even in a way similar to, the original European colonists. Each country has its own **dialects**, forms of a language unique to a particular place or group. Meanings of words and the words themselves often differ from one place to another.

In addition, millions of Latin Americans speak Native American languages. In Central America, Mayan dialects such as K'iche' (kee•CHAY) are common. Tupi-Guarani predominates in Paraguay and Brazil. Aymara is spoken in Bolivia, and Quechua (KEH•chuh•wuh) in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

Many Latin Americans are bilingual, speaking two languages—a European language and another language, either indigenous, African, or Asian. Other



## Geography Skills for Life

1. **Interpreting Maps** Where are Native American languages spoken?
2. **Applying Geography Skills** How might the areas where some languages are spoken relate to the region's history of colonial settlement?

Find NGS online map resources @ [www.nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps)

Latin Americans speak one of many Latin American forms of **patois** (PA•TWAH), dialects that blend elements of indigenous, European, African, and Asian languages.

## Where Latin Americans Live

In addition to having a diverse population, Latin America today has a high rate of population growth. By most estimates the region's population will soar to about 800 million by the year 2050—an increase of 55 percent. This high growth rate magnifies the challenges to human patterns of





Geography

Skills for Life

Latin American

**Immigration** These floral arrangers, in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, are part of a community of Japanese Brazilians.

**Movement** Why have Asian and European immigrants settled in Latin America?

South America’s eastern coast, from the mouth of the Amazon River in Brazil to the pampas around **Buenos Aires**, Argentina, is Latin America’s largest populated area. A narrower strip of densely populated land stretches along the continent’s northern and western coast from **Caracas**, Venezuela, to **Santiago**, Chile.

South America’s populated rim does not encircle the entire continent, however. For example, the eastern coast between the Amazon’s mouth and Caracas has a hot, rainy climate and is sparsely populated. Another area of low population density lies to the far south in the Andes and **Patagonia**, where the climate and land are harsh.

With the exception of Native Americans, few South Americans live in the continent’s inland areas.

To draw people away from the densely populated coast, the Brazilian government in 1960 moved the capital from coastal **Rio de Janeiro** to Brasília, a planned city built in the country’s interior.

settlement already presented by Latin America’s physical geography.

Latin America’s varied climates and landscapes have an impact on where Latin Americans live. Temperature extremes, dense rain forests, towering mountains, and arid deserts limit human habitation in many parts of Latin America. In fact, most of Latin America’s population lives on only one-third of the region’s land.

About 350 million people live in South America, generally along the coasts. Another 138 million people live in Central America and Mexico, either along Central America’s Pacific coast or on the inland Mexican Plateau and Central Highlands. The Caribbean island countries are home to 37 million people.

### South America’s Populated Rim

Rain forests, deserts, and mountains dominate South America’s interior. In these areas harsh living conditions and poor soil discourage human settlement. As a result, most South Americans live on the continent’s edges, an area sometimes known as the “populated rim.” The coastal regions provide favorable climates, fertile land, and easy access to transportation systems.

### Population Density

As the population density map on page 184 shows, population density varies greatly throughout Latin America. One important factor in a country’s population density is its area. South American countries, with their relatively large land areas, tend to have low population densities. In Ecuador, the most densely populated country in South America, an average of only 118 people share a square mile (46 people per sq. km). Brazil has a large population, but its enormous land area, over 3.3 million square miles (8.5 million sq. km), results in a population density averaging only 52 people per square mile (20 people per sq. km).

Caribbean countries, in contrast, combine small land areas with large populations that tend to grow at rapid rates. These factors make the Caribbean countries some of the most densely populated in Latin America. The tiny island nation of **Barbados** has the highest population density in

the Caribbean, with an average of 1,620 people per square mile (698 people per sq. km).

Population density also varies within countries. With 99.6 million people, Mexico is the world's most populous Spanish-speaking country, and it is the second most populous country in Latin America, after Brazil. Mexico's population and its land area of 756,000 square miles (1.9 million sq. km) give it a population density of 132 people per square mile (51 people per sq. km), making Mexico seem relatively uncrowded. This overall density rate is only an average, however. In metropolitan Mexico City, more than 18 million people live within an area of 597 square miles (1,547 sq. km). That makes the population density of Mexico City a staggering 30,150 people per square mile (11,641 people per sq. km)!

## Migration

Migration has been a major force shaping population patterns in Latin America. As a geography writer recently observed,

*“Migration is . . . everyone's solution, everyone's conflict. . . . Unlike the flight of refugees, which is usually chaotic, economic movement is a chain that links the world. Migration . . . continues to push us toward change.”*

Michael Parfit, “Human Migration,” *National Geographic*, October 1998

In past centuries Europeans, Africans, and Asians migrated to Latin America in large numbers, either voluntarily or involuntarily. Today people from places such as Korea, Armenia, Lebanon, and Syria come to Latin America seeking economic and political opportunities.

### Migrating North

In addition to receiving an inflow of migrants from foreign countries, Latin America also experiences an outflow of people to different parts of the world. For many Latin Americans, the desire for improved living conditions, political freedom, or an escape from political unrest leads them to move north to the United States. Latin Americans come to the United States primarily from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean islands. Immigrants from Latin America live in every state of the Union, with large numbers in California, Texas, New York, Illinois, and Florida. Many Latin American immigrants go through the process of legally entering the United States; others enter illegally. All of these immigrants bring elements of their culture with them. Most retain close ties with family and friends in their home countries, and many intend to return when economic conditions there improve.

### Internal Migration

Internal migration, or movement within a region or country, also has shaped Latin America



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

World Explorer

Geography

Skills for Life

Market

**Street in La Paz** A crowded street in La Paz, Bolivia, shows the effects of rapid urbanization.

**Movement** How does internal migration contribute to urbanization in the region?



Latin America: Migration and Urbanization

People in Latin America continue to look to urban areas, both inside and outside the region, for work and a better life. Most often people migrate to areas of higher economic prosperity. For example, people migrate from Mexico to the United States. However, migration also occurs within Latin America. Migration has caused an increase in the levels of urbanization throughout the region.



Level of Urbanization

	1970	2001	2025*
Argentina	78%	90%	93%
Bolivia	36%	63%	76%
Brazil	56%	81%	86%
Guatemala	37%	39%	42%
Mexico	59%	74%	82%
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>81%</b>

\*Projected figures.  
Sources: World Population Data Sheet, 2001; United Nations Population Division; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Geography Skills for Life

1. **Interpreting Maps** Which countries receive a significant inflow of labor migration?

