

Mexico

MAJOR LANDFORMS & BODIES OF WATER

- Yucatan Peninsula
- Sierra Madre Oriental
- Pico de Orizaba volcano
- Rio Grande river
- Gulf of Mexico
- Basaseachic Falls



MAJOR RELIGIONS & MAJOR LANGUAGES

- Roman Catholicism
- Protestants
- Nahuatl
- Yucatec Maya
- Mitex

HISTORY

- Mexico was first populated more than 13,000 years ago. The last 60 years have been characterized by industrial expansion. In the recent years the government has tried to change Mexico to try and become a first world economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Air pollution is a big environmental concern.
- Tectonic hazards
- Earthquakes
- Acid rain
- Deforestation
- Groundwater
- Overgrazing
- Poaching
- Soil erosion

ECONOMIC STRENGTHS & STANDARD OF LIVING

- Mexico is a significant natural gas producer
- Important mineral producer
- Ranks the first largest producer of silver.
- Over the years Mexico has made lots of improvements to their standard of living. Their education and literacy rates are going up, the poverty rates are going down and health statistics have gone up.

GOVERNMENTS

- Mexico is run by a federal republic.
- Mexico's government consists of an Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branch.
- The Executive Branch is ruled by the president
 - o Elected every 6 years.
- The Legislative Branch is in charge of making the laws and discussing the countries problems with other countries.

KEY ELEMENTS OF CULTURE

- Language
- Religion
- Values of people
- Food
- Art and literature
- Clothing
- Holidays

Central America



MAJOR LANDFORMS & BODIES OF WATER

- Mountains
- Volcanoes
- Large plateaus
- Tropical rainforests
- Rivers and seas
- Swampy lowlands
- Beach coastlines
- Volcanic lakes

MAJOR RELIGIONS & MAJOR LANGUAGES

- Many people are Roman Catholic
- Majority speak Spanish.

HISTORY

- In 1502 Columbus sailed off the coast of Panama. The Spanish arrived and planned to find wealth and convert Indians to Christians. The arrival of the Spanish marks the time called the “Colonia period”. The Colonial Period came to an end in 1821.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Deforestation
- Soil erosion
- Pollution
- Water pollution
- Environmental destruction



ECONOMIC STRENGTHS & STANDARD OF LIVING

- Technology
- Qualified workforces
- Population growth
- Developing country
- Poor
- Shorter life spans

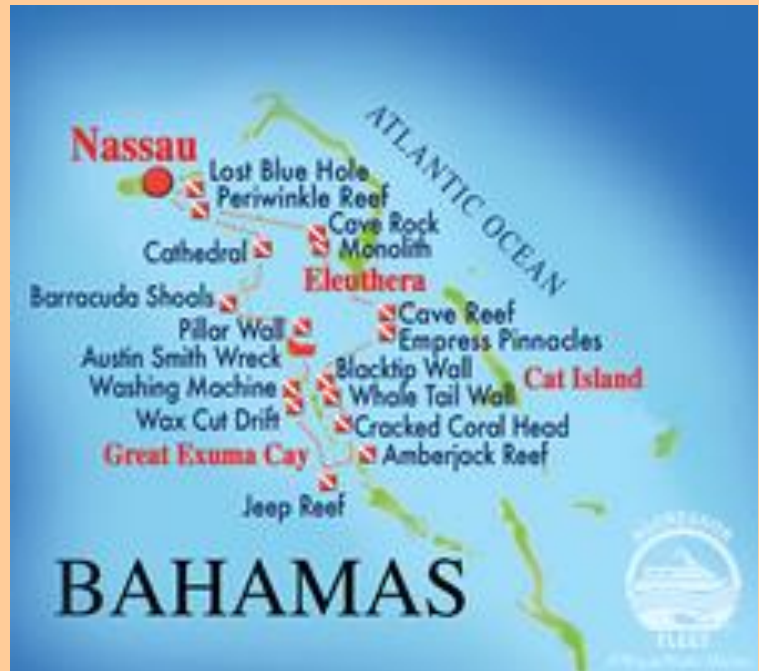
GOVERNMENTS

- It was feared that is the Central America governments would switch over to communist, then Mexico would too.

KEY ELEMENTS OF CULTURE

- Lots of Central Americas culture has come from being influenced by Spain, Asia, India and the Caribbean.

