








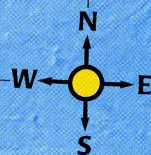
**Land Cover Map  
Middle America**

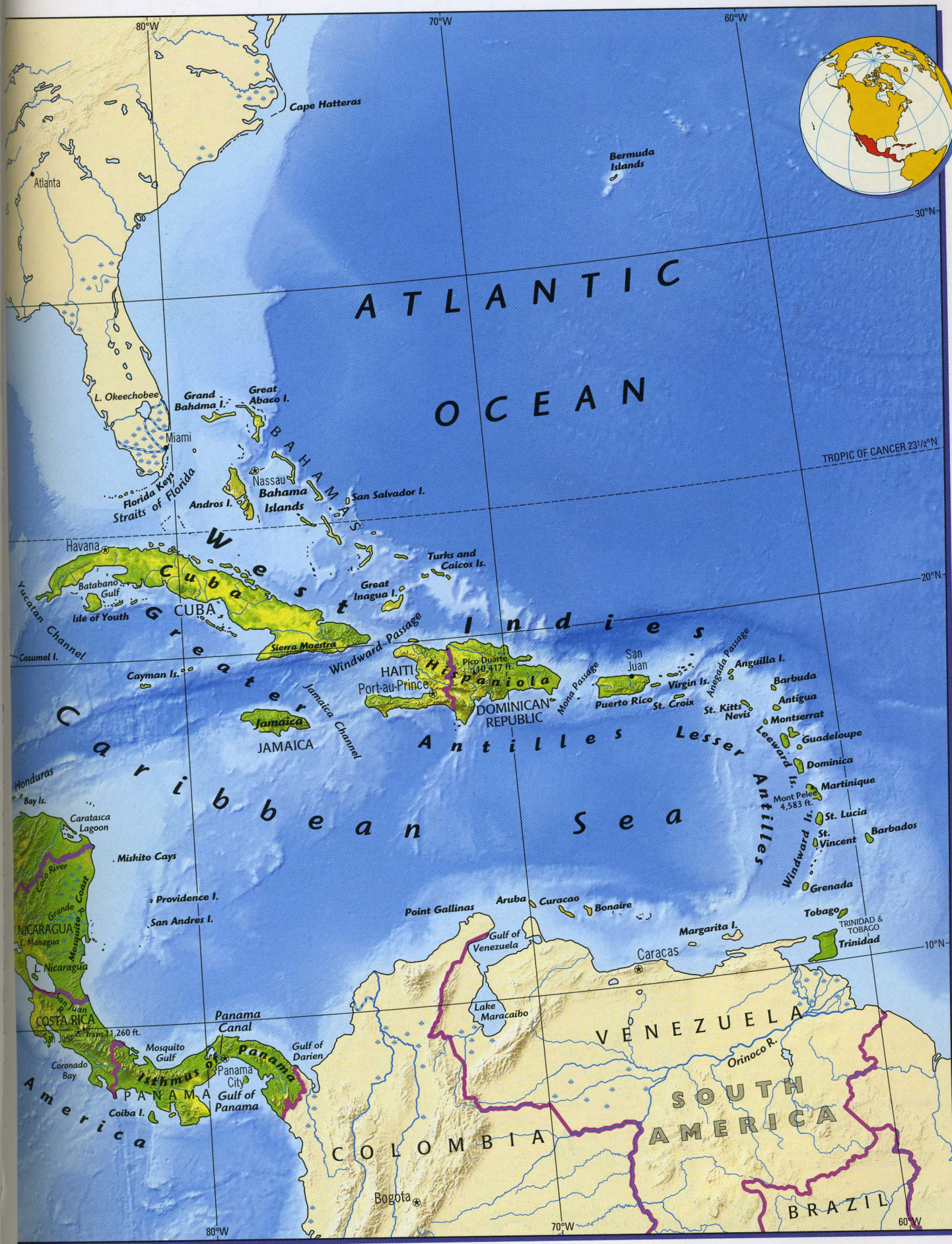
- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |   |
| Cropland  | Grassland   |   |
|  |  |  |
| Semi-desert<br>& desert   | Tropical<br>rain forest   | Broadleaf<br>forest   |

