Geography of Latin America
Teachers

Print off the following slide for each student. They should complete the chart while discussing the presentation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Ocean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazon River</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andes Mountains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean Sea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf of Mexico</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Nevada Mountains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Latin America’s Physical Features**
Geography of Latin America
Latin America is divided into three regions:

1. Mexico and Central America
2. The Caribbean
3. South America
Mexico & Central America

- 2,500 miles (about as wide as the US)
- Mountains dominate the region
  - Part of a huge system that extends from Canada, through the US, and all the way to the tip of South America
- Central plateau in Mexico
  - Lies between Sierra Madre mountains and makes up more than half the country’s area
- Central America is an Isthmus
  - Isthmus = a narrow strip of land that has water on both sides and joins 2 larger bodies of water
  - Many volcanoes in Central America, as a result, their soil is arable (fertile) and many people farm lands
The Gulf of Mexico is a body of water. It is bordered by:
- United States to the north,
- 5 Mexican states to the south, &
- and Cuba to the east.
A mountain system in Mexico

Three major chains: the Sierra Madre Occidental in the west, the Sierra Madre Oriental in the east, and the Sierra Madre del Sur, which extends along the southern coast.

The Sierra Madre range contains some of the highest mountains and volcanoes in Latin America.
Panama Canal

- A canal across the isthmus of Panama in Central America
- A major “shortcut” that allows ships to travel between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

- It handles a large volume of world shipping and enables vessels to avoid traveling around South America, reducing their voyages by thousands of miles and many days.

- It consists of artificially created lakes, channels, and a series of locks, or water-filled chambers, that raise and lower ships through the mountainous terrain of central Panama.
Caribbean Islands

- The smaller islands are made of coral.
  - (Skeletons of tiny sea animals, rock-like substance)
- The larger islands are tops of underwater mountains.
  - Examples: Cuba, Jamaica
Caribbean Sea

- It surrounds the islands of the West Indies.
- It’s east of Central America.
- It’s a major trade route for Latin American countries.
- A popular tourist area—noted for its mild tropical climate and beautiful waters
South America
Andes Mountains

- 4,500 miles along west coast of South America
- They rise at some points to 20,000 feet—same height as twenty 100 story buildings stacked on top of each other!
- 2nd largest mountains in the world--Himalayas are the 1st.
Amazon Rain Forest

• Located in Brazil, in the Amazon River Basin

• It is the largest tropical rain forest in the world.

• It covers 1/3 of the continent of South America.
Atacama Desert

• It is located in Chile.
  • Between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains

• It’s one of the driest places on earth; very little rainfall year round.
Amazon River

• It’s the 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest river in the world (1\textsuperscript{st} is the Nile River).
• It stretches 4,000 miles from Peru across to Atlantic Ocean.
• The river contains 20\% of all fresh water in the world!
• It serves as a natural highway where it’s hard to build roads.
• It provides food and hydroelectric power.
Pacific Ocean

- World’s largest ocean
- Covers the western coast of South America
Teachers

Project the following slide on the board/wall, and have students point out or label the physical features.
Political and Physical Features of Latin America

Part One: Use a pen to label the following eight countries on the map:
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Haiti
- Mexico
- Panama
- Venezuela

Next, use a marker to outline the political border of each country.

Part Two: Use a pen to label the following eight physical features on the map:
- Amazon River
- Caribbean Sea
- Gulf of Mexico
- Pacific Ocean
- Panama Canal
- Andes Mountains
- Sierra Madre Mountains
- Atacama Desert

1. Color the Pacific Ocean, Amazon River, and the Gulf of Mexico DARK BLUE.
2. Color the Caribbean Sea LIGHT BLUE (or TEAL).
3. Draw a RED box where the Panama Canal is located.
4. Draw triangle symbols around the Andes Mountains and color them GREEN.
5. Draw triangle symbols around the Sierra Madre Mountains and color them YELLOW.
6. Color the Atacama Desert BROWN.
### Latin American Landforms

**Directions:** Write the physical features below where they are located.

- Amazon River
- Caribbean Sea
- Gulf of Mexico
- Pacific Ocean
- Panama Canal
- Andes Mountains
- Sierra Madre Mountains
- Atacama Desert

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mexico &amp; Central America</th>
<th>Caribbean</th>
<th>South America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directions:** Write the physical features below where they are located.

- Amazon River
- Caribbean Sea
- Gulf of Mexico
- Pacific Ocean
- Panama Canal
- Andes Mountains
- Sierra Madre Mountains
- Atacama Desert

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mexico &amp; Central America</th>
<th>Caribbean</th>
<th>South America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Instagram Your Trip!**

**Directions:** Imagine that you just took a trip around Latin America. What are three noteworthy things that you would want to take a picture of and post on Instagram for all of your followers to see? Make sure you include a #_____ so that they know what you’re picture is showing. Yes, you can use filters when coloring your pictures! Be creative!
Your Task:
• Choose **ONE** of Latin America’s physical features and we’ll try to guess what you are!

• Imagine that you are one of the physical features of Latin America. Using descriptive details, include at least 5 interesting facts about yourself.

• Draw a colorful illustration of the feature underneath your description.
Can you believe it? I didn’t even exist until about 100 years ago. Everyone says that I’m super important to the economy and blah, blah, blah, but I am so tired of everybody always using me. Chug, chug, chug across me all day long. I wish I had some lush, tropical trees to look at. I miss the good ol’ days when I lived in the jungle. All I see now are people in such a hurry to reach the other side.
Panama Canal!
Design a Shirt

Your Task: You are the proud owner of a t-shirt company in Latin America that designs and sells shirts to visiting tourists. You need to come up with a new shirt that showcases Latin America's physical features.

1. Create a slogan for the shirt.
2. Draw a symbol for the shirt.
3. Make it colorful and creative.

Design a Shirt
USE THESE COUNTRIES:

Haiti
Bolivia
Colombia
Mexico
Cuba
Brazil
Panama
Venezuela

Part One - Countries:
1. Which country does letter A represent?
2. Which country does letter B represent?
3. Which country does letter C represent?
4. Which country does letter D represent?
5. Which country does letter E represent?
6. Which country does letter F represent?
7. Which country does letter G represent?
8. Which country does letter H represent?

Directions: Use the map below to answer questions 1-8.
Directions: Use the map below to answer questions 9-16.

Latin America Map Test

Use these physical features:

- Panama Canal
- Atlanctic Ocean
- Sierra Madre Mountains
- Andes Mountains
- Pacific Ocean
- Gulf of Mexico
- Caribbean Sea
- Amazon River

16. Which feature does letter H represent?

15. Which feature does letter G represent?

14. Which feature does letter F represent?

13. Which feature does letter E represent?

12. Which feature does letter D represent?

11. Which feature does letter C represent?

10. Which feature does letter B represent?

9. Which feature does letter A represent?
Thank you for downloading this file. I hope you enjoy using it with your students, and I can’t wait to read your feedback in my TPT store! 😊

- For more social studies materials, please visit my store:
  http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Brain-Wrinkles

- I teach 6th grade Language Arts and Social Studies in Georgia, so my products are aligned with Common Core (LA) and Georgia Performance Standards (SS).

© Copyright 2013. Brain Wrinkles. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to copy pages specifically designed for student or teacher use by the original purchaser or licensee. The reproduction of any other part of this product is strictly prohibited. Copying any part of this product and placing it on the Internet in any form (even a personal/classroom website) is strictly forbidden. Doing so makes it possible for an Internet search to make the document available on the Internet, free of charge, and is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).