2. **Applying Geography Skills** Study the levels of urbanization in Argentina and Guatemala. How do they compare with the region as a whole?

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in recent decades. As in many parts of the world, migrants within Latin America usually move from rural to urban areas because of better job opportunities in the cities. This one-way migration also occurs because in many rural areas fertile land is in short supply or a small portion of the population controls access to the land. As the rural population rises, there is less fertile land to go around. Smaller farms can no longer support families. The result is continuing, rapid **urbanization**—

the migration of people from the countryside to cities as well as the change from a rural to an urban society that accompanies this movement.

Growth of Cities

In the past most Latin Americans lived in the countryside and worked the land. Today most live in urban areas. Four cities of Latin America—Mexico City, Mexico; São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;





and Buenos Aires, Argentina—now rank among the world’s 20 largest urban areas in population.

## The Urban Setting

In some Latin American countries, as cities have grown they have absorbed surrounding cities and suburbs to create **megacities**, cities with more than 10 million people. The region’s largest megacity is Mexico City, with a current population of more than 18 million. By 2015, the city is expected to have 19.2 million people. Mexico City’s rapidly growing population already stresses the city’s ability to provide safe drinking water, underground sewers, and utilities for new arrivals. Although the city has many areas with comfortable homes, its challenge for the future is to provide adequate housing for many who now live in cardboard shacks or makeshift houses made from sheets of metal.

Because of its size and influence, Mexico City is a **primate city**, an urban area that dominates its country’s economy, culture, and political affairs. Other primate cities in Latin America include Caracas, Venezuela; Montevideo, Uruguay; Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Havana, Cuba. Many primate cities began near waterways during the colonial era. Today these cities serve as central locations for gathering, collecting, and shipping resources

overseas. They are especially powerful magnets for rural migrants seeking a higher standard of living.

## Urban Challenges

Most rural Latin Americans migrate to cities to find a better life—higher incomes, more educational opportunities, better housing, and increased access to health care. In many cases people do not find what they seek. As a city’s resources are strained by rapid population growth, jobs and housing become scarce. At the same time, many rural people lack the education and skills to obtain urban employment. Schools and health care centers are overwhelmed.

Despite disappointments, most rural migrants do not have the resources to return to their villages. They remain in the cities, forced by poverty to live in neighborhoods with substandard housing, poor sanitation, and little opportunity for improvement. Families sometimes split apart under the stress, leaving large numbers of homeless children to fend for themselves on the streets.

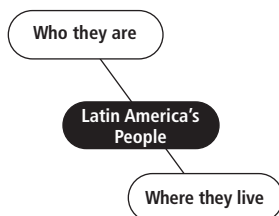
Many of Latin America’s urban challenges arise from modern developments, such as the growth of cities. Others, however, stem from social and economic issues deeply rooted in the past. In the next section you will read about the historical factors that still shape current ways of life in Latin America.

## TAKS Practice

### SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

#### Checking for Understanding

1. **Define** indigenous, dialect, patois, urbanization, megacity, primate city.
2. **Main Ideas** Create a web diagram like the one below, and fill in important information about Latin America’s people.



#### Critical Thinking

3. **Analyzing Cause and Effect** What factors account for the differences in the way Spanish is spoken in various Latin American countries?
4. **Drawing Conclusions** Develop a hypothesis describing probable population patterns in Latin America in the year 2050. Defend your hypothesis, using present trends as evidence.
5. **Making Inferences** In what ways might physical geography influence the development of megacities in Latin America?

#### Analyzing Maps

6. **Region** Study the language map on page 213. What is the most widely spoken language in Central America?

#### Applying Geography

7. **Population Density** Consider the physical geography of Latin America. Write a paragraph suggesting suitable locations for constructing new cities to relieve population pressures in Latin America’s existing cities. Consider the kinds of resources required to sustain large populations.



# GEOGRAPHY

# AND HISTORY

## PASSAGE THROUGH PANAMA

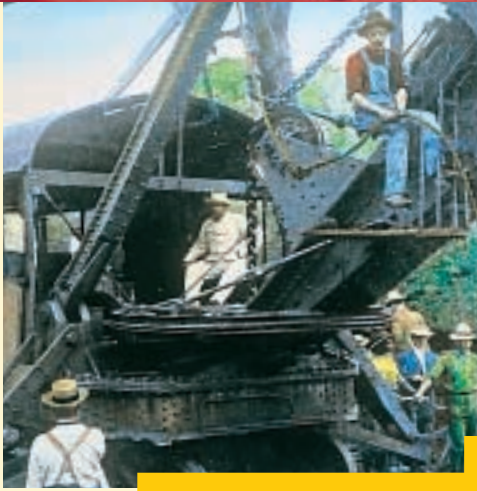
**T**HE PANAMA CANAL, a vital waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, has been an important trade route since the day it opened. About 14,000 ships pass through the canal's system of locks and lakes each year. Using the canal, ships can avoid the treacherous waters around Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America and can shave 7,000 miles (11,265 km) off their trip. For most of the twentieth century, the United States controlled the canal. This changed on the last day of 1999, when control passed to the nation of Panama. Today the United States and other countries anxiously watch how Panama operates this international shortcut between the world's largest oceans.



### Big Dreams and Political Shenanigans

Spanish explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa was the first to grasp the unique geographic features of the land in Central America known today as Panama. In 1513, while exploring the isthmus, he climbed a peak and discovered a body of water as vast as the Atlantic, the ocean he had left behind. It wasn't long before thoughts turned to building a waterway to breach the slender neck of land that connects Central and South America. The limitations of manual labor, however, kept the idea in

A freighter winds its way through the Panama Canal. ►



◀ Canal enthusiast Theodore Roosevelt operates a steam shovel at a canal work site.

the realm of dreams for more than 300 years.

By the late 1800s, technology had caught up with the imagination. The first to try to build a waterway was Frenchman Ferdinand de Lesseps, who masterminded the Suez Canal. Cutting through the mountainous

terrain proved extremely difficult, and de Lesseps failed. But one of his engineers, Philippe Jean Bunau-Varilla, refused to quit. In 1901 he pitched the idea to U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, who was willing to pay the engineer's price if Colombia, of which Panama was a part, relinquished control of the proposed canal route. When Colombia refused, Bunau-Varilla supported Panamanian revolutionaries and persuaded the United States to intervene. The presence of American gunboats was enough to make Colombia give in. Panama became an independent country. Bunau-Varilla, Panama's new minister to the United States, negotiated a treaty giving the United States control of the land along the proposed route. In 1904 construction began.

