Latin America Ch 9-13

Agenda
• Latin America Physical Geography

Warm-Up
• How would people adapt to living within major landforms such as the Andes Mountains and Amazon River?
  – Think transportation
  – Economy
South America Physical Geography

EXTREME DIVERSITY
Mountains

- Andes – same chain as Rocky Mts and Sierra Madre in Mexico.
  - Served as a barrier
  - Moved settlement along N and E coast
Amazon River

- 1st in Volume (more than next 7 rivers combined)
- 2nd in length
- Over 1000 tributaries
Highlands
• Guiana Highlands
• Brazilian Highlands
Atacama Desert

- Driest place on earth
- About 100 miles wide - 600 long
- Described as “moon-like”
- Recently used by NASA to test moon rovers
Plains

- Llanos
  - Colombia & Venezuela

- Cerrado
  - Brazil

- Pampas
  - Argentina & Uruguay
Climate Types
Tropical Climate Zones

- **Tropical Wet**
  - Northern Region of South America
  - Amazon Rain Forest (2 mil square miles)

- **Tropical Wet and Dry**
  - Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina
  - Dry season and a rainy season
Dry Climate Zones

- **Semi-Arid**
  - Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina
  - Some rainfall

- **Arid (Desert biome)**
  - Atacama Desert in Chile
  - Patagonia in Argentina
  - Coast of Peru
Mid-Latitude Zones

- **Humid Sub-Tropical**
  - SE Area
  - Rainy winters, hot humid summers

- **Mediterranean**
  - Parts of Chile, along West coast
  - Hot, dry summers, and cool moist winters
Mid-Latitude Zones

• Marine West Coast
  – Coast of SW South America
  – Cool, rainy winters and mild rainy summers

• Highlands
  – Found in the mountain areas
  – Vary from moderate to cold
Current Issues in Latin America

• Deforestation
• Urbanization
• Tourism
Deforestation
Urbanization
Tourism

- Advantages
- Disadvantages

Brazilian Carnival
The Carnival of Brazil is an annual festival held during the Friday to the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, the forty-day period before Easter.
Human Environment Interaction

**Agriculture**

- Slash and Burn
  - Cut down trees and brush
  - Burn
  - Plant Crops
  - Move to new area
- Terraced Farming
  - Grow crops on hillsides
  - Reduces soil erosion
Major Islands

- Bahamas
- Greater Antilles
  - Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola (Haiti, Dominican Republic), Puerto Rico
- Lesser Antilles
Unique Physical Features

Glacier in Argentina
Galapagos Islands

• Where Darwin wrote “Origin of the Species...” (1835-ish)
• Population = 1200
• Amazing diversity of life
Easter Island (Rapa Nui)

- 2000 miles from “civilization”
- Discovered in 1722 on Easter Day Outsiders on Easter Island
- The first known European visitor was Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen (1722) and also visited by British navigator Sir James Cook (1774) who was the first European to see Hawaii (1778)
- Populated Hundreds (maybe 1000’s) of years ago
- Today “owned” by Chile (since 1888)
- Moai statues: Some believe they represent important ancestors of the island people.

(more info available at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/easter/civilization/giants.html)
Angel Falls
• In Venezuela
• Worlds tallest (3,212 ft)
• Found by James Angel in 1935 from his airplane
Panama Canal

- The earliest European colonists of Central America recognized this potential shortcut.
- In Early 1880s France began working on building the canal but was unable to complete the project.
- In 1904, the United States, which completed the present Panama Canal in 1913 and officially opened it in 1914.
- Approx. 50 miles across

What does it do?
- links Atlantic/Pacific

How long did it take to build?
- 1904 -1914
- Cost $300 million

Current Improvements
- Development continues today as they seek to enlarge the canal to allow for larger ships to pass through the canal.
Tierra del Fuego

- Archipelago
- Southern Chile and Argentina
- Has Southern most city in world. (Ushuaia)
Cape Horn

- Southern most part of South America
- Where all ships had to go before Panama Canal
- Wild Seas – Cold and rough
- The need for ships to round Cape Horn was greatly reduced by the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914.