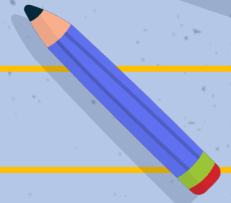
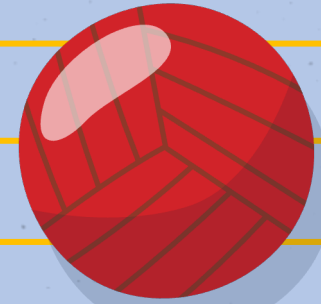
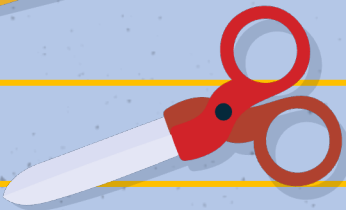
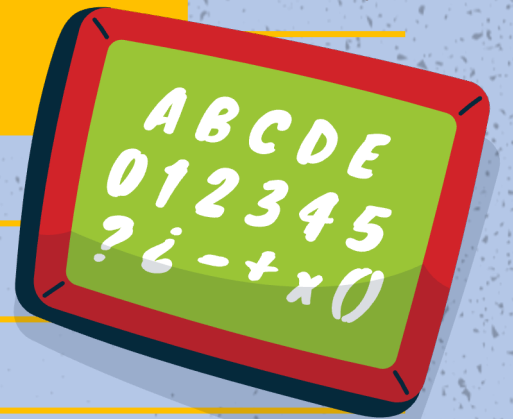
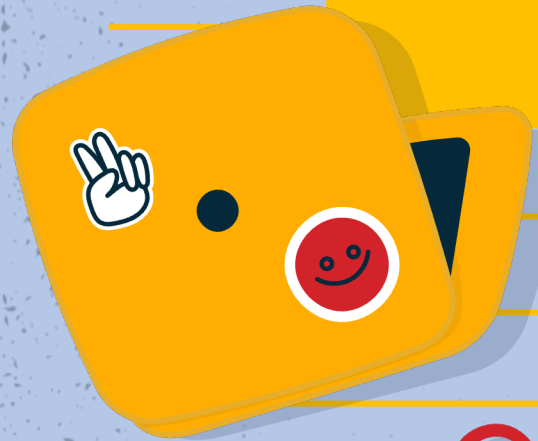


How Would You Describe The Culture of Central America & The Caribbean?

INVESTIGATE



3.5

Human Geography of Central America & The Caribbean



As a Young Geographer, I will be able to...

- **Analyze how physical systems & human systems shape a place**
- **Compare & contrast this region with Mexico**
- **Describe the economics of the region**

History & Government

The arrival of Christopher Columbus from 1492-1504 began the era of conquest & colonization in the region

The first European permanent settlement was on the island of Hispaniola in 1493

Vasco Nunez de Balboa explored Panama, discovering gold & pearls to make the first profitable colony in the Americas, Castilla del Oro

Pedro Arias Davila (Pedrarias) expanded the colony, but enslaved & murdered countless indigenous people in the process. Created Panama City

European Expansion

1524- Francisco Hernandez de Cordoba conquered Nicaragua, until Pedrarias had him executed & claimed the land

Various conquistadors fought for control of Honduras & battled the indigenous populations of Costa Rica

Soon other European nations would settle the region, such as British Honduras (Belize)

By the 1600s, the number of indigenous people was drastically reduced due to disease.

The slave trade began to bring African slaves into the region to make up lost workers



Revolts!

By the late 1700s, indigenous & African began to take action towards their freedom

1804-Francois Toussaint-Louverture led a revolt in Haiti, inspiring other groups

Cuba gained independence in 1898, but was still under the protection of the U.S. until 1902

Some countries still have ties with foreign nations today



New Politics

1823- The federation of the United Provinces of Central America formed, dividing into 5 separate countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, & Nicaragua

1903- Panama gained independence & signed a treaty with the U.S. to build the Panama Canal

1959- A Communist rebellion in Cuba put Fidel Castro in charge until 2008, when power was given to Raul Castro

While countries have been making positive changes, many still struggle with economic recovery or military regimes



Population Patterns

The populations of Central America & the Caribbean are a blending of ethnic groups

Examples: Central America is 60% mestizo, 20% indigenous, 20% other. Guatemala is half Mayan & The Bahamas is primarily of African descent

About 74% of Central American citizens live in highland cities, most of which are primate cities such as El Salvador

Population Pressure- The sum of factors within a population that reduce the ability of an environment to support the population, therefore resulting in migration or population decline

Language of the Region

The blending of Indigenous, European, African & Asian cultures has created a unique identity for Latin America

Dialects- Local form of a language used in a particular place or by a certain group

Patois- Dialect used in everyday speech that blends elements of several languages

example: Haitian Creole blends French, African, & Spanish words



Religion & Healthcare

Central America- 80% of population is Roman Catholic whereas Protestant faith is common in other countries where English is spoken

Santeria & Voodoo are common in Haiti while other faiths include Hinduism, Islam, & Indigenous faiths

Children are required to complete elementary school, but many do not due to lack of money for clothing or transportation

The countries with less-developed economies have more disease, malnutrition, & a low-life expectancy

Family

Family structures in the Caribbean are **matriarchal-** family ruled by a woman such as a mother, grandmother, or aunt.

Central America is male-dominated in their tradition & family structure

Some fertility rates have been dropping due to women in the work force & the rise in education

However, families below the poverty line are larger & typically headed by a single woman or elder



The Arts

Indigenous artists engaged in stonework, woodcarving, pottery, metalwork, & weaving

Guatemalan art today still used Mayan influence in weaving techniques

Styles from cross-sectional cultures have developed new instruments & dances.

Rumba & Salsa are popular in Cub while Latin Jazz is big in the Spanish Caribbean

Agricultural Economy

Agriculture in Central America employs the most people, created by the hacienda system

Latifundia- Large agricultural estates owned by families or corporations

Minifundia- Small farms that produce food chiefly for family use

Countries are trying to pass laws to evenly distribute farm land to little success



Economy of the Region

Most employment in Central America are **cottage industries**- businesses that employ workers in their homes

Major industries from the region include food, tobacco, & beverage processing & production of textiles, furniture, & leather

Tourism is a huge boom for the areas, specifically in the Caribbean region

Ecotourism- The practice & business of recreational travel based on concern for the environment

Find Me Five!

What are 5 Things you learned about today?

Could be from a picture, information, or just a fun fact!

RADICAL!