### Engineering Wonder of the World

Nearly 75,000 laborers from around the world built what is still regarded as one of the engineering wonders of the world. Instead of trying to make a cut through the rugged hills to carry ships across at sea level, the American solution was to build a system of locks to lift ships up to a newly created lake, and in the same way, lower them down the other side. The volcanic soil, heat and rain, dense vegetation, and disease-spreading insects conspired to make progress painfully slow. Thousands of workers lost their lives, and costs grew to more than \$380 million. The canal was completed in 1914.

#### Looking Ahead

In acquiring the Panama Canal, the Panamanians gained a sizable investment. Do you think Panama will find the resources to maintain and operate the canal? How might the United States be affected by the change in command?

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



- 1500s** First road built across isthmus
- 1855** American business interests build railroad across isthmus
- 1881** French company begins building a sea level canal; project abandoned in 1887
- 1903** Backed by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt (cartoon above), Panama becomes independent country and signs treaty to create Panama Canal Zone
- 1904** Work begins on the Panama Canal (background photo)
- 1914** First ship passes through canal
- 1977** U.S. and Panama sign Panama Canal Treaty, gradually transferring ownership to Panama
- 1999** Canal ownership transfers to Panama



## Guide to Reading

### Consider What You Know

Latin American politics and social conflicts often make news in the United States. How are Latin American governments similar to or different from the United States government?

### Read to Find Out

- What contributions have Latin America's Native American empires made to the region's cultural development?
- How has colonial rule influenced Latin America's political and social structures?
- How did most Latin American countries make the transition from colonialism to democracy?
- What political and social factors continue to challenge the Latin American culture region?

### Terms to Know

- glyph
- chinampas
- quipu
- conquistador
- viceroy
- caudillo

### Places to Locate

- Mexico
- Tikal
- Tenochtitlán
- Cuzco
- Haiti
- Cuba

# History and Government



## A Geographic View

### Native Rights Protest

*Drawn machetes slapped against trouser legs. Dark eyes stared in anger. About 40 Tojolabal Indian men and women surrounded two men. . . . They talked angrily, and the phrase that came through was, "This is our land." The sharp edges of the machetes gleamed. . . . These Indians might be Zapatistas, rebel Indian farmers named for Mexico's revolutionary war hero Emiliano Zapata. . . .*

—Michael Parfit, "Chiapas: Rough Road to Reality," National Geographic, August 1996



In 1994 the Zapatistas attacked government troops and captured several towns in southern Mexico. One of their aims was to recover lands that Spanish conquerors had seized from their ancestors four centuries earlier. They finally succeeded in pressuring the Mexican government to introduce reforms giving Native Americans more power in Mexico's political system. Throughout Latin America today people struggle with unresolved issues rooted in the past. In this section you will learn about Latin America's long and often violent history, which includes ancient Native American civilizations, European colonial rule, and struggles for independence.

## Native American Empires

Years before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas in 1492, three Native American empires—the Maya, the Aztec, and the Inca—flourished in the area that is present-day Latin America.



The civilization of each empire left enduring marks on Latin American cultures.

## The Maya

The Maya dominated southern Mexico and northern Central America from about A.D. 250 to 900. They established many cities, the greatest of which was **Tikal**, located in what is today Guatemala. Terraces, courts, and pyramid-shaped temples stood in these cities. Priests and nobles ruled the cities and surrounding areas. The Maya based their economy on agriculture and trade.

Skilled in mathematics, the Maya developed accurate calendars and used astronomical observations to predict solar eclipses. They used **glyphs**, picture writings carved in stone, on temples to honor their deities and record their history.

For reasons that are still a mystery, the Maya eventually abandoned their cities, which over time became lost beneath the vegetation of the rain forest. Archaeologists continue to search for more information about the ancient Maya. Researchers have uncovered the ruins of over 40 Mayan cities, but most of the glyphs remain untranslated. Today many temple ruins are popular tourist attractions. Descendants of the Maya still live in villages in southern Mexico and northern Central America, where they practice subsistence farming.

## The Aztec

The Aztec civilization arose in central Mexico, in the A.D. 1300s. The Aztec founded their capital, **Tenochtitlán** (tay•NAWCH•teet•LAHN), today the site of Mexico City, on an island in a large lake. To feed the growing population, Aztec farmers grew beans and maize on **chinampas**—floating “islands” made from large rafts covered with mud from the lake bottom.

The Aztec developed a highly structured class system headed by an emperor and military officials. High-ranking priests performed rituals to win the deities’ favor and to guarantee good harvests. At the bottom of Aztec society were the majority—farmers, laborers, and soldiers.

### Culture

## Gifts to the World’s Tables

Several foods grown by the Aztec have become worldwide favorites. Corn, a staple food of Latin

America, came from the maize cultivated by the Aztec. The tomato, later used in Mediterranean cuisine, was unknown in Europe until the European conquest of Latin America. From bitter cacao beans, the Aztec made a concoction called **xocoatl** (chocolate), or “food of the gods.”

## The Inca

During the time of the Aztec, the Inca established a civilization in the Andes mountain ranges of South America. At its height the Incan Empire stretched from what is today Ecuador to central

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC** **MAP STUDY**

### Native American Empires

0 mi. 2,500  
0 km 2,500  
Azimuthal Equal-Area projection

- Aztec Empire
- Maya Empire
- Inca Empire

### Geography Skills for Life

- Interpreting Maps** In which empire was Machu Picchu located?
- Applying Geography Skills** The Inca Empire stretched across lands that are part of what present-day countries?

Find NGS online map resources @ [www.nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps)

Chile. The Inca built their capital, **Cuzco**, in what is now Peru and ruled their lands through a central government headed by an emperor.

Using precisely cut stones, Incan builders constructed massive temples and fortresses. They laid out a network of roads that crossed high mountain passes and penetrated dense forests. To keep soil from washing away, Incan farmers cut terraces into the steep slopes of the Andes and built irrigation systems to bring water to Pacific coast deserts. The Inca also domesticated the alpaca and the llama, which they used for wool. With no written language, the Inca used oral storytelling to pass on knowledge to each generation. To keep track of financial records, Incan traders used a **quipu** (KEE•poo), a series of knotted cords of various colors and lengths. Each knot represented a different item or number.

## Empires to Nations

Beginning with Christopher Columbus's voyages from 1492 to 1504, Europeans explored and colonized vast areas of the Americas. The major European powers of Spain and Portugal ruled huge territories from Mexico to southern South America. Later Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands colonized in the Caribbean area and parts of northern South America.

