<table>
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>LATIN AMERICA</th>
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<td><strong>Overview</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mexico, Central America, Caribbean Island, and South America.</strong></td>
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| **Mountains:**              | **Sierra Madres in Mexico**  
**Andes Mountains along the west coast of S.A.**                                                                                                                                                      |
| **Grasslands:**             | **Pampas in Argentina**  
**Llanos in Venezuela & Colombia**                                                                                                                                                                         |
| **Rain Forests:**           | **Partially covers Caribbean Island, and Central America**  
**Largest rain forest in the world...The Amazon in Brazil**  
**South America has half of the world’s plants and animal species.**                                                                                                                                 |
| **Cultures**                | **Cultures:**  
**A combination of Maya, Aztec, and Inca flourished until the arrival of Europeans in 1400’s**  
**For 300 years, Spain & Portugal controlled most of Latin America, changing the laws, languages, and religion (usually done by Force)**                                                                 |
| **Europeans Arrive**        | **Mexico & seven countries make up Central America.**  
**Caribbean Islands are also known as the West Indies.**  
**Andes Mountains are 4,500 miles long. World’s longest mountain range, and second only to the Himalayas in height.**  
**Cordilleras: Parallel mountain ranges**  
**Altiplano: the high plains surrounded by the Andes (in Peru & Bolivia).**  
**All the water flows from the Andes and the Brazilian Highlands, into the Amazon Basin.**  
**Natural resources:**  
**Gold, oil, natural gas, minerals, forests, farmland, and water.**                                                                                                                                 |
| **Physical Geography**      | **Latin America lies between the Tropic of Cancer & Tropic of Capricorn.**  
**Climate is almost entirely Tropical and Sub-Tropical, with notable exceptions caused by Highlands.**  
**1. Tropical rain forests throughout Brazil.**  
**2. Tropical Savannas in Southwestern Mexico, most of the Caribbean Islands, and northern South America.**                                                                 |
| **Climate & Vegetation**    |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
3. Humid Subtropics: From Rio De Janeiro in Brazil to the pampas of Argentina and Uruguay.
4. Desert and Steppes: In Northern Mexico, and coastal Peru, Chile, and Argentina.

Elevations:
1. **Tierra Caliente** (hot lands): sea level to 2,500 ft
2. **Tierra Templada** (temperate lands): 2,500 to 6,500 ft
3. **Tierra Fria** (cold land): 6,500 to 10,000 ft. Where they grow Potatoes and Barley

525 Million people - 33 countries
Native Americans, Asians, Europeans, Africans, and mixtures of these groups.
All the different groups, mixed together to create the various Latin cultures.

**Language:**
Most countries in Latin America adopted the language of the European country that colonized them.
Mainly Spanish, Portuguese, and French.
There are many dialects, and most countries speak at least two languages.

**Patios:** dialects that blend indigenous, European, African, and Asia Languages.

Because of the dense forests, the majority of people in South America live along the costal edges. It’s most densely populates along the east coast.
The people have been slowly migrating north.

**Megacities:** cities of more than 10 million people.
Megacities are forming because of the amount of people moving to Urban areas. This becomes a challenge because of poor infrastructures.

**History & Government**

**The Maya:** 250-900 AD: located in what is Guatemala today.
Priests and nobles ruled. They had pyramid shaped temples.
Skilled at math, developed accurate calendar, predicted solar eclipses.
Used **Glyphs:** picture writing carved in stones.
For some unknown reason Mayans abandoned their cities, and the jungle has since reclaimed the. Over 40 cities have been found.

**The Aztecs:** 1300 AD: located in what is today Mexico.
Empires to Nations

Capital was Tenochtitlan, which is Mexico City today. Aztecs had a highly structured class system: Emperor, priests, military officials, and farmers, laborers, and soldiers. Used human sacrifice to assure good harvests. Corn, tomatoes, cacao beans (chocolate) were all introduced to the world because of the Aztecs.

The Incas: 1300 AD: located in what are today the Andes mountains, from Ecuador to Chile. The capital was Cuzco, and now Peru. Great builders and stone cutters. Built temples and fortresses. They built roads through the jungle. The used terrace farming. Used colored knotted cords (Quipu) to keep track of financial records, since they had no written language.

1492 -1504 Spain and Portugal colonize Spain: Cortez & Conquistadors defeated the Aztecs in 1521 (disease) Spain: Pizarro & Conquistadors 1535 Destroyed Incas. Portuguese settle in Brazil Spain and Portuguese forcibly spread the Roman Catholic Religion. Set up Missions, schools, and hospitals. Because of the gold found, the colonies became a source of wealth for Spain And Portugal.

1700’s Latin America fights for freedom from European rule.

Haiti: Francois Tous-saint-Louverture (soldier from enslaved parents) lead a revolt: 1804 wins independence lead by enslaves Africans. 1st Mexico: Father Francisco Hidalgo: 1821 Mexico gains independence. By Mid 1800’s most Latin countries were independent.

Brazil gained independence without bloodshed.

Religion: Mostly Roman Catholic (84%), with some Protestantism (8.7%).


Large extended families

Sports: Futbol: Soccer
Jai Alai: Like handball, but with a curved basket.

Agriculture:
Latin American countries export large amounts of produce, including bananas, sugarcane, and coffee.

Campesinos: Rural farmers or workers

Latifundia: Highly mechanized commercial farms

Minifundia: Small farms, usually to feed families that work them.

Industry:
Most of Latin America is still developing countries (working toward greater manufacturing, and technology)

Maquiladores: American and Japanese built factories along the Mexican side of the US/Mexican border.


Problems: Pollution, global warming, deforestation, poverty (shantytowns, colonias), border disputes, migration.

The End