

A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the cover.

# Latin America

## Chapter 9

### Physical Geography

# Latin American Regions

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- Middle America – includes Mexico and the Central American countries
- The Caribbean Islands
- South America



LATIN AMERICA

# Landforms

- Mexico
  - Sierra Madre Oriental & Occidental Mountains
  - Anáhuac – densely populated plateau



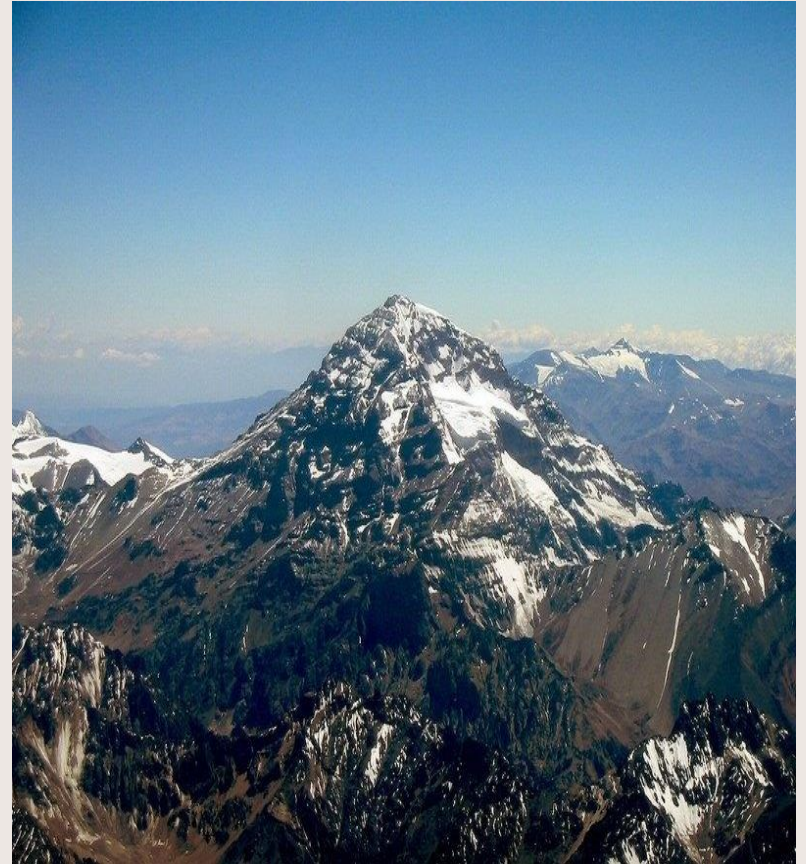
**Oaxaca Plateau, Mexico**

# Sierra Madre Ranges



# Andes Mountains

- Longest mountain range in the world
- Stretches 4,500 miles from north to south, along the west coast of South America
- Highest peak, Aconcagua, rises 23,000 feet