## European Conquests

From the West Indies, the Spaniards expanded into other parts of the Americas. Desiring riches, Spanish **conquistador**, or conqueror, Hernán Cortés in 1521 defeated the Aztec and claimed Mexico for Spain. In 1535 another conquistador, Francisco Pizarro, destroyed the Incan Empire in Peru and began Spain's South American empire. The Portuguese settled on the coast of Brazil.

As a result of these conquests, European colonies gradually arose throughout Latin America. In Spanish-ruled territories, for example, the conquerors set up highly structured political systems under royally appointed officials known as **viceroy**s. The Roman Catholic Church became the major unifying institution in both Spanish and Portuguese colonies. Missionaries from Europe converted the Native Americans to Christianity and set up schools and hospitals.



## Geography Skills for Life

- Interpreting Maps** What European countries ruled Guiana?
- Applying Geography Skills** Compare this map with a political map. What present-day countries emerged from the Viceroyalty of New Granada?

## Colonial Economies

The European colonies in the Americas became sources of wealth for the home countries. Some Spanish settlers prospered from the mining of gold and silver. The Portuguese discovered precious metals in Brazil and made use of brazilwood,



## architecture of LATIN AMERICA

**Colonial Architecture** Built in the 1500s, the chapel Nuestra Señora de los Remedios (below) in Cholula, Mexico, is typical of Spanish colonial architecture. Colonial buildings often reflect a mixture of European styles with Native American and African influences.



**Modern Architecture** The dome and towers of the Palacio do Congresso (right) in Brasília, Brazil, reflect the sleek, modern style of Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer. The major government buildings in Brasília were planned and built in the 1950s and 1960s.



a tree used to make red dye. Spanish and Portuguese colonists also built cities and towns that served as trade centers and seats of government. In the tropics their plantations grew coffee, bananas, and sugarcane for export to Europe. In cool highlands areas, they established farms and cattle ranches.

The Spaniards and Portuguese used Native Americans to work on the plantations and ranches. As epidemic diseases and hardships drastically reduced the numbers of Native Americans, the European colonists imported enslaved Africans to meet the labor shortage. Despite European dominance many aspects of the Native American and African ways of life survived, creating a blend of the cultures of three continents in Latin America.

### Gaining Independence

In the late 1700s, resentment against European rule spread throughout Latin America. Wealthy colonists of European origin wanted self-rule. Those Europeans lower on the social scale demanded more rights. Native Americans and Africans simply yearned for freedom from servitude.

Encouraged by the revolutions in North America and France, many Latin Americans joined together to end European colonial rule.

The first Latin American country to gain its independence was **Haiti**, located on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. In the 1790s François Toussaint-Louverture (frahn•SWAH TOO•SAN•LOO•vuhr•TYUR), a soldier born of enslaved parents, led a revolt by enslaved Africans. By 1804 Haiti had won its independence from France. The first Spanish-ruled country in Latin America to win independence was Mexico. The independence movement there began in 1810 and was led by a parish priest, Father Miguel Hidalgo. After a long struggle, Mexico became independent in 1821.

Other territories in Latin America also sought independence. By the mid-1800s most of them had achieved their goal under such leaders as Simón Bolívar of Venezuela and José de San Martín of Argentina. However, only one country—Brazil—became independent without a violent upheaval.

Except for Haiti, Caribbean island countries were the last territories in Latin America to achieve



## Latin America's Independence Leaders



*François Toussaint-Louverture led enslaved Haitians in a violent revolt against French rule. He died in a French prison in 1803.*



*Called "the Liberator," Simón Bolívar of Venezuela won freedom for the present-day countries of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.*



*José de San Martín of Argentina led his Latin American forces across the Andes to win independence for Chile and Peru.*



*Father Miguel Hidalgo called on Mexicans to fight for "Independence and Liberty" from Spain. He was executed in 1811.*

independence. **Cuba**, for example, did not win its freedom from Spain until 1898. British-ruled islands, such as Jamaica and Barbados, did not gain independence until well into the 1900s. Even today some islands remain under foreign control; for example, Martinique is a possession of France, the Cayman Islands of Great Britain, and Curaçao of the Netherlands. In addition, Puerto Rico and some of the Virgin Islands have political links to the United States.

### Era of Dictatorships

Latin America's wars for independence ushered in a period of political and economic instability. During the 1800s some leaders in the region wanted to build democratic institutions and prosperous economies. However, they had to contend with the legacy of indigenous and European class structures, which stressed rank and privilege. As a result, political and economic power often remained in the hands of a small group of wealthy landowners, army officers, and clergy. Written constitutions were ignored, public dissatisfaction led to revolts, and governments relied on the military to keep order.

In this chaotic situation, a new kind of leader emerged—the **caudillo** (kow•DEE•yoh), or dictator. With the backing of military forces and wealthy landowners, caudillos became absolute rulers with sole authority to make decisions.

### Movements for Change

During the 1900s Latin America experienced dramatic political, social, and economic changes. As European rule declined, the influence of the United States increased in the region. For example, after Panama became an independent country in 1903, the United States and Panama signed a treaty creating the Panama Canal Zone. The formation of industries, the building of railroads, and the expansion of trade all brought new wealth to the upper classes. These developments also created new middle and working classes in the cities. However, for the vast majority of Latin Americans, especially rural dwellers, progress was limited.

As the gap between the rich and the poor widened, unrest spread among farmers and workers. Conservative dictators and military governments resisted demands for reform and crushed uprisings. In Cuba, however, a revolution in 1959 set up a communist state under Fidel Castro.

During the 1990s communism remained entrenched in Cuba, but military dictatorships gave way to democratically elected governments in a



**Student Web Activity** Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at [tx.geography.glencoe.com](http://tx.geography.glencoe.com) and click on Student Web Activities—Chapter 9 for an activity about the Panama Canal.

number of countries. Today Latin American countries are struggling to end corrupt politics and bring economic benefits to all their citizens. In Mexico, for example, nearly 70 years of one-party rule ended in the year 2000 when the candidate of the ruling party PRI (*Partido Revolucionario Institucional*) lost the presidency to Vicente Fox of the opposition party PAN (*Partido Acción Nacional*) in a genuinely democratic election.

As Latin America entered the 2000s, Native Americans, farmers, and workers demanded more political power and greater economic benefits. A spokeswoman for Guatemala’s modern-day Maya people, Rigoberta Menchú, discusses the need for greater inclusion in political processes:

“National unity must be defined in the context of the right of the whole society to diversity, protected by and reflected in a democratic state. Eventually governments will have to tackle the issue of the self-determination of diverse peoples within national boundaries. . . . We must accept that humanity is a beautiful multicolored garden.”

