Chapter 19

A Geographic Profile of Latin America

1. Which of these is an independent country?

a. French Guiana

b. Guadeloupe

c. Martinique

d. Puerto Rico

**e. None of the above**

2. The South American country with the highest annual per capita GDP-PPP is:

**a. Uruguay**

b. Brazil

c. Argentina

d. Venezuela

e. Chile

3. Which country in Middle America has the largest percentage of arable land?

a. Mexico

b. Guatemala

**c. El Salvador**

d. Nicaragua

e. Costa Rica

4. The Caribbean country or dependency with the largest population is:

a. Dominican Republic

b. Puerto Rico

c. Haiti

d. Jamaica

**e. Cuba**

5. The pampa is:

a. A high plateau in Peru and Bolivia

b. The large southern portion of Argentina

c. An area of grasslands around the Orinoco River

**d. Subtropical grasslands near Buenos Aires**

e. Located in extreme northwestern Colombia

6. Most of the smaller islands in the Caribbean Sea are made from:

a. Limestone

b. Coral

**c. Volcanoes**

d. Moraine

e. None of the above

7. A high interior plateau broken into many basins lying between two north-south trending mountain ranges describes the physical geography of:

a. Brazil

b. Chile

c. Honduras

d. Colombia

**e. Mexico**

8. The Amazon River rises in which country?

a. Brazil

b. Colombia

**c. Peru**

d. Bolivia

e. Ecuador

9. Lake Maracaibo is a large water feature in which country?

**a. Venezuela**

b. Peru

c. Nicaragua

d. Argentina

e. Mexico

10. Which of these countries does not contain a desert biome?

**a. Venezuela**

b. Brazil

c. Peru

d. Chile

e. Paraguay

11. The prevailing climate over Cuba, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and most of Hispaniola is:

a. Tropical rainforest

**b. Tropical savanna**

c. Semiarid/steppe

d. Humid subtropical

e. Mediterranean

12. What condition causes the extreme dryness of the Atacama Desert?

a. The rain shadow effect from the Andes Mountains

b. Cold ocean currents offshore

c. Shifting winds that parallel the coast

**d. All of the above**

e. None of the above

13. The tierra fría:

a. Is the highest elevation zone in Latin America

b. Contains seven Latin American metropolises containing over two million people each

**c. Is often the location of Native American subsistence agriculture economies**

d. Is only found in the Andes of South America

e. Starts at the tree line and extends upward to the snow line

14. The most important crop in the tierra templada is:

**a. Coffee**

b. Corn

c. Sugar

d. Potatoes

e. Barley

15. Why does fish catch off the western coast of South America decline during El Niño Southern Oscillation events?

a. The increased flow of cold water from the Antarctic drives fish away from the coast to warmer waters

b. The warmer waters contrasting with colder winds blowing creates violent ocean storms off the coast of Peru

**c. The warmer Pacific waters flowing eastward towards South America are far less nutrient-rich than the typical cold water currents**

d. Fewer clouds form over land areas during ENSO events, which inhibit precipitation and nutrients do not get washed into the ocean from the land

e. The severe drought conditions that persist over Peru in ENSO events leads to massive wildlife losses both onshore and off

16. Which of these statements about the Maya is false?

a. The Maya built numerous stone roadways but had no wheeled vehicles

b. Mayan agriculture was based upon maize, squash, beans, and chili peppers

c. Systems of astronomy, engineering, and mathematics were highly developed

d. The reasons for the decline of the Maya civilization are still unknown

**e. The Maya left behind many stone monuments but no written language**

17. Which of these cities, in 500 A.D., is thought to have had a population as large as London in the year 1500?

a. Tikal

b. Machu Picchu

c. Cuzco

**d. Teotihuacán**

e. Tenochtitlán

18. Mexico derives its name from Mexica, which was the \_\_\_\_\_ name for themselves.

a. Maya

**b. Aztec**

c. Chibcha

d. Tarascan

e. Zacatec

19. The indigenous Nazca culture created their “Nazca Lines” in:

a. Mexico

b. Guatemala

**c. Peru**

d. Brazil

e. Chile

20. Which of these statements about the Inca is false?

**a. The Incan empire was ruled from the capital of Machu Picchu**

b. The Inca were subjugated by the Spanish beginning in 1532

c. The Inca had no writing system or paper but kept mathematical records in knotted ropes

d. The Inca constructed irrigation networks and terraces for agricultural use

e. The Incan empire stretched from Ecuador to central Chile at its height

21. Dutch is the main language of which of these countries?

a. Guyana

b. Belize

c. Trinidad and Tobago

**d. Suriname**

e. Barbados

22. Which of these conquistadors was identified with the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl?

a. Francisco Pizarro

**b. Hernando Cortés**

c. Christopher Columbus

d. Ponce de Leon

e. Diego Velázquez

23. Which of these agricultural products was not initially cultivated in the New World?

a. Potatoes

b. Tobacco

**c. Bananas**

d. Cacao

e. Maize

24. The term used to describe the racial blend of native and Spanish peoples is:

a. Mulatto

b. Creole

c. Campesino

**d. Mestizo**

e. Maquiladora

25. Black Latin Americans of relatively unmixed African descent are largely found where?

a. The Caribbean islands and eastern Central America

b. The highland urban areas from Guatemala to Peru

c. The Atlantic coastal lowlands of South America

d. All of the above

**e. a and c**

26. Which Latin American countries have European populations that have had little intermarriage with blacks or Native Americans?