**Boundary Symbols**  
 International boundary

**Scale**  
 0 100 200 300 miles  
 1 inch stands for 242 miles

Detailed legend on page 3







Detailed legend on page 3

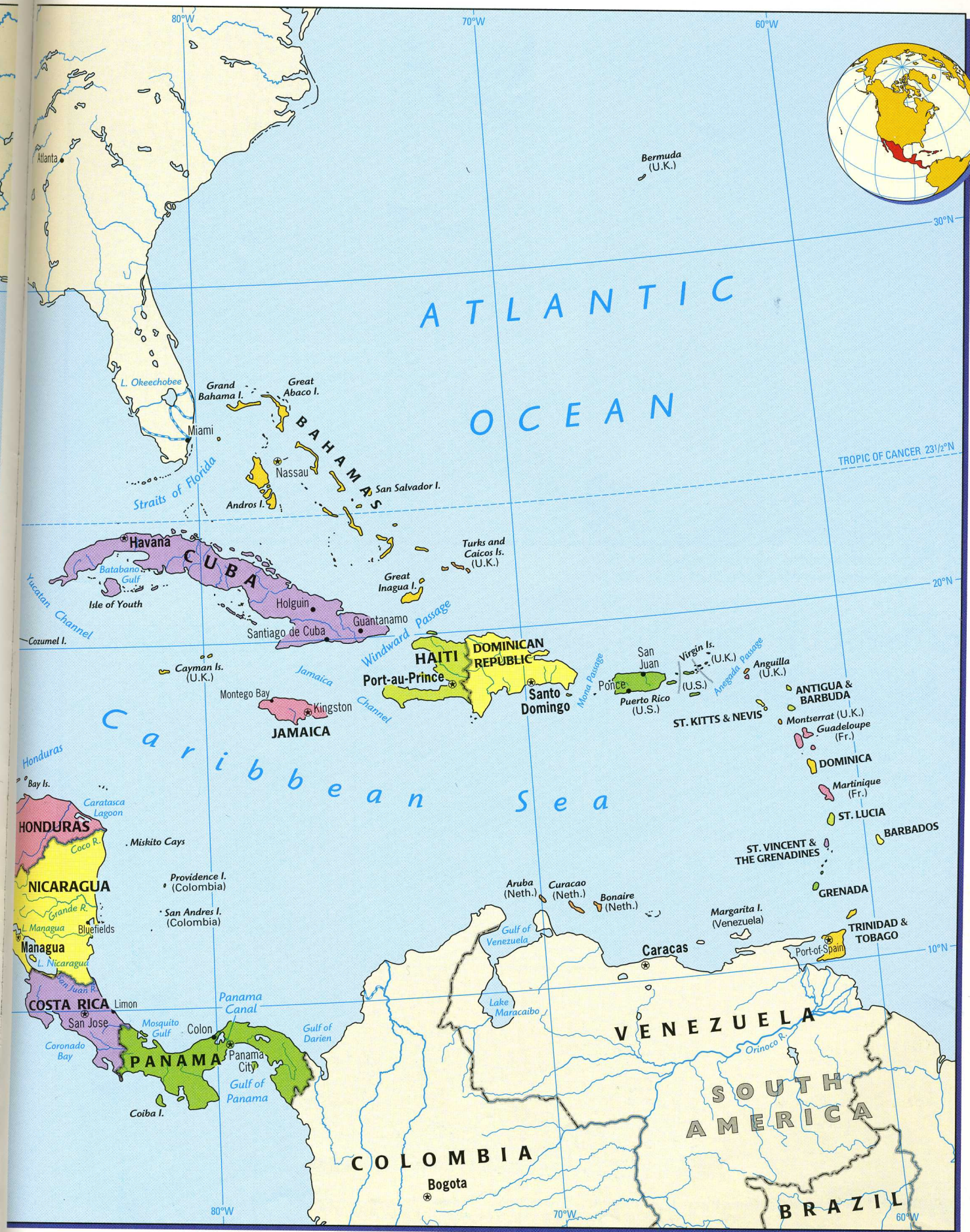
Cocos I. (Costa Rica)