Rigoberta Menchú (Ann Wright, trans.), *Crossing Borders*, 1998



Geography Skills for Life

**New President** In his campaign, Vicente Fox (shown here with Rigoberta Menchú) promised better public education and more attention to the poor.

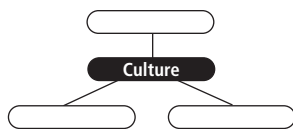
**Region** What political issues are important in Latin America today?

TAKS Practice

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Define** glyph, *chinampas*, quipu, conquistador, viceroy, caudillo.
- Main Ideas** Create a web diagram like the one below for each Native American culture, and show its major achievements. Then choose one achievement and explain why it was important.



Critical Thinking

- Making Comparisons** How was the social structure of the Aztec Empire similar to the social structures of Latin America under European colonialism?
- Drawing Conclusions** Was the plantation system beneficial or harmful? Explain.
- Analyzing Information** According to Rigoberta Menchú, how can diversity bring unity? Do you agree or disagree with her assessment, and what steps would you take to bring about unity?

Analyzing Maps

- Region** Compare the maps of Latin America and the colonial empires on pages 195 and 222. Which Spanish viceroyalty was named for a geographic feature of Latin America?

Applying Geography

- Development and History** On a time line trace the development of indigenous and European empires in Latin America. Include at least one achievement that occurred during each empire.

## Guide to Reading

### Consider What You Know

Latin American foods and music are popular in the United States and around the world. How do people today discover and learn about the cultural traditions of Latin America?

### Read to Find Out

- What role does religion play in Latin American culture?
- How have Latin Americans used the arts to express their history, their social struggles, and their cultural diversity?
- How is Latin America's cultural diversity reflected in family life, leisure activities, and public celebrations?

### Terms to Know

- syncretism
- mural
- mosaic
- extended family
- malnutrition
- fútbol
- jai alai

### Places to Locate

- West Indies
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Brasília
- Chile

# Cultures and Lifestyles

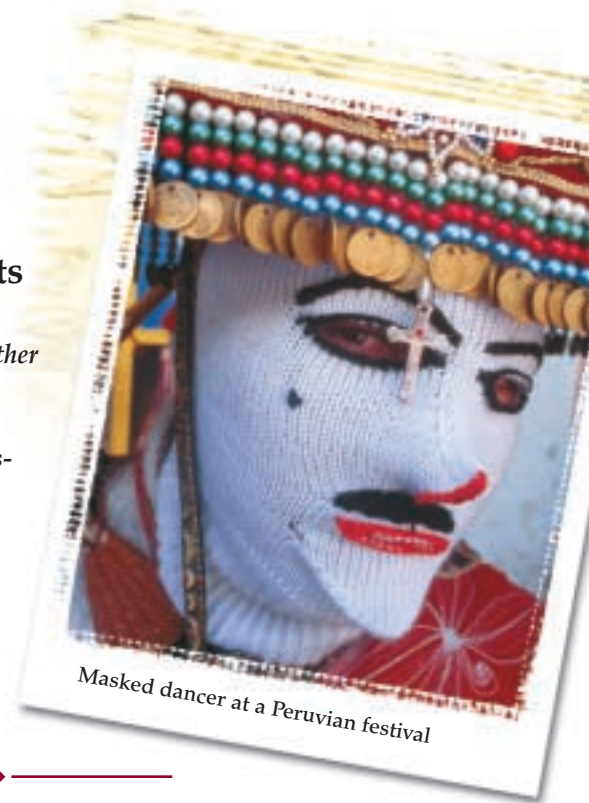


## A Geographic View

### Shadows of the Ancients

*Doffing his mask, a member of Los Panchitos dance troupe takes a breather from the vigorous street dancing. . . . With its origins deep in the past, the dance pokes fun at figures of the present. . . . The finger of ridicule points to a landowner who abuses peasant workers, a judge who decides a case in favor of the rich. . . .*

—Michael E. Long, “Enduring Echoes of Peru’s Past,” National Geographic, June 1990



Masked dancer at a Peruvian festival

The past and present intermingle in the lives of Latin Americans. Here, along Peru’s northern coast, a masked dance blends Native American and European influences, music and visual arts, religion and social criticism. This interweaving of diverse elements is a hallmark of Latin American culture. In this section you will learn how Latin Americans express their culture through religion, the arts, and everyday life.

## Religion

Religion has long played an important role in Latin American society. During the colonial era, most Latin Americans became Christians, and Christianity still has the most followers. In addition, other faiths are found in the region. For example, scores of traditional Native American and African religions thrive, often mixed with Christianity and other faiths. Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, brought by Asian immigrants, are practiced in the **West Indies** and coastal areas of South America. Judaism has followers in the largest Latin American cities.



## Roman Catholicism

Most Christians in Latin America are Roman Catholics, and Roman Catholic traditions influence daily life in the region. During colonial times Roman Catholicism was the official religion of the Spanish colonies and Brazil. Roman Catholic clergy had accompanied European conquerors and colonists to the Americas. They established Roman Catholicism throughout Latin America, converting many Native Americans to their faith. When European settlers arrived, the priests saw to their spiritual needs as well.

Before long, church leaders were playing an important role in political affairs in the region, and the Roman Catholic Church had become wealthy. When the fight for independence came, church officials backed the wealthy and powerful classes. During the late 1900s, however, Roman Catholics in Latin America began to support the concerns of the poor and the oppressed. In recent years many Roman Catholic clergy and laypeople

have opposed dictatorships and worked to improve the lives of disadvantaged groups. For example, the Church has been active in movements for land reform and for improvements in education and health care.

## Protestantism

Various forms of Protestant Christianity came to Latin America with British and Dutch settlers in the 1800s. In time American Protestant missionaries came and built hospitals, schools, and colleges. Protestants in the region were few in number until the late 1900s, when Protestantism grew rapidly. According to religious observers, many Latin Americans were drawn to Protestantism because it gave laypeople a major role in religious life and emphasized personal religious experience.

