

# Latin American Physical Geography

## Mini - Document Based Question (DBQ)

### Essential Question:

How does the physical geography of Latin America affect where people live?

### Hook:

Picture 1:

Picture 2:

Picture 3:

Picture 4:

### Background:

1. What language group will you find throughout Latin America? What are the main languages spoken in this region?
2. Quebec is rarely considered to be a part of Latin America, although in reality it is, why?
3. What were the names of some of the Ancient Civilizations of Latin America? What happened to them?
4. What were some of the changes brought to Latin America from their European Conquerors?

### Physical Features Map:

1. What does the title of this map tell us? What types of things will you find on this map?
2. By examining this map, what are the mountain ranges you will find in Latin America? Which is the largest?

3. What physical feature lies west of the world's longest mountain range? How would you describe this feature?
4. The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world. What are some unique things you noticed about it?
5. There are many major waterways around Latin America, name what you believe are the three most important and tell why you think they are important?

**Political Map:**

1. In what hemispheres will you find Latin America?
2. In which continent are Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela located?
3. Panama and Haiti are not located on the same continent as the others. Where are they located?
4. What important physical features are near many of these countries? How do they help those that live there and their economy?

**The Caribbean Islands Map:**

1. What island group is Haiti a part of?
2. The Caribbean is made of many islands, what is one thing that makes Haiti uniquely different than the others?
3. What about Haiti's location makes it desirable for tourism? How do you think this affects their economy?
4. Besides tourism what other things do you think contribute to Haiti's economy?

5. Given that Haiti is small in size and surrounded by water, what do you think are some challenges their economy faces? Why?

**Mexico Map:**

1. What country is Mexico's neighbor to the north?

2. The Sierra Madres are found in three different parts of Mexico. What are their names and locations?

3. What feature lies in between the Sierra Madres? Since Mexico is so mountainous make an inference on why this feature might be significant?

**Panama Canal:**

1. The Panama Canal can be found in which country?

2. The canal connects two waterways, what are these two waterways?

3. Examine the picture of the canal lock system above. Describe the way the canal works to allow travel through it.

4. What is the purpose of the canal? Why do you believe the canal to be so important to the world economy?

**Task:**

**Chart:**

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fact</u>

**Written Summary:** (Write your essay on a separate sheet of paper or create a typed copy.)

Choose **3 physical features in 3 different countries**. In paragraph form, answer the following question about **each place or landform**.

How does the physical geography of Latin America and the Caribbean affect where people live?

- Include reasons why people might live there. Focus on their location, surrounding areas, and possible economic benefits.