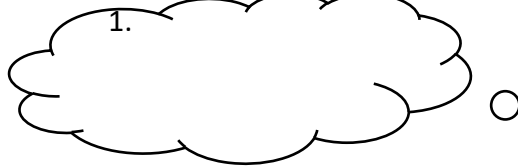


# Latin America Geography

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read, annotate, and answer the question inside the comment cloud and boxes.

## Brazil



1. Based on the map, why does Brazil have an advantage in trade?

### FAST FACTS

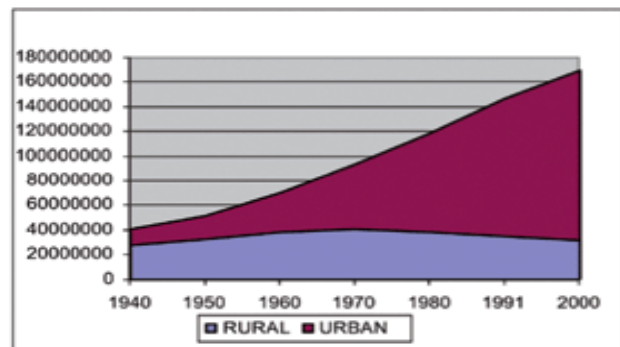
- most populated country in Latin America
- most live along the coasts; 80% live within 200 miles of the ocean
- Only 7% of land is arable, but Brazil makes the most of this resource
- Location on the equator gives it the climate needed to support one of the world's largest rainforests.
- exports: transportation equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, autos, sugar, fruits

## GEOGRAPHY

Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest nation in the world. It forms an enormous triangle on the eastern side of the continent with a 4,500-mile (7,400-kilometer) coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. It has borders with every South American country except Chile and Ecuador.

Northern Brazil is dominated by the Amazon River and the jungles that surround it. The Amazon is not one river but a network of many hundreds of waterways. Its total length stretches 4,250 miles (6,840 kilometers), making it the longest river on Earth. Southeastern Brazil was once completely covered with dense forest. Now it is the country's industrial capital, home to Brazil's biggest cities: São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. It covers only 11 percent of the country but houses 43 percent of its population.

Chart 1 – Brazil: Rural and urban population, 1940/2000.



Source: IBGE, Demographic Censuses of 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000.

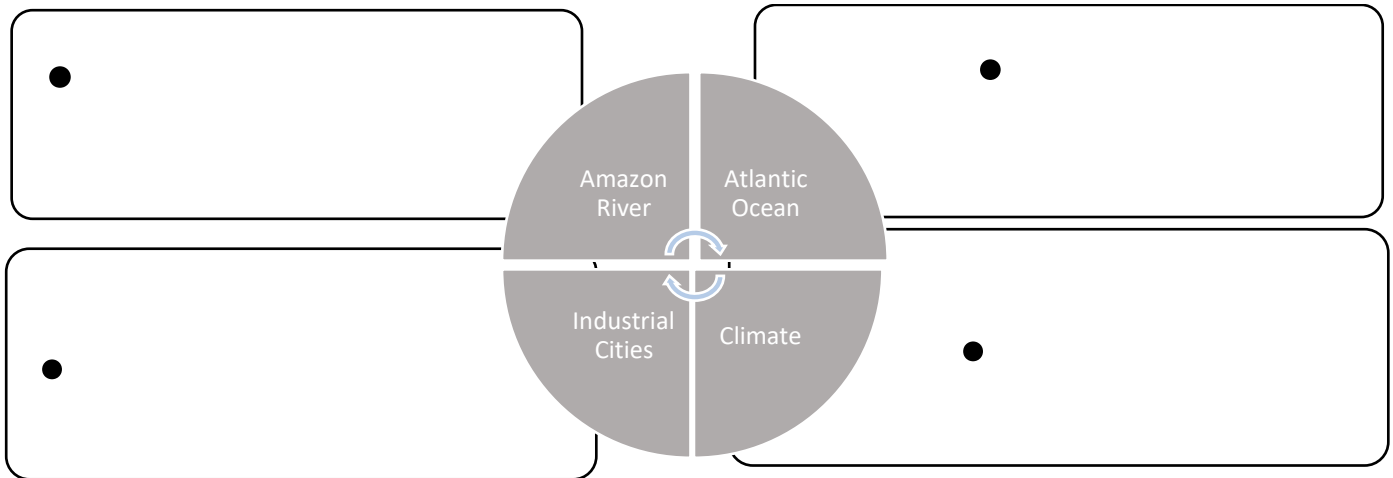
2. Make an inference based on Chart 1:

- A. The rural population is declining
- B. The urban population is declining
- C. Both the rural and urban population are increasing
- D. The urban population is increasing

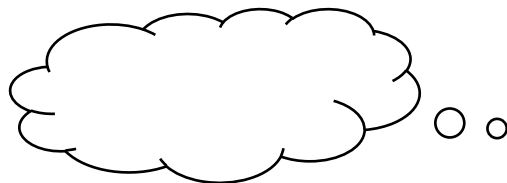
3. Justify (explain) your answer:

**4. Why would more people chose to live in the city of Rio de Janeiro? Make an Inference:**

**5. Directions:** How do these 4 factors impact trade and where people live in Brazil? Make an inference in each box based on the maps/charts/facts. 1 sentence each.