## A Mixing of Religions

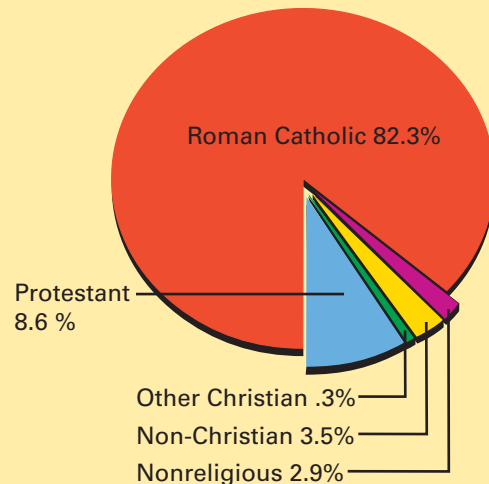
Throughout Latin America a mixing of religions has occurred since the colonial era. Many Latin



## GRAPH STUDY

### Latin America: Religions

Religion	Number of Followers
Roman Catholic	454,105,000
Protestant	47,288,000
Non-Christian	19,091,000
Nonreligious	15,824,000
Other Christian	1,624,000



Sources: World Almanac, 2001; Britannica Book of the Year, 2000

### Geography Skills for Life

1. **Interpreting Graphs** What percentage of Latin Americans are Roman Catholic? Protestant?

2. **Applying Geography Skills** Why are large portions of Latin America's population Roman Catholic?





## music of LATIN AMERICA

A wide mix of music traditions in Latin America comes from the native inhabitants (wind and percussion instruments), the Europeans (strings, vocal harmonies), and the Africans (drums, varied rhythms).

### Instrument Spotlight

**Panpipes** are one of the most common musical instruments from the Andean region of South America, dating from before the arrival of the Europeans. Often called *zampona* or *siku*, panpipes are made of bamboo in varying sizes and pitches. Individual bamboo stalks are cut precisely and lashed together in rows with strips of bamboo and string. The notes of a given scale often alternate from one set of pipes to another. For a complete melody to be played, the two rows of pipes are stacked one on top of the other.



**World Music: A Cultural Legacy** Hear music of this region on Disc 1, Tracks 7–12.

Americans today practice **syncretism**—a blending of beliefs and practices from different religions into a single faith. Some Latin Americans, for example, especially Native Americans, worship at Roman Catholic churches on Sunday but pray to nature deities during the week. Among the descendants of enslaved Africans, belief in West African deities is combined with Roman Catholic devotion to the saints. Called *condoblé* in Brazil, *Santería* in Cuba, and voodoo in Haiti and the **Dominican Republic**, these African-based religions have thousands of followers in Latin America and among Latin American immigrants to the United States.

## The Arts of Latin America

For centuries, the arts and literature of Latin America were shaped by European styles. Today's Latin American artists and writers have developed styles that often reflect their diverse ethnic heritages, blending European styles with those of Native American cultures.

### History

#### Traditional Arts

Native Americans produced the earliest art forms in Latin America. They left a legacy of weaving, woodcarving, pottery, and metalwork. The intricate, colorful handwoven textiles produced in **Guatemala** and the Andes regions reflect Mayan symbols and Incan weaving. The work of contemporary goldsmiths, silversmiths, and jewelers is matched only by the sophisticated metalwork from the pre-Columbian era, the time before the arrival of Columbus.

Native Americans built temples decorated with colored **murals**, or wall paintings, and **mosaics**, pictures or designs made by setting small bits of colored stone, tile, or shell into mortar. Native Americans also created the region's earliest music and dance.

During colonial times the arts were largely inspired by European works. Most paintings had Christian themes. Murals, however, mixed the brightly colored abstract designs of the Native Americans with the more realistic European styles.

Churches built in Spanish and Portuguese designs often were enlivened by the ethnic details added by Native American and African artists. Meanwhile, Africans brought to the region the rhythms, songs, and dances that evolved into today's Latin American musical styles and dances, such as calypso, reggae, and samba.

## Modern Arts

During the 1900s Latin American artists mixed European, Native American, and African artistic traditions. Many of them also focused on social and political subjects. Diego Rivera, a well-known Mexican artist, created huge murals that illustrated key events in Mexico's history, especially the struggles of impoverished farmers to win social justice. Other noted Latin American painters included Mexico's Frida Kahlo, known for her self-portraits, and Colombia's Fernando Botero, who satirized the lifestyles of Latin America's upper classes.

Latin American music combines Native American, European, and African influences to create unique styles. These musical styles include Brazilian samba, Cuban salsa, and Mexican mariachi.

During the past 50 years, Latin American architects, dancers, and writers also have won international recognition. The Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer is known for the buildings he designed in

the Brazilian capital of **Brasília**. Dance companies such as the Ballet Folklórico of Mexico fascinate audiences worldwide with their performances of traditional Native American and Spanish dances. Latin America also has produced outstanding novelists, such as Colombia's Gabriel García Márquez and Chile's Isabel Allende, who skillfully blend everyday reality with the mythical and fantastic in their writings. A continuing theme of Latin American literature is cultural identity. The Argentine poet Jorge Luis Borges wrote of this theme in his life:

“From a lineage of Protestant ministers and South American soldiers who fought, with their incalculable dust, against the Spaniards and the desert lances, I am and am not . . .”

*“Yesterdays,” Jorge Luis Borges: Selected Poems, Alexander Coleman, ed., Stephen Kessler, trans., 1999*

## Everyday Life

Latin Americans place great emphasis on social status and family life. They also cherish values such as personal honor and individual freedom.

## Families

Most Latin Americans have a strong sense of loyalty to family. Each person is part of an **extended family** that includes grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins as well as parents and children. Latin American parents and children often share their home with grandparents and sometimes other members of the extended family. *Compadres*, or godparents, play an important role in family life. Godparents are people chosen by the mother and father to sponsor their new baby. Godparents are concerned with the child's religious and moral upbringing and help take care of the child if something happens to the parents.

Latin American society still displays traces of machismo, a Spanish and Portuguese tradition of male



▲ Diego Rivera's mural *Teatro Insurgentes* depicts leaders of the Mexican Revolution.



supremacy, although women have made rapid advances in public life in recent decades. Latin American women are in charge of home life, making important financial and family decisions. Each year more women attend universities and hold jobs in a variety of professions. Many have been elected as national legislators, as mayors of large cities, and as country leaders. For example, in 1999, Panama elected Mireya Elisa Moscoso as president.

## Education and Health Care

The quality of education varies throughout Latin America. Children generally are required to complete elementary school, but they often do not because of long distances to school and lack of money for clothing and supplies. Also, many children drop out to help with family farming or to find jobs.

Despite such realities many Latin American countries have made gains in education. Adult literacy rates have risen steadily, governments now devote more funds to schools, and some countries have seen impressive gains in school attendance. University enrollment also is rising, as some public universities provide higher education at little or no cost to students. Although Latin America has lagged behind some other regions in computer literacy, Internet usage is beginning to transform education in countries such as **Chile** and Mexico.

