

Human Geography Reading Worksheet

Fill out the table below and compare the statistics for Latin America with those the world. Then mark the superlatives for the subregions.

	World	Latin America		Middle America	Caribbean	South America
Population						
Arithmetic Density						
Percent Arable Land						
Physiologic population density						
Per capita GDP						
Percent Urban						
RNI						
Crude Birth Rate						
Crude Death Rate						
Infant Mortality Rate						
Male Life Expectancy						
Female Life Expectancy						

1. What is the population of Latin America? What is its largest country? What proportion of the Latin American population lives in that country? Where are the smallest countries located?
2. How does the population density of Latin America compare to that of the world? How does it compare to Sub-Saharan Africa? What factors account for its density?
3. Which subregion has the highest population density? Which has the lowest? Why?
4. In what stage of the Demographic Transition Model is Latin America? How do the growth rates compare to that of the world? What is the fastest growing subregion? What is the slowest growing subregion? Why? Which factor best explains the rate of natural increase – the birth rates or the death rates?
5. How do the birth rates compare to the world average? What factors explain the birth rates?
6. How do the death rates compare to the world average? What factors explain the death rates?
7. How does the *per capita* GDP of Latin America compare to that of the world? To that of Sub-Saharan Africa?
8. What factors help explain Latin America's development?
9. What is the richest subregion of Latin America? Why is it relatively rich?
10. What is the poorest subregion of Latin America? Why is it relatively poor? (Hint: don't forget about Cuba and Haiti.)
11. How does Latin American urbanization compare to that of the world? To that of SSA? When was the most rapid period of urbanization? Why is the rate of urbanization so high?
12. What is a primate city?
13. In what way is Mexico similar to the United States in terms of immigration?
14. In what three fundamental ways did the Iberian conquest of Latin America affect ethnicity? Where is each of the three major ethnic groups dominant?
15. What is the dominant religion of Latin America?
16. In what way is the importance of the Virgin Mary to Latin American Catholics an example of syncretism?
17. What is the role of African traditional religions in the Caribbean?
18. What are the two dominant languages of the region? What is the dominant language of Brazil? Why isn't it Spanish?
19. In what subregion are *non-Iberian* languages more important?
20. What is the only country of Central America where English is the official language? What is the only country of South America where English is the official language? What is the only country of South America where French is the official language?