Aconcagua

# Landforms

## PLAINS

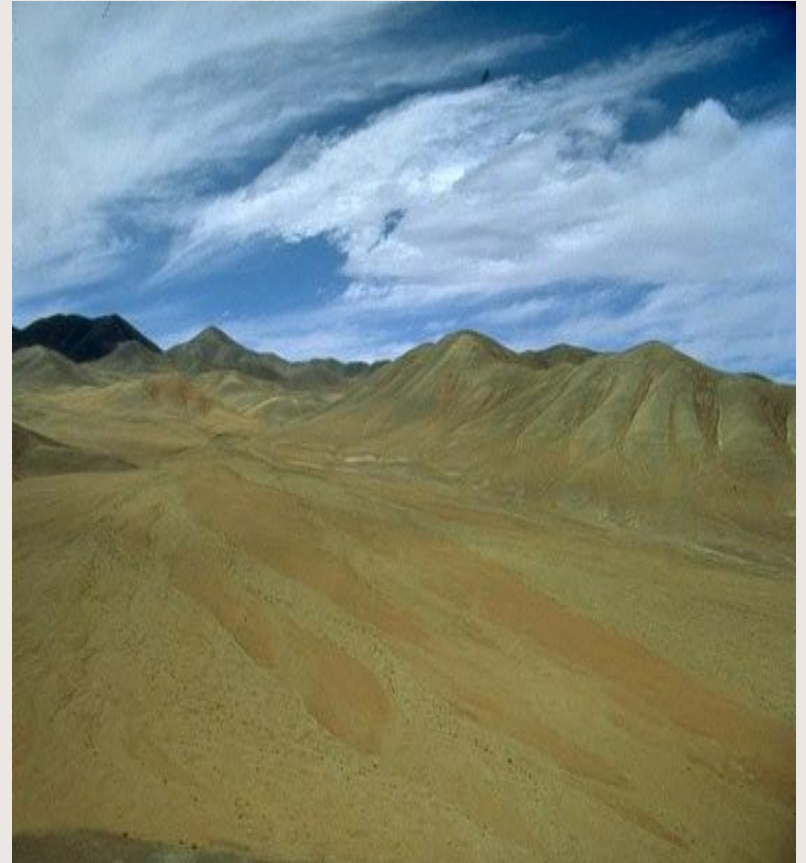
- Llanos - vast tropical grassland plain situated at the east of the Andes in Colombia & Venezuela (cattle ranching)
- Pampas - fertile plains in Argentina, Uruguay, & Brazil (grain, cattle, & sheep)

## PLATEAUS

- Patagonia – cold, windswept plateau in Argentina & Chile
- Altiplano – high plateau in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia & Peru

# Atacama Desert

- Located in Chile and Peru
- Driest desert on Earth
- Rich deposits of copper and other minerals