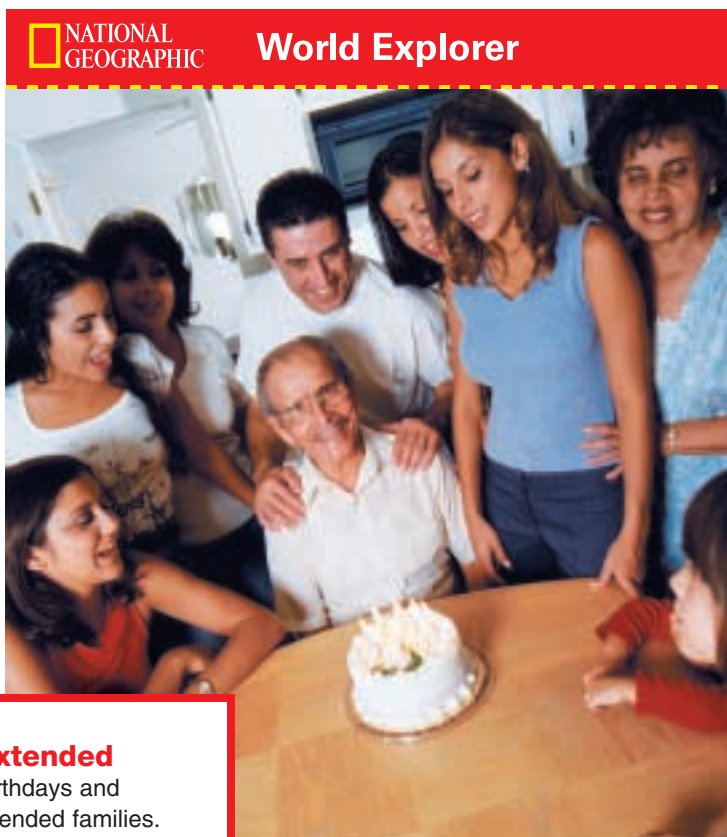
In Latin America, as in other regions, health care is linked to standards of living. As people become employed and better educated, health concerns linked to poverty, lack of sanitation, and **malnutrition**, a serious condition caused by a lack of proper food, become much less severe. Today, despite a wide gap between the rich and the poor, Latin America overall is improving the health of its people. Infant mortality rates for

the region have fallen dramatically in recent years, and most people now have access to clean, treated water for drinking.

Still, health conditions vary from country to country. In lands with prosperous economies and high standards of living, such as Chile, people have access to better health care systems and are able to live healthier, longer lives. By contrast, countries with less developed economies, such as Haiti, have little money to spend on health care. Consequently, disease is more prevalent and life expectancy is low. In most Latin American countries, the quality of health care falls between these two extremes.

## Sports and Leisure

Throughout Latin America fans are as passionate about *fútbol*, or soccer, as fans in the United States are about American football. In many Latin American countries it is the national sport. Thousands of dedicated spectators crowd into huge stadiums to watch their teams play. Baseball, basketball, and volleyball also have large followings, especially in the West Indies. Many Latin



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

World Explorer

Geography Skills for Life

Extended

**Families** Family celebrations such as birthdays and weddings are important traditions within extended families.

**Region** How do Latin Americans view families?

CONTENTS

American baseball stars, including home-run hitter Sammy Sosa from the Dominican Republic, have gone on to play in the North American major leagues. A favorite sport among many Mexicans and Cubans is **jai alai** (HY•LY), a fast-paced game much like handball, played with a ball and a long, curved basket strapped to each player's wrist.

Watching television, listening to the radio, and attending movies, concerts, and plays are leisure activities as popular in Latin America as they are around the world. The most popular Latin American leisure activity of all, however, may be celebrating. From impromptu gatherings of friends to special family dinners to religious feast days, and patriotic events, almost any social occasion is a party—a *fiesta*, or festival.

Perhaps the best-known festival is Carnival, celebrated in the week before the Roman Catholic observance of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and prayer before Easter. In Rio de Janeiro, home of one of the largest Carnival celebrations, teams from different parts of the city compete to win the prize for the best hand-decorated float. People make their own brightly colored masks and elaborate costumes and then parade to samba music through the streets. Today Carnival draws people from around the world to Latin America.



**Geography Skills for Life**

**Fútbol** The Brazilian star Ronaldo breaks through the Italian defense during a tournament game.

**Region** What other sports have large followings in Latin America?

**TAKS Practice**

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

**Checking for Understanding**

- Define** syncretism, mural, mosaic, extended family, malnutrition, *fútbol*, jai alai.
- Main Ideas** Create a chart like the one below, and fill in the influences that contributed to each aspect of Latin American culture.

Cultures and Lifestyles	
Influences	Aspects of Culture
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Critical Thinking**

- Making Inferences** Why do you think Roman Catholicism has remained the predominant religion in Latin America?
- Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think Latin American arts imitated the arts of Europe?
- Making Generalizations** On an outline map, label the countries of South America. What factors do you think determine their political boundaries?
- Making Inferences** Why might parties—fiestas and festivals—be so popular in Latin America?

**Analyzing Charts**

- Place** Study the graph showing religions on page 227. Which religion in Latin America is second to Roman Catholicism in its number of followers?

**Applying Geography**

- Cultural Influences** Make a sketch map to show where the region's arts originated. Include representative examples of various art forms and examples from Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Provide notes about each example's ethnic origins.

# Reading a Population Density Map

**P**opulation density measures how many people live within a certain unit area, such as a square mile or square kilometer. Population density may vary from place to place within a country or region. A population density map shows you these variations.

## Learning the Skill

To determine a country's overall population density, divide the number of people within a country's boundaries by its land area in square miles or square kilometers. The map at right shows how population density differs within Brazil.

- **Study the map keys to determine what the colors and symbols represent.** Notice that the map uses colors to show population densities and symbols to show the populations of cities.
- **Look for patterns that might explain population density patterns.** Ask yourself what geographical features are shared by areas with high or low population densities.
- **Compare the map with other regional information,** such as natural resources and physical geography, to draw conclusions about the possible causes and effects of population density patterns.

## Practicing the Skill

Use the population density map to answer the questions.

1. What does the dark orange color represent?
2. What symbol represents cities of more than 5,000,000 people?



3. Which areas of Brazil have low population densities?
4. Which areas have the highest population densities?
5. Which two cities have the most people?
6. Which cities have fewer than 2 million people?
7. Why do you think the east coast of Brazil is more densely populated?

