Hang on to these notes…they summarize all three sections of chapter 11. To prepare for your test, read each section of chapter 11 and complete all homework to the best of your ability.

Latin America

- Western Hemisphere, south of the United States (all of Western Hemisphere except Canada and United States
  - Made up of Caribbean – mostly islands, Mexico and Central America – mostly mountains and plateaus, and South America – mostly mountains, plains, and forests, including Amazon Rain Forest
- The climate of Latin America is varies greatly from place to place
  - Climate affected by elevation (higher the colder), how near to the equator a place is (further away the cooler it is; more direct sun rays near equator and more precipitation too), and by local wind patterns
  - The climate of each region affects the vegetation and the way people live
- Too many countries used to rely on only one main product or resource, which made them vulnerable to world price fluctuations or natural disasters that could wipe out a crop – now most are finding better ways to diversify by building new industries and growing new crops.
  - Venezuela – oil / Chile – copper are examples explained in the book how relying on one resource has hurt a country’s economy
- Narrow coastal plains run along much of Latin America
- Natural resources vary greatly and are abundant
  - Mexico-silver, gold, copper – most minerals, oil, natural gas, trees
  - El Salvador – coffee, cotton, sugar, corn
  - Argentina – wheat
  - Brazil – coffee, cotton,
  - Chile – copper
  - Jamaica – bauxite, sugar cane
  - Columbia – coffee
  - Trinidad – oil, sugar
  - Venezuela – oil, iron ore, bauxite

Mexico / Central America

- Mexico has mountains on both coasts with a large central plateau
  - Plateau contains most important cities, farmland, and most population
- Volcanic ash has made the soil in Mexico and Central America very fertile

Caribbean

- Caribbean islands are made of either the skeletons of tiny sea animals (coral deposits) or the tops of underwater mountains.

South America

- South America is a region of great geographic contrasts
  - Elevation contrasts, temperature contrasts, precipitation contrasts (Amazon rain forest compared to Atacama Desert)
• Mountain chain runs along the west coast – Andes Mountains, 2nd highest in the world, 4500 mile range

• Largest tropical rain forest in the world – Amazon River Basin

• Amazon River – 2nd largest river in the world
  o About 1000 tributaries
  o Called “Ocean River” as it drains 2 million square miles and contains 20% of world’s fresh water. It carries more water than any other river in the world.

• Brazil and Columbia – known as key coffee producers

• South America’s high mountains and dense rain forest make trade and travel a bit difficult

Terms:
  Hydroelectricity, tributary, Pampas, plateau, El Nino, isthmus, elevation, diversity, elevation, coral,
1. Why is El Alto an appropriate name for the airport in La Paz, Bolivia?

2. What is meant by “thin air” in regards to oxygen content?

3. Latin America includes all nations from Mexico to where?

4. Which islands are included in Latin America?

5. Name the three main regions Latin America is divided?

6. How did Latin America get its name?

7. Is Latin America a region of similar geographic elevation, precipitation, and temperature or of variety and contrast?

8. How does the length of Mexico and Central America compare to the distance across the continental United States?

9. The long mountain chain that runs along the west coast of North and South America begins in northern Canada and ends where?

10. What lies between the Mexico’s east and west mountains?

11. Name three facts about Mexico’s Central Plateau:

12. Are the coastal plains relatively narrow or wide in Mexico as well as most of Latin America?

13. Which region of Latin America is an isthmus?

14. About how many mountains in Central America are active volcanoes?

15. What has made the soil of Mexico and Central America very fertile for farming?

16. Is most of Central America flat or mountainous?
17. The Caribbean is made up of what two different types of islands?

18. How do most people make a living who live on the Caribbean islands?

19. About how many miles long are the Andes Mountains of South America?

20. Why are the Andes Mountains difficult to cross?

21. What type of geographic landform is found just east of the Andes?

22. What is the name of the large plains that stretches through Argentina and Uruguay?

23. What geographic area of the United States is similar to the Pampas?

24. The Amazon Rain Forest covers about what fraction of South America?

25. Name three ways that the rivers of South America are important to its people:

26. How many miles long is the Amazon River?

27. What percent of all the fresh water in the world is contained in the Amazon River?

28. About how many tributaries flow into the Amazon River?

29. What is the Amazon’s appropriate nickname since it drains over 2 million square miles of land?

30. Which river system separates Argentina from Uruguay?
1. What is the name of the warm ocean current that arrives along the west coast of South America every few years?

2. What does El Nino stand for?

3. What time of the calendar year does El Nino usually strike?

4. Is the climate in Latin America usually the same in a country or can it vary greatly?

5. Give an example of where there is very cold weather in Latin America:

6. Give an example of where there is much rainfall in Latin America:

7. Give an example of very dry weather in Latin America:

8. Which country was named after the Equator?

9. What bad weather storm often hits the Caribbean islands?

10. What happens to the temperature as you go higher up a mountain?

11. What type of climate does a rain forest have?

12. What type of climate does much of Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay have that similar to Wisconsin?

13. What do farmers raise on the colder, drier plains of Patagonia?

14. How does elevation affect climate?

15. What normally happens to temperature as you get to regions closer to the equator?

16. How do wind patterns affect climate? (certain air temp which direction it flows)

17. Give an example of how elevation affects vegetation:
Chapter 11 Section 3

1. Which two main mineral resources has Bolivia depended upon?

2. What happened to the economy of Bolivia when there was a world-wide economic crisis in the 20’s and 30’s and world industries stopped buying tin?

3. Why is it bad for a nation to rely too much on one resource?

4. Which Latin American country has so many resources it’s said to have a treasure chest of minerals?

5. Besides mineral wealth, what three other types of resources does Mexico have?

6. What are some of Central America’s main crops that are grown?

7. What are cacao seeds used to make?

8. Beside for fish and shellfish, what else do many Central American countries use the power of rushing water for?

9. What are some of the Caribbean island’s main crops that are grown?

10. Jamaica is one of the world’s main producers of what?

11. What is bauxite used for manufacturing?

12. Which Caribbean countries have rich nickel deposits?

13. Which Caribbean country is rich in oil?

14. Which South American country is rich in oil?

15. Forests cover about what fraction of South America?

16. What is a key crop of Brazil and Colombia?

17. What crop is important to Argentina?
18. Do all countries of South America have a lot of natural resources?

19. What mineral resource is Chile a leading producer of?

20. What happens to a country who relies too much on oil if the price of oil were to drop for a long time?

21. What are some Latin American countries doing to try to diversify their economies?