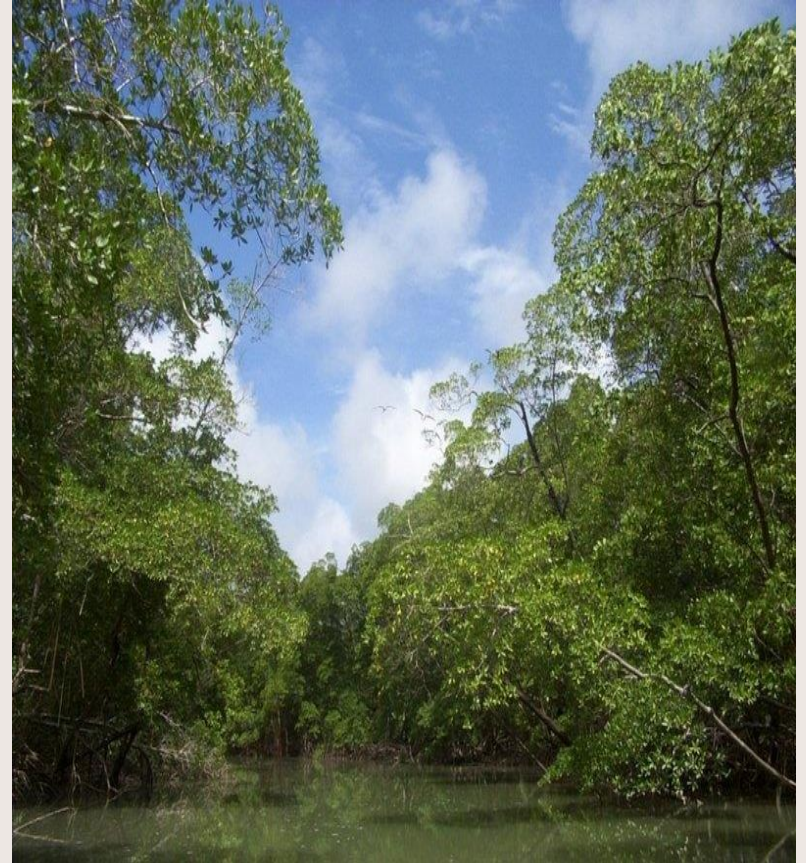




# Amazon Rainforest

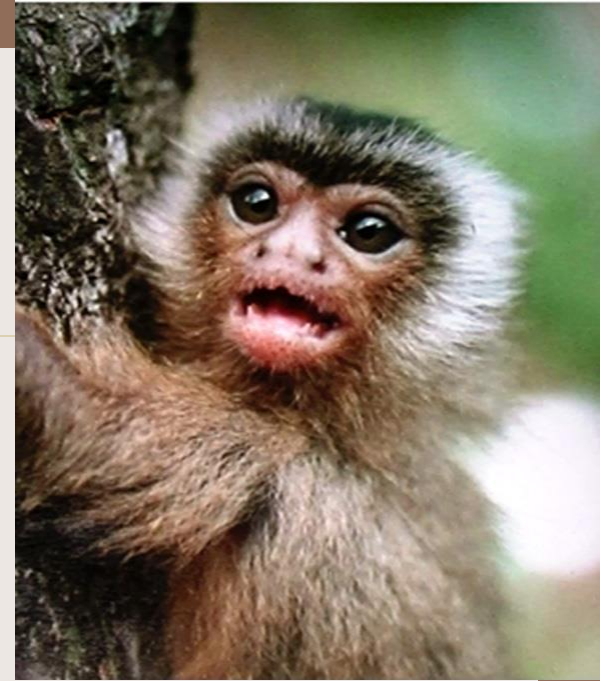
## South America

- Covers 1.2 billion acres
- More than 1/5 of the rainforest has already been destroyed
- One square kilometer of the Amazon rainforest can contain about 90,000 tons of living plants.



# Amazon Rainforest

- The region is home to 2.5 million insect species, tens of thousands of plants, and some 2,000 birds and mammals.



Orchid



Tapir