a. Argentina, Chile, Uruguay

**b. Costa Rica, Uruguay, Argentina**

c. Colombia, Chile, Peru

d. Paraguay, Argentina, Chile

e. Costa Rica, Panama, Uruguay

27. In Brazil, a *favela* is:

a. A person of mixed African and European descent

b. A small privately-owned factory producing inexpensive consumer goods

**c. A slum on the outskirts of a city**

d. A large estate with a strong commercial orientation

e. A sum of money sent to Brazilian families from workers abroad

28. Most of the Caribbean islands are characterized agriculturally by:

a. Shifting cultivation

b. Subsistence agriculture

c. Dairy farming

d. Grain farming

**e. Plantation agriculture**

29. The Fair Trade movement began in Europe after the dramatic fall in prices of:

**a. Coffee**

b. Bananas

c. Citrus fruits

d. Bread

e. Vanilla

30. The largest copper producer in the world is:

a. Brazil

b. Venezuela

c. Mexico

d. Argentina

**e. Chile**

31. The only Latin American member of OPEC is:

a. Trinidad and Tobago

b. Mexico

c. Argentina

**d. Venezuela**

e. Colombia

32. The largest petroleum producer in the Caribbean is:

a. Cuba

b. Dominican Republic

**c. Trinidad and Tobago**

d. Barbados

e. Antigua and Barbuda

33. An *ejido* is:

**a. A small communally farmed or grazed plot of land**

b. A powerful but often absentee landlord

c. A term for a manufacturers’ union

d. A high-altitude often treeless meadow

e. None of the above

34. The great majority of arable land in the region is owned by:

a. Wealthy farming families

b. Agribusiness operations

c. The Catholic Church

**d. All of the above**

e. a and b

35. Why did the clothing industries of Jamaica and other Caribbean islands collapse?

a. Economic devastation of those islands brought about by hurricanes

b. Governmental takeovers of the textile industries in those nations

**c. The elimination of duty fees of Mexican clothing imports to the U.S.**

d. The reorientation of these island economies towards tourism and high-tech exports

e. The formation of CARICOM and the change in trade patterns away from the U.S.

36. Which of these trade organizations was to be the first “building block” in the creation of the U.S.-led Free Trade Area of the Americas?

a. CARICOM

b. Mercosur

**c. CAFTA**

d. Andean Community

e. Central American Common Market

37. In negotiations with the U.S. over the FTAA, what did Brazil say it would not do unless it got certain trade concessions from the U.S.?

a. Import American genetically modified foods

**b. Enforce American intellectual property rights**

c. Sell any of its petroleum reserves to the U.S.

d. Import any American agricultural products

e. Import any American textile and clothing products

38. The Monroe Doctrine:

a. Established the first free trade zone between the U.S. and a foreign country

b. Stated that the United States had the power to supervise internal affairs of Latin American countries

c. Was the catalyst that led to rebellions against Spain throughout the region

d. Allowed the United States to seize most of Mexico’s northern areas

**e. None of the above**

39. Which of these statements about NAFTA is true?

a. Environmental laws in the United States were changed in the 1990s to equal the less stringent Mexican laws

b. Agriculture on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border prospered as a result of NAFTA, with many new farming jobs created for both countries

c. NAFTA was first implemented in 1994, and is due to expire in 2009 unless it is re-ratified by all three member nations

**d. Mexican officials feared that opening their market to duty-free American products would increase Mexico’s trade deficit with the U.S. and exhaust its money reserves**

e. The United States allowed Mexico into NAFTA on the condition that Mexico clamp down on the stream of illegal immigrants heading to the U.S. each year

40. The Panama Canal was completed in what year?

a. 1888

b. 1899

c. 1901

**d. 1914**

e. 1926

41. Which president negotiated the agreement that returned control of the Panama Canal to Panama?

a. Bill Clinton

b. Ronald Reagan

**c. Jimmy Carter**

d. Richard Nixon

e. John F. Kennedy

42. The Roosevelt Corollary was invoked in 1989 when U.S. troops invaded which country?

**a. Panama**

b. Grenada

c. Nicaragua

d. El Salvador

e. Colombia

43. The largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid in Latin America is:

a. Mexico

b. Haiti

**c. Colombia**

d. Panama

e. Honduras

44. Why is Colombia having difficulties increasing its petroleum production?

**a. Narco-terrorist groups repeatedly attack pipelines**

b. American oil firms have pulled out of Colombia because of continuing violence

c. Colombia’s socialist government deliberately keeps oil production low

d. Colombia’s limited oil reserves are almost exhausted

e. Pressure from neighboring Venezuela so oil prices stay high

45. What is an example of the balloon effect?

a. The spread of free trade zones throughout the Western Hemisphere

**b. The rise of drug production in Latin America**

c. The over-reliance of agricultural and mineral exports for revenue

d. Citizens of poorer countries immigrating to the United States for work

e. All of the above

46. The economy of which nation collapsed in 2001, ushering in a rapid series of presidents?

a. Venezuela

b. Guatemala

c. Brazil

d. Bolivia

**e. Argentina**

## True-False Questions

1. Haiti’s population growth rate has been significantly lowered by the spread of HIV/AIDS through the country.

**TRUE**

2. El Niño often causes droughts in northeastern Brazil.

**TRUE**

3. Large coastal cities had not existed in Latin America prior to the arrival of the Europeans.

**TRUE**

4. NAFTA’s rules of origin state that half of all products sold in Mexico, the U.S. and Canada must be made in those countries.

**FALSE**

5. Cuba refuses to accept the $4,000 annual payment from the United States to lease Guantánamo Bay.

**TRUE**