


Cornell Notes 	Topic/Objective: Unit 3 Latin America	Name:
	Physical Geography of Latin America History and Culture of Latin America Latin America Today	Class/Period:
		Date:

Essential Questions:

- How does the physical geography of Latin America influence its people?
- How has the history and culture of Latin America affected other parts of the world?
- How has Latin America's culture spread?
- Why do people migrate?
- What is Latin America like today and how does its economy compete in the world?

Questions: What is the physical geography of Latin America like?	Notes: Latin America is located entirely in the Western Hemisphere.
	The soil in Mexico and Central America is made fertile (good for crops) because of volcanic ash.
	Caribbean islands are formed on the tops of underwater mountains and are formed from the skeletons of tiny sea animals or coral.
	Many of the rivers in Latin America are used to produce hydroelectric power.
	The Andes are a long mountain chain that runs along the west coast of South America.
	Elevation influences the types of crops grown on farms in the Andes mountains.
What is the history of Latin America?	Early civilizations prior to the establishment of Latin America include the Olmec, Maya, Toltec, Aztec, and Inca civilizations.
	The Inca were located in South America and built a series of roads and aqueducts throughout the region.
	In the late 1400s and early 1500s, Spanish explorers arrived in what we know today as Latin America changing the region forever.
	A small group of Spanish conquistadors were able to overthrow the great Aztec civilization utilizing horses and superior weapons along with the help of Native Americans that were opposed to paying tribute to the Aztecs.
	Disease also wiped out the Aztec population helping the Spanish to gain power over the civilization.

How has Latin America's culture spread?	The Columbian exchange allowed for the sharing of food and animals. For example, horses were brought from Europe to the New World, and potatoes, maize, and chocolate were taken back to Europe.
	The Treaty of Tordesillas was an agreement between Portugal and Spain dividing Latin America at 50 degrees west longitude.
	Because of this treaty most people speak Spanish in Latin America leading to the Spanish having the greatest effect on Latin America; however, the people of Brazil speak Portuguese.
	Today, many indigenous people, descendants of those who first lived in the region, carry on the traditions and customs of past civilizations.
Why do people migrate?	Many people have moved from rural to urban areas in modern times. The push pull theory influences why people move from place to place. Many move for a better job or way of life even leading to immigration to another country.
What is Latin America like today?	Many Latin American nations have begun to diversify their economies in order to reduce their reliance on one natural resource or crop. Cash crops have become very important as they can be exported for profit.
	As people in Latin America have moved from subsistence farming (growing just enough food to meet their needs) to producing cash crops (food that are grown for export and profit) the cost of living has improved.
	Many people have moved to cities, and an effect of this rapid urbanization in Mexico is a shortage of housing.
	Some people from Mexico and Central America have chosen to emigrate to the United States to find jobs.
Summary:	