

## 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