# ATLANTIC OCEAN

TROPIC OF CANCER 23 1/2°N

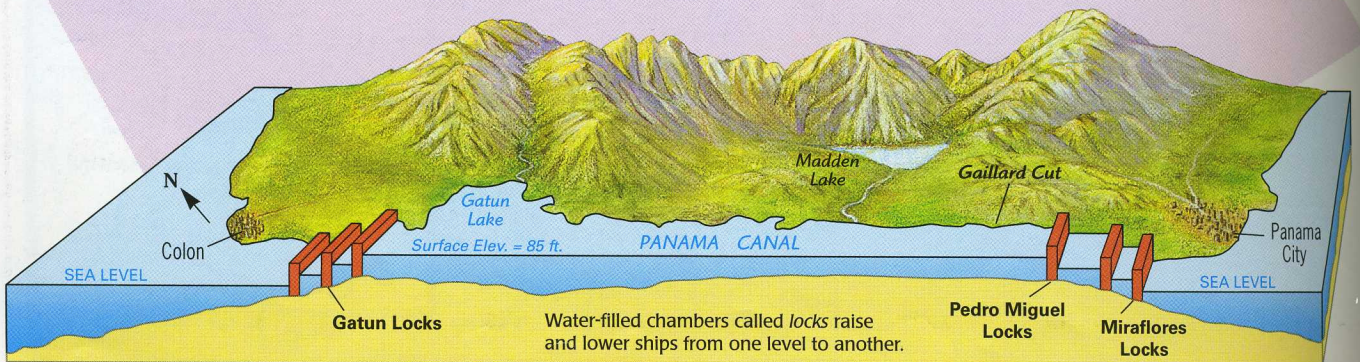
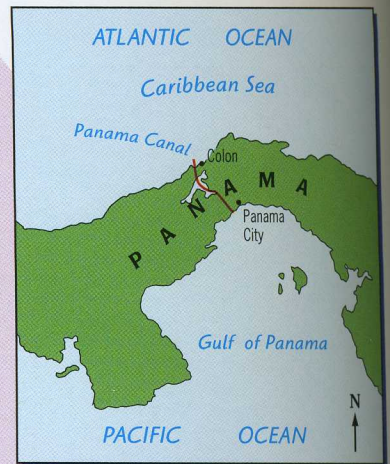
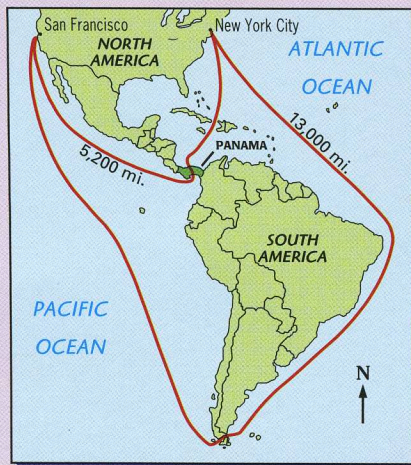
# Caribbean Sea





## Focus on the Panama Canal

- Most ships traveling between Atlantic and Pacific ports pass through the Panama Canal.
- The canal saves them thousands of miles and several days.
- Its narrowness makes the canal a potential "choke point."





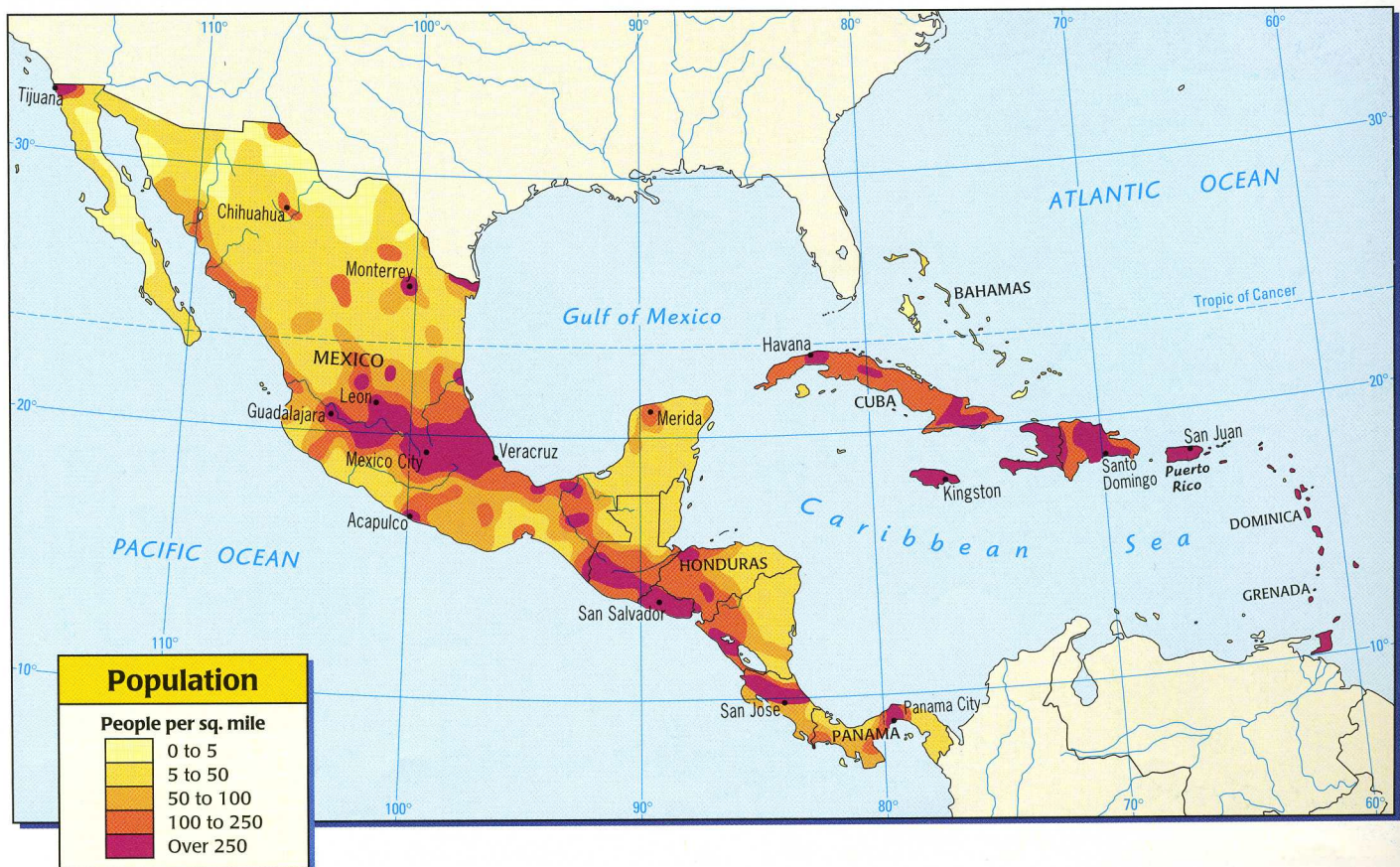
Schoolchildren in Havana reflect Cuba's racial diversity. An old Spanish fort can be seen in the background.