# Amazon River

- Longest River in the Western Hemisphere
- Greatest total water flow of any river, carrying more than the Mississippi, Nile, and Yangtze rivers combined
- Drainage area, called the Amazon Basin, is the largest of any river system



Amazon River near Manaus

# Amazon River



# Amazon River



# Amazon River



# Paraná, Paraguay, & Uruguay River System

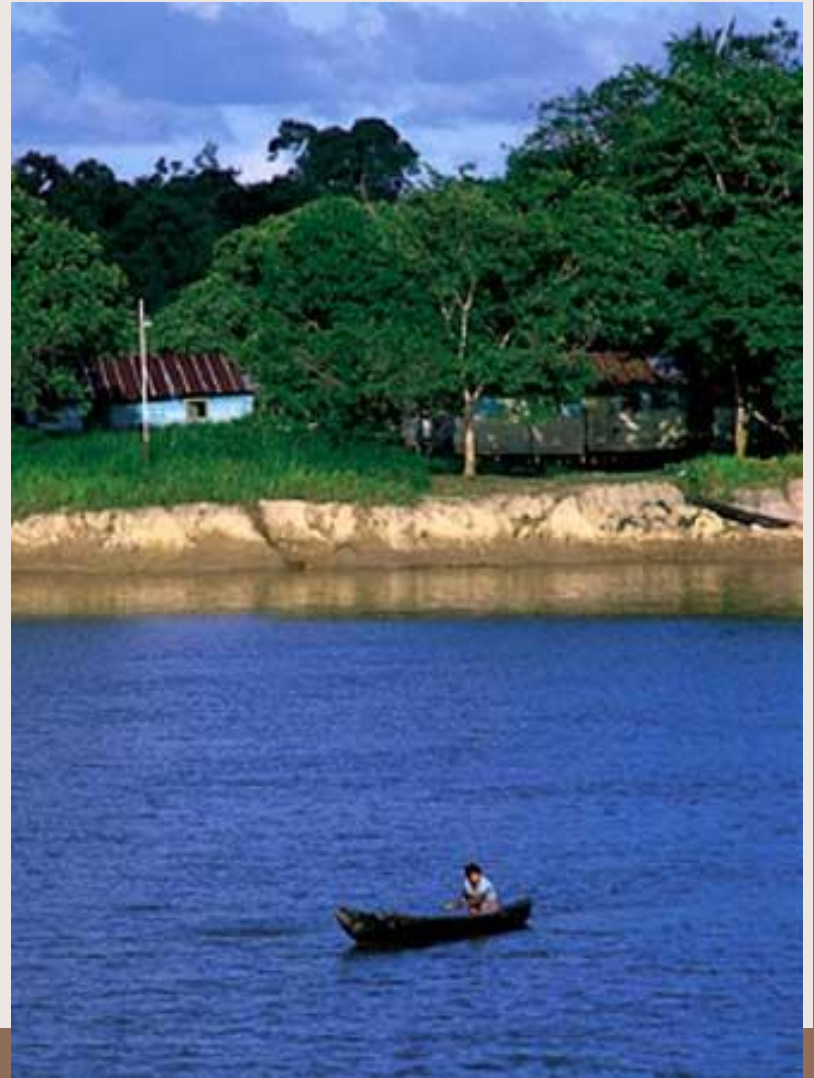
- 2<sup>nd</sup> longest river system in South America
- Most important commercial highway



