

Central America Landforms and Climates

The Mountainous Core

Mountains run length of C. America

Highest are over _____ ft.

Transportation in area is difficult

Two climate zones exist here

Between _____ ft. springtime climate year round supports agriculture

Over _____ ft is cold year round – _____

Caribbean Lowlands

_____ Climate is found here

Rain forests are common

Little _____ is possible

Pacific Coastal Plain

_____ is common here

Region only receives rain in summer

Volcanic activity has given _____ to area because of ash

Nicaragua contains many freshwater lakes that contain _____

Climate Hazards

_____ and _____ are common

People and Culture

Mountains have made communication throughout area difficult

Indians

_____ of Guatemala are native peoples

Europeans and Mestizos

Europeans began settling here in 1500s after the Spanish Conquest

_____ is the official language in most of Central America

90% of Costa Ricans have _____ descent

Most of El Salvador and Nicaragua are _____

African Descent

Many Central Americans descend from African slaves brought to the area in the _____

Many people of African descent migrated from the _____ in the 1900s to work on plantations

Wealth and Poverty

Most people are very poor

Most rich are _____ of European or mestizo descent

Most people of native or African descent are _____ with no land or low-wage laborers

Middle class is made up of _____ and urban industry and service employees

Economic Activities

Most Central Americans earn living by farming

Most live by _____

Small farms grow corn, beans, and squash

Plantations grow _____

Coffee, Bananas, Cotton

These crops account for over _____ of Central America's exports

Political Conflict

_____ to feed the growing population and the _____ have led to conflicts

Many redistributions of land have favored _____

People opposing these plans have started _____

Nicaragua

Somoza family controlled government from 1936-1979 through tyranny

Sandinistas overthrew the government in 1979 and tried to set up a socialist government

Contras began to fight against Sandinistas because they were afraid of a communist government

Fighting between two groups lasted until 1990 when a cease-fire was announced

A peaceful election took place in 1996

Hurricane Mitch stopped reconstruction efforts

El Salvador

Rich landowners feared an uprising by the landless poor

They hired death squads to kill political opponents

A civil war erupted from 1979 to 1992

Nearly 70,000 people died

A UN peace agreement was signed in 1992 to end the fighting

Hurricane Mitch also hurt reconstruction efforts here

Guatemala

Country was ruled by military dictators after gaining independence in 1821

A liberal government was elected after World War II led by Jorge Ubico

A civil war erupted in the 1960s

Death Squads were used to control the people

Over 150,000 people died with 40,000 missing

A civilian government under Jorge Elias was overthrown by the military in 1993

Congress elected Ramiro Carpio who tried to restore peace

The civil war ended in 1996 and the first free elections took place in 1999