### Where Is Rio Bravo del Norte?

It's called the Rio Grande on the U.S. side of the border, but in Mexico it's Rio Bravo del Norte—two Spanish names for the same river.



Mexico City's Roman Catholic cathedral stands beside the ruins of the main temple of the ancient Aztecs.



# IN THIS ATLAS

The *Nystrom World Atlas* offers rich coverage of the world, each continent, and key regions. Most continents and regions have two general reference maps.

- **Land cover maps** highlight the big patterns of cropland and other vegetation.
- **Political maps** highlight cities, countries, and other political divisions.

The World and the United States each have a third general reference map.

- **Elevation maps** highlight the big patterns of mountains, lowlands, and landforms.

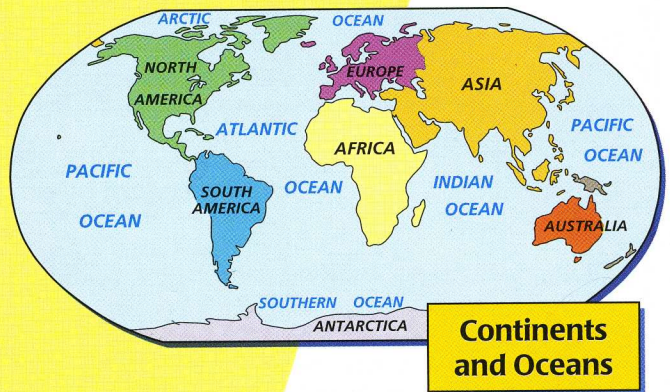
Thematic maps, graphs, photos, and focus sections provide a closer look at each part of the world. Learn more about these features on pages 3–5.

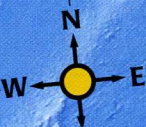
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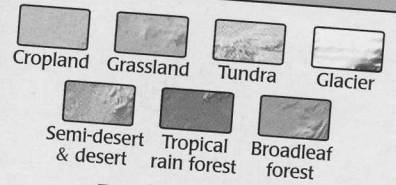
**Land Cover Map  
South America**


**Boundary Symbols**

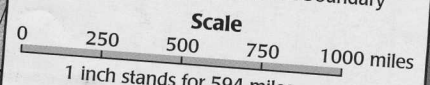
**Scale**  
 0 250 500 750 1000 miles  
 1 inch stands for 594 miles  
 Detailed legend on page 3



# Land Cover Map South America



**Boundary Symbols**  
International boundary



1 inch stands for 594 miles  
Detailed legend on page 3



**Political Map  
South America**

**Boundary Symbols**  
 ——— International boundary

**City Symbols**

Sao Paulo ● A city's relative size is shown by the size of its symbol and lettering.