Bahamas



MAJOR LANDFORMS & BODIES OF WATER

- Mount Alvernia
- The grand Bahama Labyrinth
- Caribbean sea
- North Atlantic ocean
- Lake Forsyth

MAJOR RELIGIONS & MAJOR LANGUAGES

- Protestant
- Baptist
- Anglican
- The official language of the Bahamas is English.

HISTORY

- The first people on the Bahamas were known as the Lucayans. The first people came there in the first millennium AD.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Providing portable water
- Maintaining garbage clean up
- Keeping public parks and beaches clean
- Water pollution
- Coral reef decay
- Waste disposal

ECONOMIC STRENGTHS & STANDARD OF LIVING

- Tourism
- One of the wealthiest countries in the Caribbean.
- Advanced buildings due to tourism
- Cost of purchasing daily necessities is higher than most countries.

GOVERNMENTS

- The Bahamas has a limited government.
- They have one of the lowest tax burdens in the world.
- The government imposes national insurance, property and stamp taxes.

KEY ELEMENTS OF CULTURE

- They watch their table manners
- Have proper dinner etiquette
- Very polite people
- Take religion seriously
- Very musical

Greater Antilles

MAJOR LANDFORMS & BODIES OF WATER

- Puerto Rico
- Cuba
- Jamaica
- Mountain Ranges
- Lakes on the island of Cuba
- Lakes on the island of Hispaniola

MAJOR RELIGIONS & MAJOR LANGUAGES

- Roman Catholicism
- Spanish
- French

HISTORY

- The Greater Antilles is a grouping of islands in the Caribbean Sea.
- These islands include:
 - o Cuba
 - o Hispaniola
 - o Puerto Rico
 - o Jamaica
 - o Cayman Islands

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Marine pollution
- Degradation
- High demand for water and energy resources
- Waste management
- Litter



ECONOMIC STRENGTHS & STANDARD OF LIVING

- Tourism
- Dedicated people to keeping the Caribbean clean.
- People helping to protect the environment
- The standard of living is fair in the Greater Antilles.

GOVERNMENTS

- English took over Jamaica in 1670.
- English governments attacked the Spanish harbors and ships.

KEY ELEMENTS OF CULTURE

- Every country in the Greater Antilles has its own culture.
- These cultures are based on religion, family traditions, past traditions, and the new generations.

Lesser Antilles

MAJOR LANDFORMS & BODIES OF WATER

- Volcanoes
- Mountains
- Islands
- Seas
- Oceans
- Lakes



MAJOR RELIGIONS & MAJOR LANGUAGES

- Polytheists
- Similar to the Taino
- English
- Spanish
- Dutch
- French

ECONOMIC STRENGTHS & STANDARD OF LIVING

- Lots of islands to live on
- Lots of job opportunities
- Services range from fair to good so the standard of living is not terrible there but it is not terrific either.

HISTORY

- The Carib people inherited many of the islands.
- The Lesser Antilles have been divided into two groups:
 - o Windward &
 - o Leeward

GOVERNMENTS

- Most of the islands governments have been stable over the past few years. But, they are all very different. Since there are so many islands in the Lesser Antilles, trying to find all of their governments and how they work is difficult.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Conditions in the environment
- Deforestation
- Erosion
- Earthquakes
- Drought
- Volcanoes
- Reduction in the water table

KEY ELEMENTS OF CULTURE

- Music
- Religion
- Family
- Traditions

South America

MAJOR LANDFORMS & BODIES OF WATER

- Amazon basin
- Andes mountain ranges
- Amazon rain forest
- Amazon river
- Strait of Magellan
- Pacific ocean



MAJOR RELIGIONS & MAJOR LANGUAGES

- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- English
- Spanish
- Portuguese

ECONOMIC STRENGTHS & STANDARD OF LIVING

- Job opportunities
- Produce lots of agricultural needs including:
 - o Coffee beans
 - o Soybeans
 - o Rice
 - o Corn
- Poverty is very high in South America
- In recent years South America has experienced great economic growth.

HISTORY

- South America has a very wide variety of cultures and religions. Because there are so many countries in South America, they have lots of diversity. South America has gone through lots of political and social changes due to tensions with other countries.

GOVERNMENTS

- The majority of the countries in South America are republican. There are some democratic states.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Water pollution
- Air pollution
- Over population
- Waste management

KEY ELEMENTS OF CULTURE

- Religion
- Language
- Traditions
- Family traditions