

# Chapter 8

# Brazil and Its Neighbors



**The World  
and Its People**

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC



To learn more about the people and places of Brazil and its neighbors, view ***The World and Its People*** Chapter 8 video.



**Social Studies** **Online**

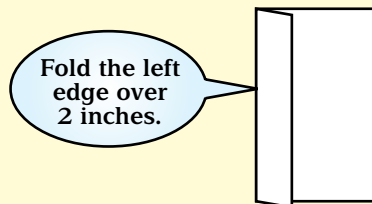
**Chapter Overview** Visit ***The World and Its People*** Web site at [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 8—Chapter Overviews** to preview information about Brazil and its neighbors.

# FOLDABLES™

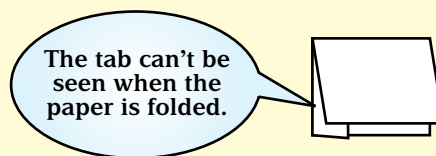
## Study Organizer

**Summarizing Information** Make this foldable and use it to organize note cards with information about the people and places of Brazil and its neighbors.

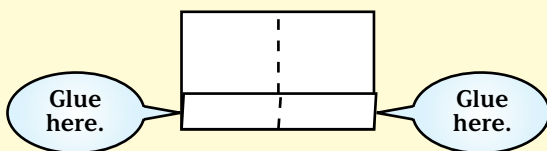
**Step 1** Fold a 2-inch tab along the long edge of a sheet of paper.



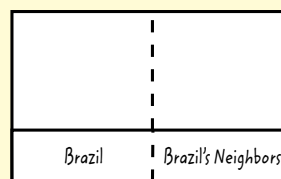
**Step 2** Fold the paper in half so the tab is on the inside.



**Step 3** Open the paper pocket foldable, turn it, and glue the edges of the pockets together.



**Step 4** Label the pockets as shown.



**Reading and Writing** As you read the chapter, summarize key facts about Brazil and its neighbors on note cards or on quarter sheets of notebook paper. Organize your notes by placing them in your pocket foldable inside the appropriate pockets. (Keep your pocket foldable to use with Chapter 9.)

## Why It Matters

### Preserving the Environment

The Amazon rain forest—sometimes called the “lungs of the planet” because of the huge amounts of oxygen given off by its trees—is home to up to 30 percent of the animal and plant life on Earth. Destroying these trees may cause the extinction of many wildlife species and damage to the earth’s environment—on which we depend for our survival. This is just one of many issues facing the people and government of Brazil.

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

Brazil is a large country with many resources, a lively culture, and serious economic challenges.

### Terms to Know

- basin
- *selva*
- escarpment
- favela
- deforestation

### Reading Strategy

Create a chart like the one below and fill in at least one key fact about Brazil in each category.

Brazil	
Land	
History	
Economy	
Government	
People	

## Section 1

# Brazil—Emerging Giant



NATIONAL  
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## Exploring our World

Some of the world's largest fresh-water fish swim in the mighty Amazon River in Brazil. Called pirarucu (pih•RAHR•uh•KEW), these fish can grow up to 15 feet (4.6 m) long. What a catch! The people who catch these huge fish often make the fish scales into souvenir key chains for tourists.



**L**ike the pirarucu, Brazil is large. It is the fifth-largest country in the world and the largest in South America. In fact, Brazil makes up almost half of South America.

## Brazil's Rain Forests and Highlands

Brazil has many different types of landforms and climates. The map on page 233 shows you that Brazil has narrow coastal plains, highland areas, and lowland river valleys. The **Amazon River** is the world's second-longest river, winding almost 4,000 miles (6,437 km) from the **Andes** mountain ranges to the Atlantic Ocean. Its powerful current carries soil 60 miles (97 km) out to sea! On its journey to the Atlantic, the Amazon drains water from a wide, flat **basin**, or low area surrounded by higher land. In the **Amazon Basin**, rainfall can reach as much as 120 inches (305 cm) per year. These rains support the growth of thick rain forests, which Brazilians call **selvas**.

Brazil has lowlands along the Paraná and the São Francisco Rivers. The **Brazilian Highlands** cover about half of the country, then drop sharply to the Atlantic Ocean. This drop is called the Great Escarpment. An **escarpment** is a steep cliff between higher and lower land.