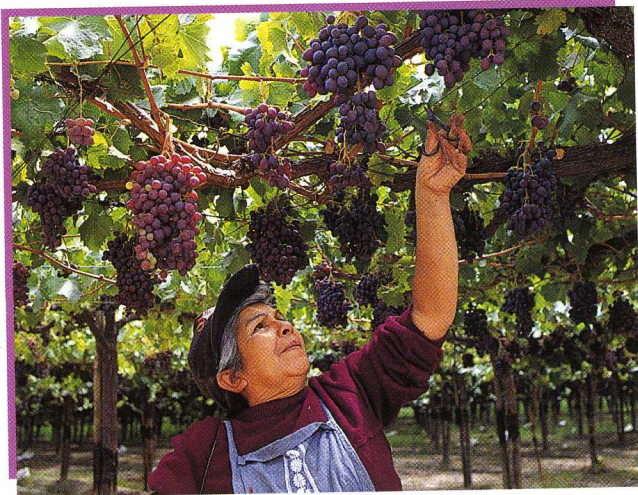
Tucuman ●

Cusco ●

Caracas ⊙ National capital

**Scale**  
 0 250 500 750 1000 miles  
 1 inch stands for 594 miles

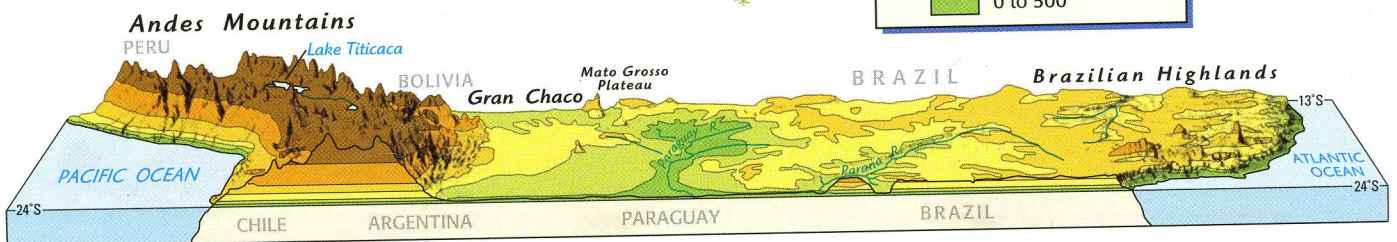
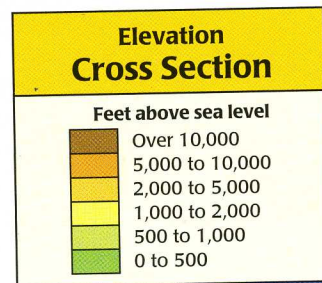
*Detailed legend on page 3*



A Chilean worker trims grapevines. Chile is the world's largest exporter of grapes.

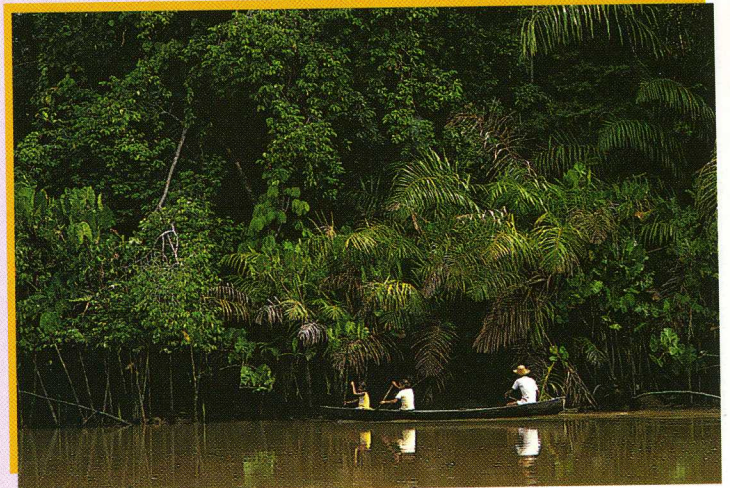
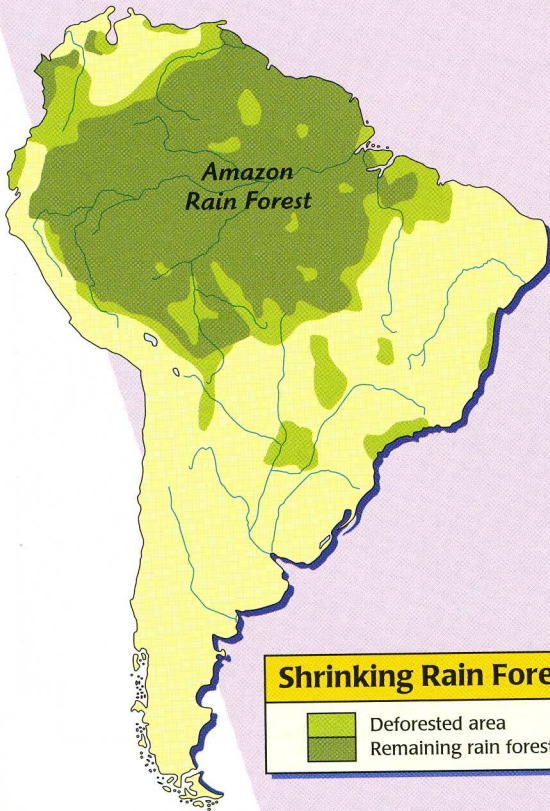
### Snow in July?

