

The Andean Countries





Physical Characteristics

- Coastal Plain
 - Extends from Colombia to Chile
 - Atacama Desert is located in northern Chile
 - This is the driest place on earth
 - Desert is high in minerals
 - North and south of the desert is fairly moist
 - Ecuador is very hot and muggy





Physical Characteristics contd.

- Highlands
 - Plateaus lay between the Andes
 - Alpine tundra grows above the timber line
 - Snow capped mountains are common in the highest areas
- Tropical Forests
 - Rainforests are found on the eastern side of the Andes





People and the Environment

- Economic Activities
 - People in different elevations trade their crops
 - Bananas and sugar are grown in the warm climates
 - Potatoes and cabbages grown in the cold climates
- Physical Effects
 - Between 25 and 55% of population are native descendants
 - These people have larger hearts and lungs to adapt to the thin air of the mountains





Ecuador

- Gets its name from the Equator
- These natives still practice subsistence farming
- European descendants make up 10% of population and own factories and businesses
- Half of the population is mestizo and work in factories or as tenant farmers
- Population is divided between the highlands and the coastal plain
- The discovery of oil has stimulated economic growth



Peru

- 45% of population is descendant of the Incas
- Most live by subsistence farming or alpaca and llama herding
- Incan ruins still remain
- Most of Peruvians are mestizos who work in factories along the coastal plain or on plantations
- Small number of European descendants control most of the country's wealth
- Asian immigrants have come to Peru
- Government has struggled to remain in control and are working towards stability





Bolivia

- Landlocked
- Mineral deposits have been exhausted
- Most natives work as subsistence farmers
- Farmers grow potatoes and cabbages
- Climate varies between very cold in the mountains to very hot in the lowlands



Chile

- Country is 2,700 miles long but only about 100 miles wide
- Most of the population is mestizo with a large number of European descendants
- Most people live in the Central Valley between the Andes mountains
- Growing season is in our winter and products are bought by Americans and Europeans
- 1/3 of the population live in the capital of Santiago
- Many people remain poor in the cities due to lack of education and marketable skills