## Applying the Skill

Compare the physical map of Latin America with the population density map. Write a paragraph explaining how physical geography affects population density.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.





## SECTION 1

## Population Patterns (pp. 211–217)

### Terms to Know

- indigenous
- dialect
- patois
- urbanization
- megacity
- primate city

### Key Points

- Latin America's people descended from indigenous peoples, Europeans, Africans, and Asians.
- Latin Americans speak Spanish, Portuguese, other European languages, indigenous languages, and mixed dialects or patois.
- Latin America's population is mostly concentrated in coastal areas.
- Urbanization has created an imbalance in Latin America's population density.
- The region has some of the world's largest cities.

### Organizing Your Notes

Use a graphic organizer like the one below to help you organize important details from this section.

Population Patterns		
Peoples	Population Patterns	Migration

## SECTION 2

## History and Government (pp. 220–225)

### Terms to Know

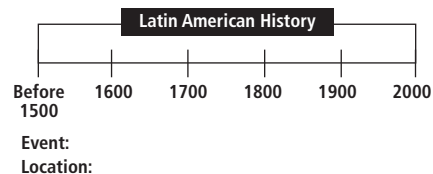
- glyph
- *chinampas*
- quipu
- conquistador
- viceroy
- caudillo

### Key Points

- The Maya, the Aztec, and the Inca developed complex civilizations before Europeans arrived.
- Spanish and Portuguese colonization had lasting effects on Latin America's culture.
- Most Latin American countries achieved independence during the 1800s.
- Most Latin American countries developed democratic self-rule in the twentieth century.
- The political, economic, and cultural legacy of colonialism still challenges Latin America.

### Organizing Your Notes

Use a time line like the one below to help you organize your notes on key historical events discussed in this section.



## SECTION 3

## Cultures and Lifestyles (pp. 226–231)

### Terms to Know

- syncretism
- mural
- mosaic
- extended family
- malnutrition
- *fútbol*
- jai alai

### Key Points

- Religion plays an important role in Latin American life.
- Educational quality varies throughout the region.
- As each country improves its economy, nutrition, and sanitation, people's health improves.
- Latin American traditional arts, music, and literature reflect the region's cultural diversity.
- Deep divisions between economic and social classes still characterize Latin American life.
- Latin Americans value family activities, sports such as *fútbol* and jai alai, and holidays and festivals.

### Organizing Your Notes

Create an outline using the format below to help you organize your notes for this section.

Cultures and Lifestyles	
I. Religion	
A. Roman Catholicism	
B. Protestantism	

## Reviewing Key Terms

Write the key term that best matches each description. Refer to the Terms to Know in the Summary & Study Guide on page 233.

1. native; original inhabitant
2. two popular sports in Latin America
3. designs made by setting small pieces of colored stone, tile, or shell into mortar
4. grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins
5. two language variations
6. a city that dominates its country's economy and government
7. knotted cords used for keeping accounts
8. Spanish or Portuguese conqueror
9. government officials appointed by European monarchs
10. a city with more than 10 million inhabitants
11. mixing of diverse religious traditions
12. wall painting
13. Mayan picture writing
14. migration from rural areas to cities
15. condition caused by lack of food

## Reviewing Facts

### SECTION 1

1. Where is most of South America's population located?
2. Why is the region's population density unbalanced?

### SECTION 2

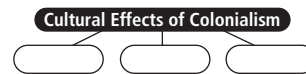
3. Name three indigenous Latin American empires.
4. What fueled the movement for Latin American independence?

### SECTION 3

5. What ancient art form inspired the region's painters?
6. What sports are most popular in Latin America?

## Critical Thinking

1. **Categorizing Information** Define the types of migration that occur in the region.
2. **Making Comparisons** Compare social and family life in Latin America and the United States.
3. **Identifying Cause and Effect** Use a diagram like the one below to fill in three lasting effects of colonialism.



## Locating Places

### Latin America: Political Geography

Match the letters on the map with the places of Latin America. Write your answers on a sheet of paper.

- |                   |               |                   |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Caracas        | 5. Montevideo | 9. Mexico City    |
| 2. Brasília       | 6. Bogotá     | 10. La Paz, Sucre |
| 3. Port-au-Prince | 7. Quito      | 11. Buenos Aires  |
| 4. Santiago       | 8. Havana     | 12. Lima          |





**Self-Check Quiz** Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at [tx.geography.glencoe.com](http://tx.geography.glencoe.com) and click on Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 9 to prepare for the Chapter Test.

## Using the Regional Atlas

Refer to the Regional Atlas on pages 182–185.

- 1. Place** What features draw a large population to the Buenos Aires area?
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** Study the physical and population density maps. Why are parts of Argentina and Bolivia uninhabited?

## Thinking Like a Geographer

Trace the diffusion and exchange of foods between the Americas and other parts of the world. Describe the foods involved, their place of origin, and their effects on the places to which they spread.

## Problem-Solving Activity

**Contemporary Issues Case Study** Using the Internet, research a democratic country in Latin America. Then write a report that discusses the spread and adaptation of democracy to that country. Also, explain how other countries in the region might learn from its experience. Use photos, charts, and other graphics in your report.

## GeoJournal

**Descriptive Writing** Using the information you logged in your GeoJournal, write a paragraph describing European or African influences on the art or religion of a particular Latin American country. Use additional resources to make your descriptions as vivid and accurate as possible.



## Technology Activity

### Creating an Electronic Database

Use reliable sources to gather population data for the past 10 years for three Latin American countries. Choose one category of information, such as literacy rates, population under age 18, or male/female ratio. Create an electronic computer database, and then use computer software to design and draw a graph or chart. Present your conclusions orally to the class, using the graph or chart to illustrate your findings.



## TAKS Test Practice

Choose the best answer for each of the following multiple-choice questions. If you have trouble answering the questions, use the process of elimination to narrow your choices.

- 1. Latin American peoples speak a variety of languages. Which of the following statements is NOT true?**
  - A Millions of Latin Americans speak Native American languages.
  - B Portuguese is the official language of most Latin American countries.
  - C French is the official language in some Latin American countries.
  - D Many Latin Americans are bilingual.



Do not quickly choose the first answer that makes sense—your answer will most likely be incorrect. This question asks you to identify which statement is *not* true. Eliminate any answer choices you know to be true before selecting the correct answer.

- 2. Diego Rivera was a Mexican artist who was well known for his creation of**
  - F folk dramas.
  - G woven tapestry.
  - H political and social satires in poetry.
  - J large murals of historic events.



This question is factual. Try to recall what you know about Rivera, considering that he was a popular modern artist and important political activist.