Seasons occur at opposite times of the year in the Southern and Northern Hemispheres. In Argentina, summer begins in December and snow falls in July and August.

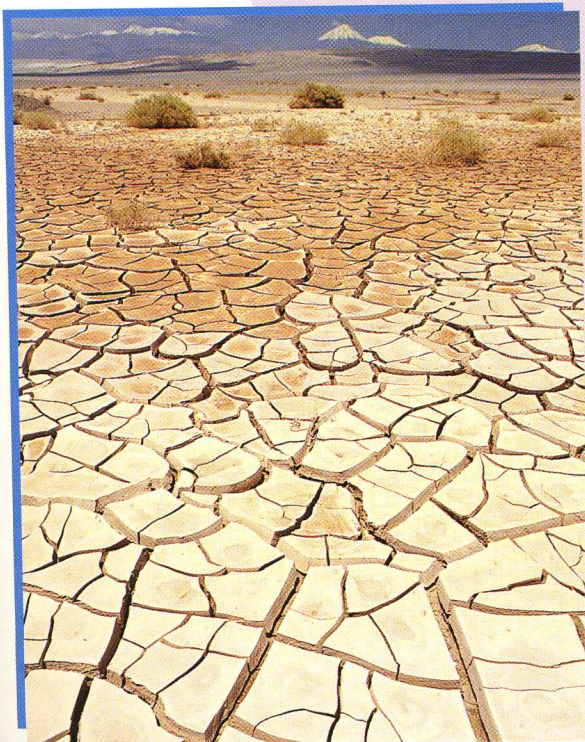


# Focus on the Amazon Rain Forest

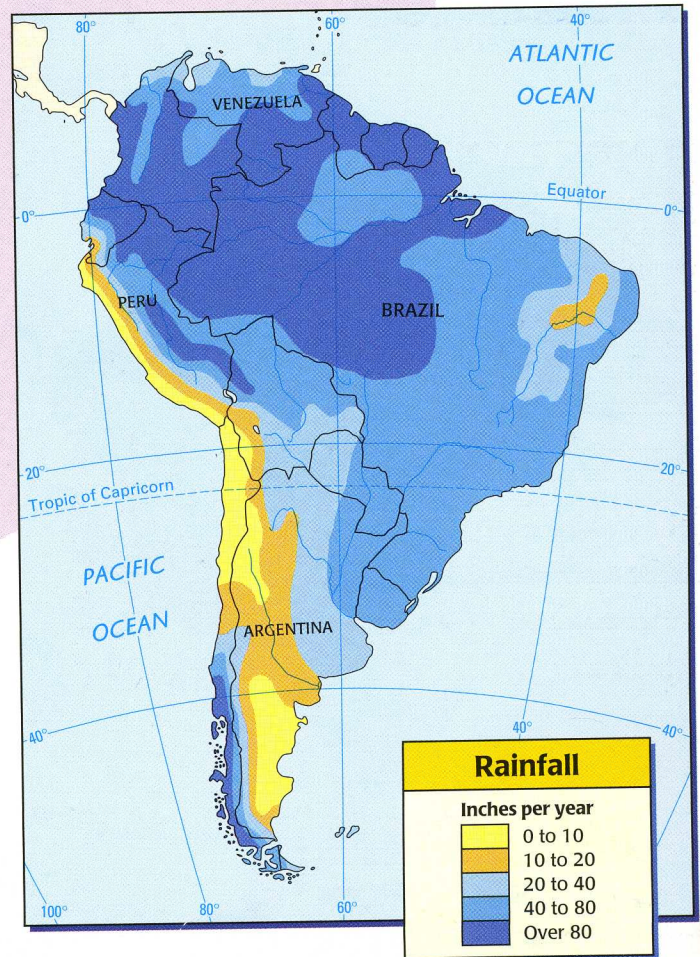
- Tropical rain forests are an important source of rare plants and the oxygen we breathe.
- The Amazon Rain Forest, the largest in the world, is shrinking.
- Large areas have been *deforested*, cleared for farming and mining.



The easiest way to travel in the dense Amazon Rain Forest is by boat.