# Mexico



6. Based on the map, why does Mexico have an advantage in trade?

**FAST FACTS**

- Population: urban: 77% rural: 23%
- nearly 20% of the country's population lives in Mexico City
- 2<sup>nd</sup> most populous country in Latin America
- Oil is one of the top exports



Mountains cover much of Mexico. Between the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range in the east and the Sierra Madre Occidental in the west lie small mountain ranges on the Central Plateau. These regions are rich with valuable metals like silver and copper. Mexico is a country with great problems and great potential. It is rich in natural resources, like oil, silver, copper, and agricultural products. But political and economic failings have kept much of the population in poverty. Most people live in central Mexico because of the arable farmland with enough rain to grow crops and the many manufacturing centers are located here (provide jobs to 75% of the country's population).

**7. Why are the mountains both a physical trade barrier as well as an economic advantage?**

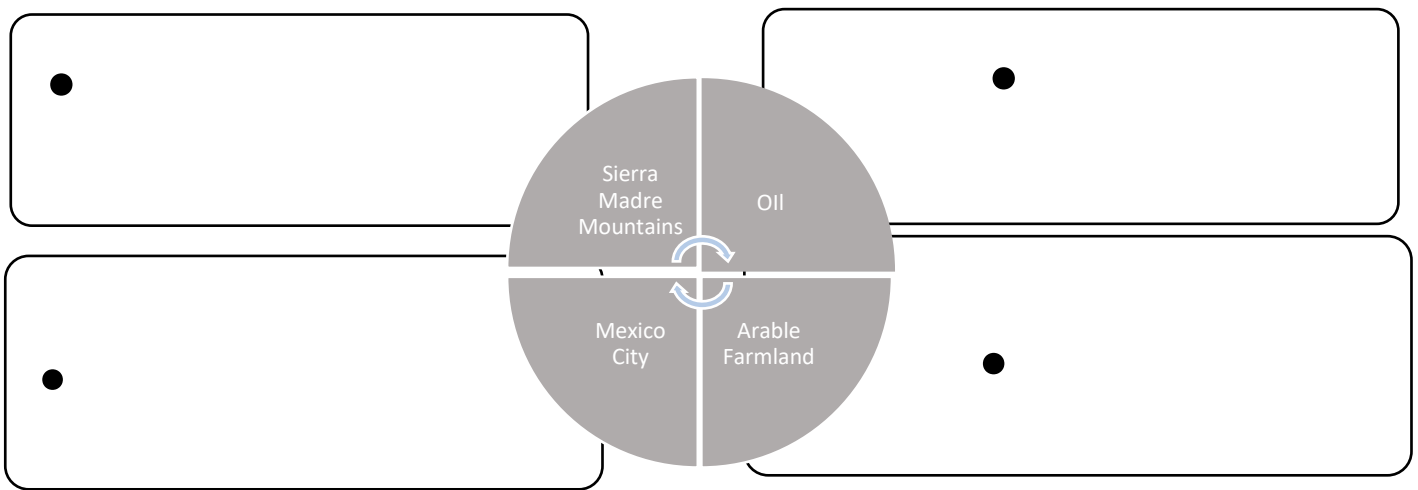
**Make an inference:**



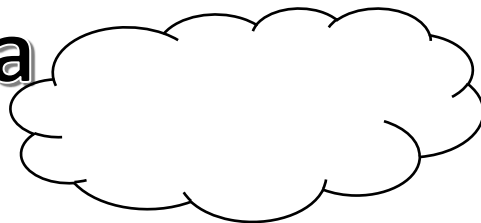
8. Where is most of the population located?

9. Make an inference about the population based on the location of physical features:

10. **Directions:** How do these 4 factors impact trade and where people live in Mexico? Make an inference in each box based on the maps/charts/facts.



# Venezuela



11. Based on the map, what Latin American countries do you suppose Venezuela can easily trade with?

## FAST FACTS

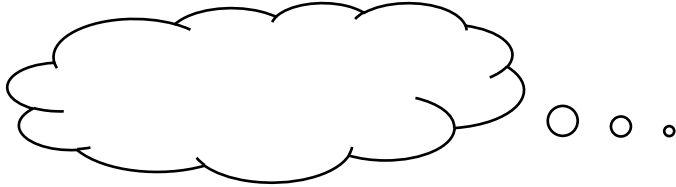
the petroleum industry accounts for more than half the government's revenue

- few Venezuelans benefit from its wealth and most live in poverty
- has the largest proven oil reserves in the Western Hemisphere
- has coasts on the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean which gives it easy access to trade with other countries
- nearby Panama Canal provides a shortcut to the Pacific to trade with Asian countries
- 90% of money made on exports comes from oil
- When price of oil goes down, it is difficult for the government to pay its bills and help its people.



**12. Explain how Venezuela's natural resources affects its economy:**

# Cuba



13. Based on the map, why does Cuba have an advantage in trade?

**FAST FACTS**

- Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean Sea.
- 28% of Cuba's land is arable
- most important export: sugar cane
- Venezuela is Cuba's largest trading partner; it sells oil to Cuba at a reduced price.



**Communism in Cuba**

The Communist government of the Soviet Union helped support Cuba for many years. When it collapsed in 1991, Cuba faced difficult times. Because of the United States' anti-communist beliefs they placed an embargo on Cuba to block all trade. Trade from other countries does not bring in enough money to meet needs of Cuba's people. This has forced government to close some businesses and factories

**14. How has communism impacted trade in Cuba?**

15. Make a connection between two of the facts in the "Cuba by the Numbers" picture:



**16. As with any small island country, Cuba has fewer natural resources than countries such as Brazil. This affects their trade in that Cuba:**

- A. exports only manufactured products.
- B. should import fewer products.
- C. needs to import more products.
- D. does not import or export