Rio Parana from Encarnacion, Paraguay, looking to Posadas, Argentina

# Orinoco River

- Mainly in Venezuela
- More than 1,500 miles long into the Atlantic
- Some of the areas drained by the Orinoco are home to the few remaining Native American peoples, such as the Yanomamo





# Amazon River Dolphin

- Amazon River Dolphin
- Found in the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers
- 1 of 5 freshwater dolphin species in the world
- Unique pink coloring
- Also known as “Boto”



# Lake Titicaca

- Highest commercially navigable lake in the world (12,536 ft. above sea level)
- South America's largest freshwater lake
- Located in the Altiplano high in the Andes on the border of Peru and Bolivia



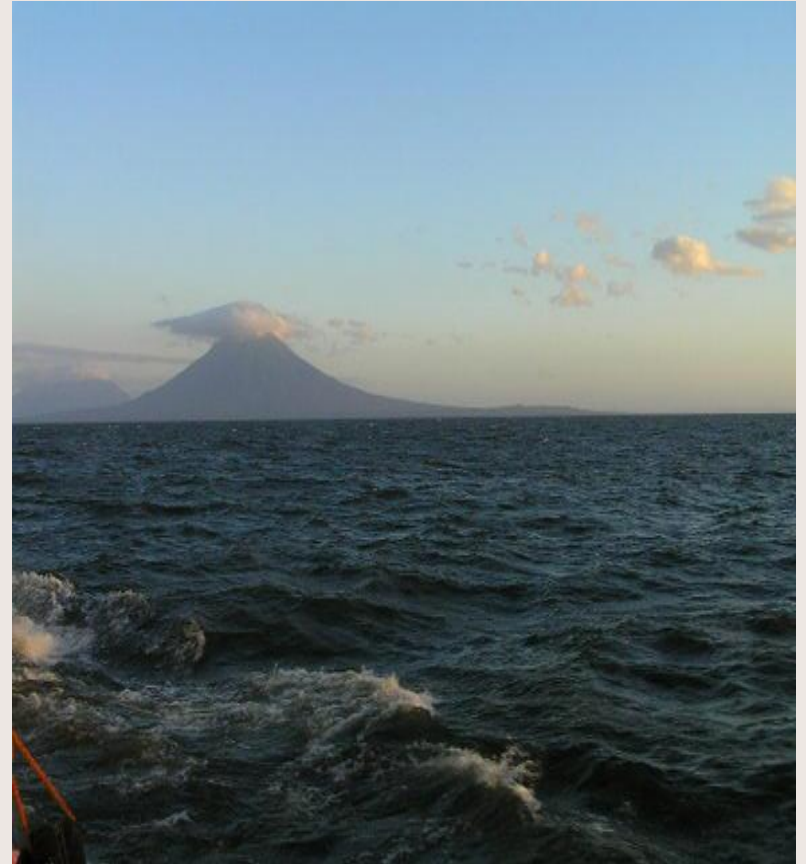
# Lake Maracaibo



- Located in Venezuela
- Contains large reserves of crude oil
- Connected to the Gulf of Venezuela by a narrow strait in the north, making it slightly saline

# Lake Nicaragua

- Largest lake in Central America
- Located in Nicaragua
- Called “The Sweet Sea”
- Has sizeable waves and archipelagos of islands
- Lake Nicaragua has the only species of freshwater sharks in the whole world.