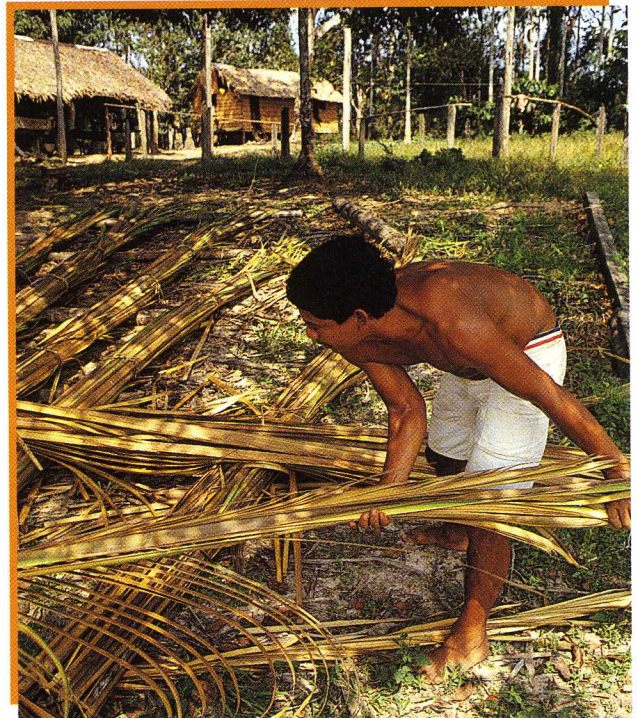
In sharp contrast to the Amazon Basin, the Atacama Desert sometimes goes for years without rain.



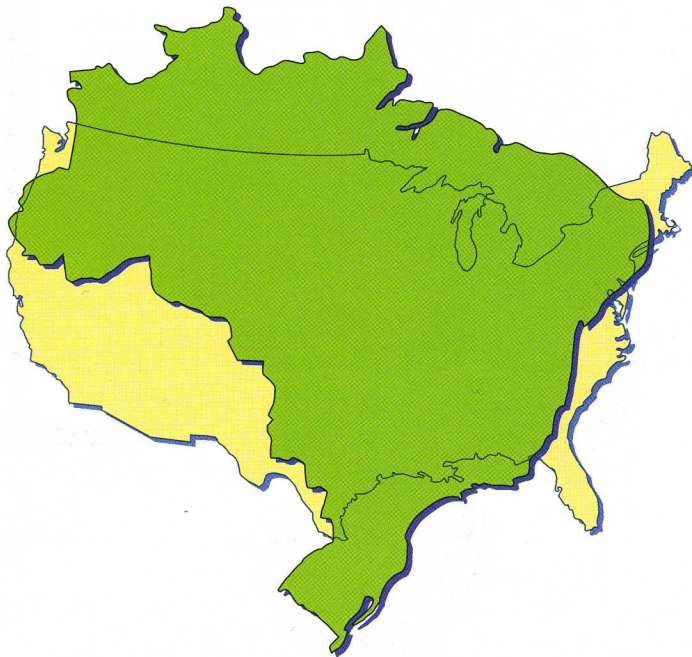


### Who Is El Niño?

Every few years, much of the Pacific Ocean turns unusually warm. Peruvian fishermen noticed that the arrival of warm water meant fewer fish. Since it arrived in late December, they named the phenomenon *El Niño*—Spanish for "the Christ Child."

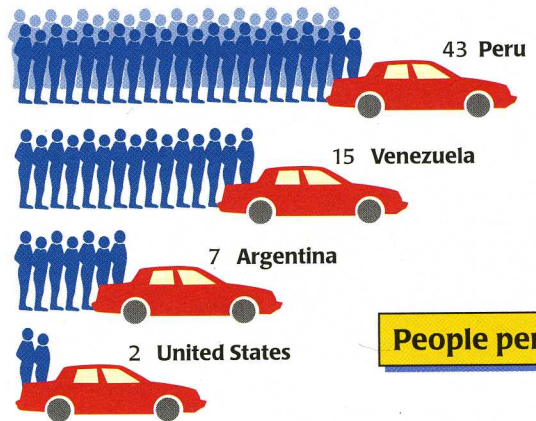


A man in rural Brazil prepares new thatch for his roof using local plants. Many Brazilians live far from any city.

