Name: Date:

Latin America Geography Study Guide

1. Sierra Madre Mountains run through Mexico and the Andes Mountains run through the western side of South America.

2. The Panama Canal connects the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean (bodies of water).

3. The Atacama Desert is the second driest place on earth that is created by a rain shadow effect from the Andes Mountains.

4. Brazil is the largest country in Latin America.

5. Cuba is the Latin American country with the smallest population.

6. Air pollution in Mexico City (environmental issue) is caused because it lies in a bowl-shaped valley that is surrounded by mountains and volcanoes.

7. Deforestation due to cattle ranching and farming has caused the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest.

8. The shore of Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela has dropped 3 inches a year due to oil pollution from oil spills.

9. The Andes Mountains run the entire length of South America (western side) this makes trade difficult and limits the amount of goods that may occur.

10. Venezuela’s location helps trade occur with other countries due the location of seaports on the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

11. The Amazon River is important to South America because it provides a major trade route and creates fertile areas for farming.

12. South America called the “hollow continent” because the majority of the people live on the coastline because of physical features and history.

13. Cuba’s lack of natural resources affects their trade requiring them to import more products.

14. Mestizos is a culture that mixes Native Americas and European ancestry.

15. Mulattoes is a culture that mixes African and European ancestry.

16. Criolles are Europeans born in the New World.

17. Intermarriage between Europeans, Native Americas and Africans caused the blending of cultures in Latin America and the Caribbean. This blending allowed different ethnic groups to be created.

18. The term “Latin America” refers to the region of the Caribbean, Central America and South American because the major languages of this region came from the ancient Latin language.

19. The country of Spain has the most significant impact on the languages and religions in Latin America.

20. The two primary languages in Latin America are Spanish and Portuguese. Both of these languages are based on the Latin language.

21. Spain, Portugal, France, and England spread their languages and religions by means of cultural diffusion.

22. The regions make up the term Latin America include Central America, the Caribbean, and South America.

23. The economic level achieved by a person, family, or country is referred to as **standard of living.**

24. An illiterate person (someone who cannot read or write) is most likely to low standard of living.

Remember to review your old Geography notes. We will have a short BLAST FROM THE PAST section. ☺