Latin America Study ?s Ms. Sutherland and Ms. Meredith’s Class

**Study Guide Questions**

1. \_\_Sierra Madre\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mountains run through Mexico and the \_\_\_\_\_Andes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mountains run through the western side of South America.

2. The Panama Canal connects what two bodies of water? Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean

3. What is the second driest place on earth that is created by a rain shadow effect from the Andes Mountains?

Atacama Desert

4. What is the largest country in Latin America? Brazil

5. Which Latin American country has the smallest population? (Bolivia, Mexico, Cuba, or Haiti) Why does this make sense geography? Bolivia – South America is called the “Hollow Continent” because the majority of the people live on the coast. Bolivia is located in the middle of South America were the population is smaller.

6. How is air pollution impacted by the geography of Mexico? Sierra Madre mountains trap the pollution above the city

7. Why are people destroying the rainforest of Brazil? Rainforests are being destroyed due to cattle ranching, farming and Brazil’s desire for natural resources (economic).

8. What environmental issue causes Lake Maracaibo’s shore to drop 3 inches a year? Oil spills (oil pollution)

9. How do the Andes Mountains affect trade in South America? Do they make it easier or harder? Justify your answer using what you know about geography.

The sheer size of the mountains creates a trade barrier. The Andes makes it harder.

10. Venezuela has a great location for trade. Why does this make sense (use your knowledge of geography to support your answer)?

Venezuela has a large coastline with access to both the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

11. Why is the Amazon River important to South America? (List at least three reasons)

The Amazon River provides a major trade route, fertile soil for farming and

12. Why is Latin America referred to as the “hollow continent”? (This may help give a clue to the answer for number 5)! South America is referred to the “hollow continent’ because the majority of the people live along the coastline.

13. How does Cuba’s lack of natural resources affect their trade? Cuba has to import more products.

14. How do Mestizos explain cultural diversity in Latin America? Mestizos are a culture that was created by intermarriages between Europeans (Spanish) and Native Americans (Aztecs). This culture adds to the diversity of Latin America through the unique holidays, music, food and traditions that have been created.

15. Define Mulattoes. Mulattoes are a culture that was created by the intermarriages between Europeans (French, Spanish) and Africans. This culture can be seen in the country of Haiti.

16. What is one cause for the blending of cultures in Latin America and the Caribbean? You will want to include your knowledge of cultural diffusion/exchange… and your knowledge of what really helped transform/change Latin America forever.

The blending of cultures was created when different groups (Native Americans, Europeans and Africans) intermarried. These cultures are unique to Latin America. Many different elements have been created including music, food, holidays, dance, etc.

18. Why do we use the term “Latin” to describe and group Latin America? The term Latin America developed based on the primary languages of the countries being based on the “LATIN” language (Spanish and Portuguese).

19. Which European country had the most significant impact on the languages and religions in Latin America? Spain

20. What are two primary languages in Latin America, and what language are they both based on (what’s each of their root languages)? Spanish and Portuguese – These languages are based on Latin.

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

22. Which of the following regions make up Latin America: Canada, USA, Mexico, Central America, Caribbean Islands, South America? Central America, the Caribbean Islands and South America

23. The economic level achieved by a person, family, or country is called standard of living. Describe the standard of living found in Latin America compared to the standard of living in America.

The standard of living in Latin America is lower than the United States.

24. Describe the standard of living people who are illiterate will have. The standard of living for people who are illiterate (cannot read and write) is low.

**Remember to study past units for BLAST FROM THE PAST!!!**