

Name: _____

Hour: _____

The Americas study guide

North America

1. What is the difference between the landforms in the east and west?
2. What physical force created the Great Lakes and many others across North America?
3. Which major river drains most of central North America?
4. What religions dominate the countries of North America?
5. What cultures provide the basis for Canadian culture today?
6. What Canadian territory was created as a homeland for the Inuit?
7. Why does Quebec want to secede from Canada? Why hasn't it?
8. What natural resource is the American west experiencing a shortage of?
9. What is causing the climate change in the American southwest?
10. What are the potential solutions to solving the drought in the American southwest?
11. Why is the city of New Orleans so prone to flooding?
12. How does New Orleans protect itself from flooding and expand into new areas?
13. Describe the Levee Effect.
14. What argument did the dissenting side use in the Supreme Court case regarding gay rights?
15. How had the Supreme Court set the precedent for supporting gay rights prior to this ruling?

16. Why have cartels been able to thrive in Mexico?

17. What does NAFTA stand for?

18. What did NAFTA do in member countries?

Central America and the Caribbean

19. Which countries/islands make up the Greater Antilles?

20. What is an isthmus?

21. What is the most valuable resource for Central American and Caribbean countries? Why?

22. What natural disasters are Central American and Caribbean countries prone to experiencing?

23. Which countries have tried digging canals in Panama? Which one succeeded?

24. When did Columbus land in the Caribbean? Which island did he land at?

25. Why did Europeans begin using African slaves?

26. What historical influences have shaped the Central American and Caribbean cultures of today?

27. What was the 1st country in the Caribbean to achieve its independence? When did this happen?

28. What religion is the dominate religion throughout the region?

29. What is Creole and Pidgin?

30. Why have Central America & the Caribbean experienced political & economic struggles?

31. What do Puerto Ricans want to happen in regards to their relationship with the US?

32. What are the positives and negatives of the Cuban Revolution?

33. How has foreign aid actually damaged Haiti?
34. Why doesn't the money from tourism reduce poverty in many countries across the region?
35. Which country first created and profited from "ecotourism"?
36. What are the benefits of ecotourism?
37. Why did the US intervene in Central American and Caribbean countries prior to the 1960s? Why did the US intervene during the 1960s-1990s?

South America

38. What recognition does the Amazon River have?
39. What recognition does the Atacama Desert of Chile have?
40. What is the difference between El Nino and La Nina?
41. Where do most people in South America live? Why?
42. Despite a heavy presence of African slave trading, why isn't there any African culture present?
43. What Native American empire formed in the Andes Mountains of Peru and Ecuador?
44. What country speaks Portuguese? Why?
45. What religion do most South American people follow? Why?
46. What are the cowboys of South America and their horse-riding culture called?
47. Which country carried out more slave trading than the rest of the New World combined?
48. What causes deforestation and desertification?
49. Why are people carrying out deforestation in the Amazon?

50. What concerns does South America face from deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest?

51. Why are the Galapagos Islands so important in history and to science?

52. What issues are threatening the Galapagos Islands and the wildlife there?

53. What are the large urban slums of Brazil called?

54. What events is Brazil hosting? Why are they controversial?