# Angel Falls

- World's highest uninterrupted waterfall at 3,230 feet
- Located in Venezuela
- The waterfall was not known to the world until its official discovery in 1933 by the American aviator, James Crawford Angel, on a flight while searching for gold.
- 16 times the height of Niagara Falls



# Angel Falls



# Major Islands

- Greater Antilles
  - Large islands in the Caribbean
  - Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola (Haiti & Dominican Republic), Puerto Rico
- Lesser Antilles
  - Smaller islands in the region SE of Puerto Rico
  - Divided into the Windward (winds that blow across them) and Leeward (sheltered) Islands

# Greater Antilles

Gulf of Mexico

Mexico

Belize

Honduras

Nicaragua

Islands del Maiz

Key West

Cay Sal Bank

Isla de la Juventud

**Cuba**

Cayman Islands

**Jamaica**

New Providence

The Bahamas

Andros Island

Cat Island

San Salvador

Great Exuma

Rum Island

Long Island

Samana Cay

Crooked Is.

Ragged Island Range

Acklins Is.

Mayaguana

Great Inagua

Turks & Caicos

Cay Lobos

Camagüey

Holguín

Santiago de Cuba

Guantánamo

Kingston

Navassa Island

**Haiti / Dominican Republic**

**Puerto Rico**

**Greater Antilles**

Caribbean Sea

Aruba

Curacao

Bonaire

North Atlantic Ocean

US / British Virgin Islands

Tortola

St Thomas

St Croix

St John

St Kitts

Nevis

Montserrat

Dominica

St Lucia

St Vincent

The Grenadines

Grenada

Barbados

Antigua

St Martin

St Eustatius

St Barts

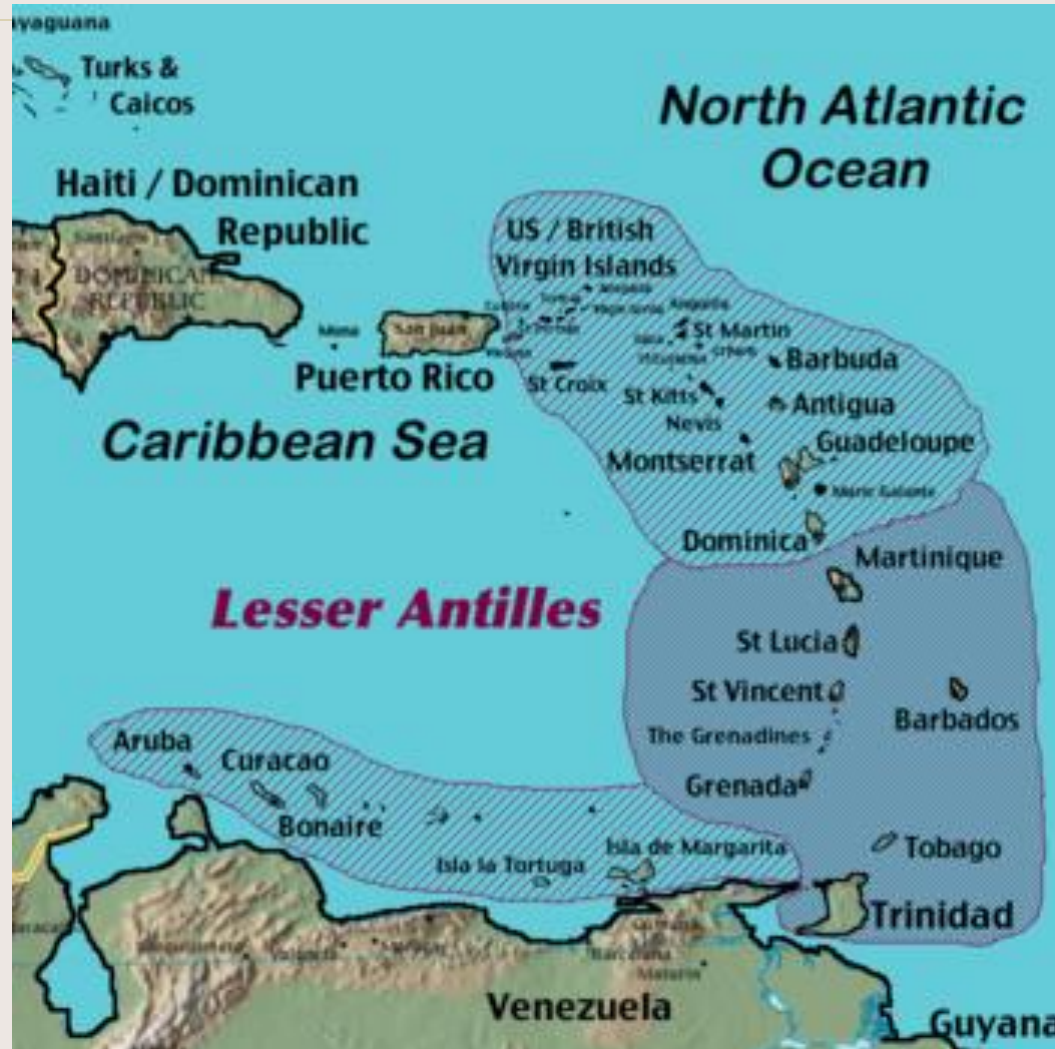
Anguilla

Virgin Gorda

Saba



# Lesser Antilles



# Mineral Resources

- Bauxite (used to make aluminum)
- Copper
- Tin
- Iron
- Lead
- Nickel
- Silver
- Gold



Bauxite

# Energy Resources

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- Oil – Venezuela & Mexico
- Coal
- Natural gas - Trinidad
- Uranium
- Hydroelectric power - Brazil

# Hydroelectric power plant in Brazil



# 9-2 Climate and Vegetation



# Varied Climate & Vegetation

- Varied climate and vegetation due to several factors:
  - Spans a great distance on each side of the equator
  - Big changes in elevation because of massive mountains
  - Warms currents of the Atlantic Ocean & the cold currents of the Pacific Ocean affect the climate

# Tropical Climate Zones

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- Tropical Wet
  - Rain forests
  - Hot and rainy year round
  - Most of Brazil
- Tropical Wet & Dry
  - Savannas
  - Hot climates with seasonal rains
  - Found of Brazil, Colombia, & Argentina