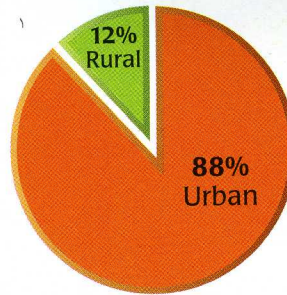
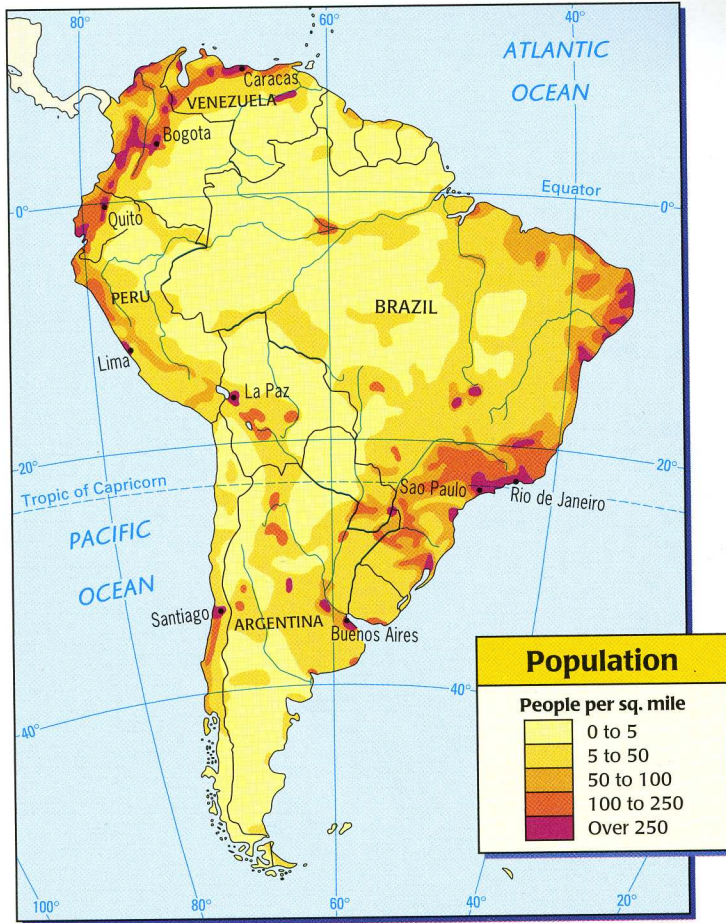


### Brazil's Size and Shape

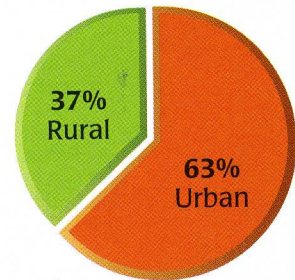
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Brazil	3,286,500 sq. mi.
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> 48 States	3,021,295 sq. mi.



### People per Car



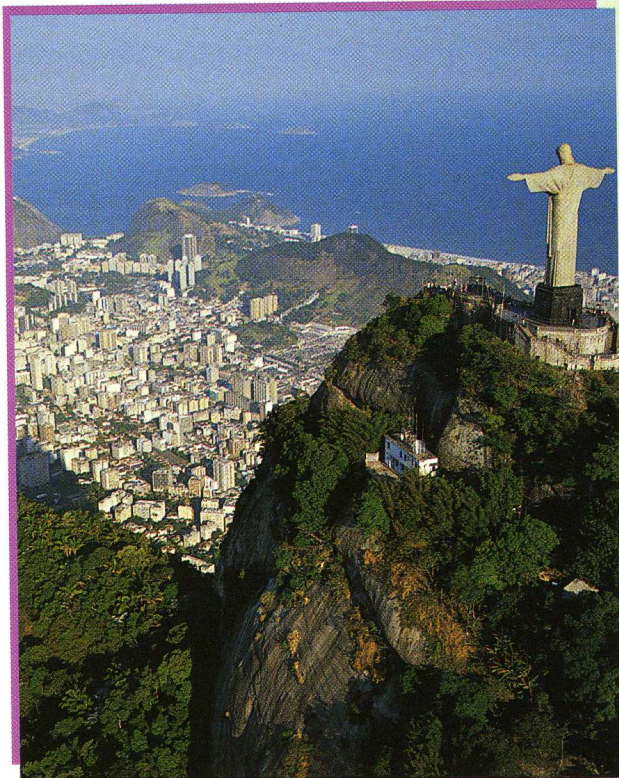
Chile



Ecuador

Urban Population

## Focus on Latin America



A statue of Christ overlooks the harbor of Rio de Janeiro. Most Latin Americans are Christian.



- The people of South America and Middle America are known as *Latin Americans*.
- Most Latin Americans speak Spanish, Portuguese, or French—languages based on Latin.
- Half of all Latin Americans live in Brazil. Most Brazilians speak Portuguese.