# Dry Climate Zones

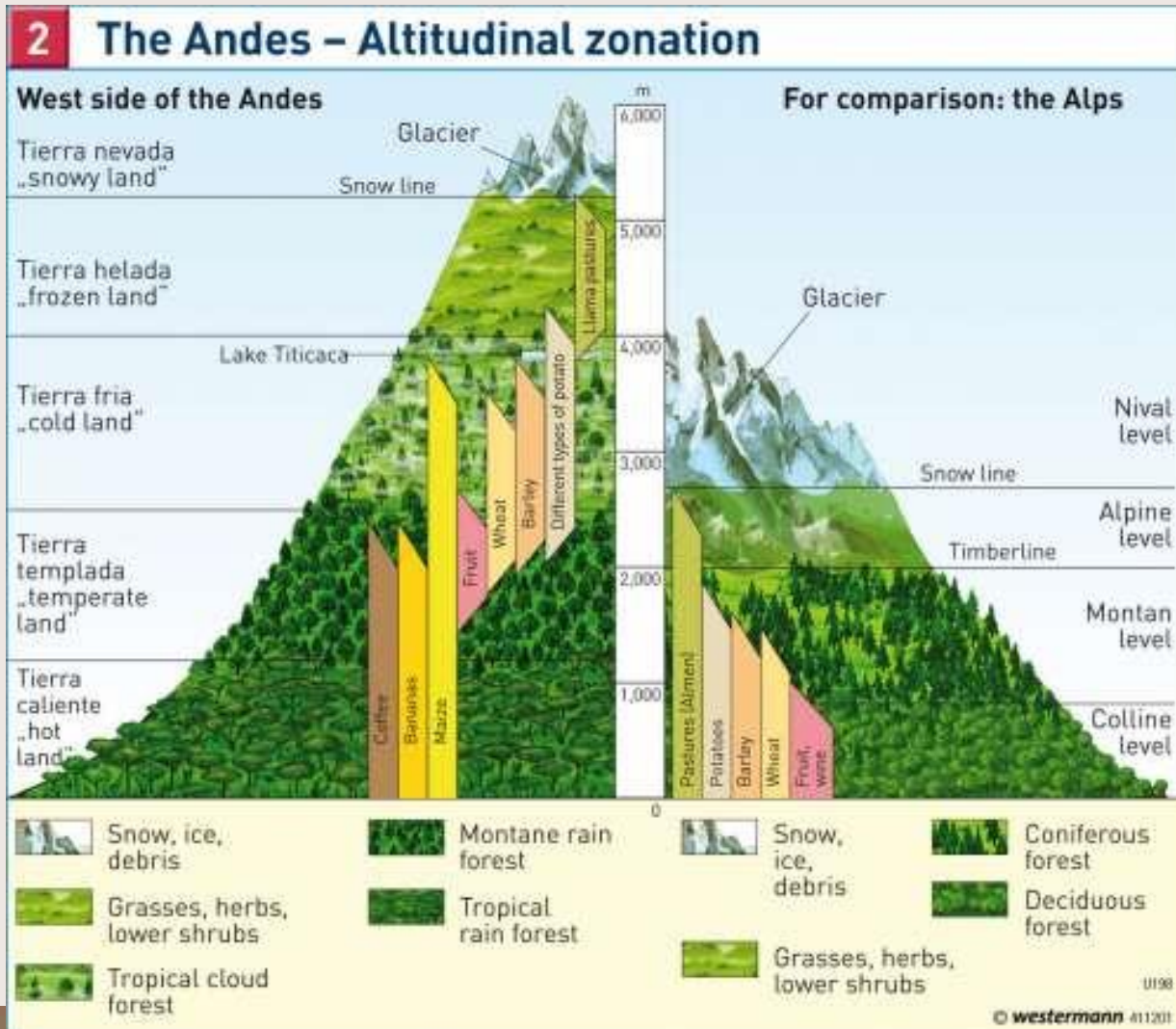
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- Desert
  - Less than 10 inches of precipitation a year
  - Northern Mexico, coast of Peru, Atacama Desert in Chile, part of Patagonia
- Semiarid
  - Generally dry, with some rain
  - Parts of Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, & Argentina

# Mid-Latitude Climate Zones

- Humid Subtropical
  - Rainy winters and hot, humid summers
  - Varied vegetation
  - Parts of Paraguay, Uruguay, southern Brazil, southern Bolivia, and northern Argentina
- Mediterranean
  - Hot, dry summers and cool, moist winters
  - Chapparal vegetation
  - Located in part of Chile
- Marine West Coast
  - Cool, rainy winters and mild, rainy summers
  - Forests
  - Southern Chile & Argentina
- Highlands
  - Moderate to cold, depending on elevation
  - Mountains of Mexico & South America

# Vertical Climate Zones



The diagram shows the main climate zones as defined by elevation, with the different plants and animals found in each zone.

# 9-3 Human/Environment Interaction

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- Slash-and-Burn farming
- Terraced farming
- Urbanization
- Tourism

# Slash-and-Burn Farming

- Used by native peoples to clear fields
- Cut trees, brush, grasses and burned the debris to clear the field
- Today, farmers practice this method to clear land for farming in the Amazon River basin
- Sometimes use destructive farming practices
- Soil is exhausted after a few years and all nutrients have been drained from the soil
- Then they move on and clear another spot
- This is one of the reasons for the shrinking of the rainforest

# Before & After



# The aftermath of slash and burn farming in the Amazon.



# Terraced Farming

- Ancient technique for growing crops on hillsides or mountain slopes
- Cut step-like horizontal fields into hillsides and slopes
- Allow steep land to be cultivated for crops
- Reduces soil erosion





# Tourism

- Advantages of Tourism
  - Create jobs
- Disadvantages of Tourism
  - Congestion
  - Pollution
  - Income gap between tourists and local residents
  - Public debt due to borrowing money to build tourist facilities
  - Often, the owners of the hotels and airlines do not live in the country and the profits go elsewhere