✓ **Reading Check** What is significant about the Amazon River?

## Brazil's Economy

How do Brazilians earn a living? Agriculture, mining, and forestry have been important for centuries. The Amazon Basin has been a mysterious region with secrets that were guarded by the Native Americans living there. This began to change in the mid-1800s. World demand skyrocketed for the rubber harvested from the basin's trees, and new



### Brazil and Its Neighbors: Physical/Political



### Applying Map Skills

1. Which area of Brazil—the north or the south—has the higher elevation?
2. Name two rivers that flow into the Amazon River.

Find NGS online map resources @ [www.nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps)

## Leading Coffee-Producing Countries



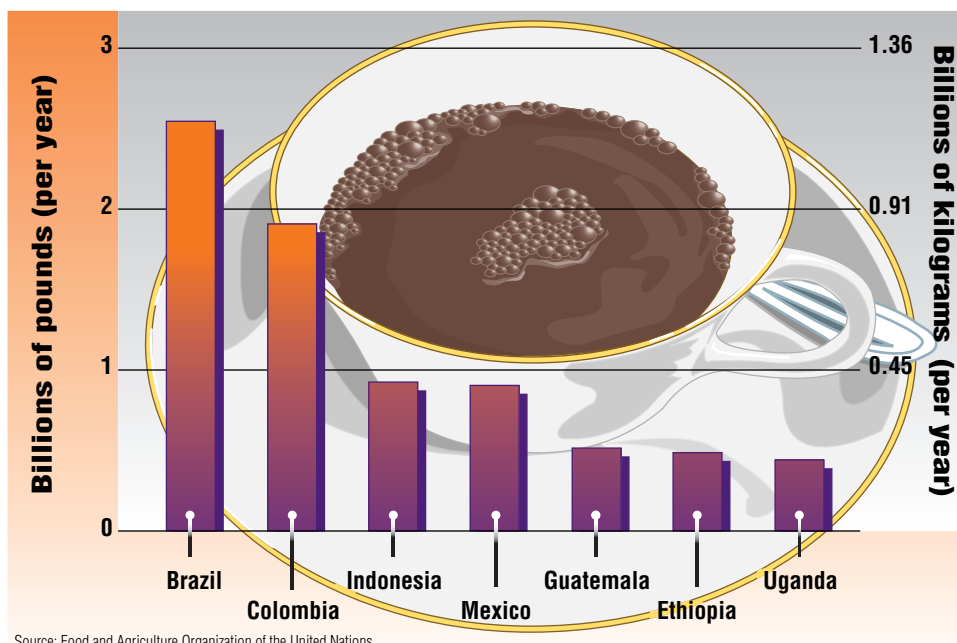
### Analyzing the Graph

Brazil's highlands have the right soil and climate to grow coffee.

**Economics** Which leading coffee-producing countries are in South America?

**Textbook** **update**

Visit [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 8—Textbook Updates**.



Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

settlers streamed to Brazil's interior. Today mining companies dig for minerals such as bauxite, tin, and iron ore. Logging companies harvest mahogany and other woods from the rain forest. Farmers use the cleared land to grow soybeans and tobacco and to graze cattle.

South of the Amazon Basin are rich mineral resources and fertile farmland. The southern region of Brazil boasts one of the world's largest iron ore deposits. The highlands are perfect for growing coffee. As the graph above shows, Brazil produces far more coffee than other countries. It also has huge cattle ranches and exports beef all over the world.

Brazil's major cities are located in the south. Tourists flock to coastal **Rio de Janeiro**, which has more than 11.2 million people. **São Paulo**, home to more than 18.5 million people, is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the world. It is also Brazil's leading trade and industrial center.

**Brazil's Economic Challenges** Today Brazil's economy is diverse and productive, yet the country still faces serious economic challenges. Brazil's economy has brought wealth to many Brazilians and created a large and strong middle class. Yet as many as one-fifth of Brazil's people live in extreme poverty. Many Brazilian cities are surrounded by **favelas**, or slum areas. Thousands of poor people move to cities looking for work in the factories. They live in crude shacks with neither running water nor sewage systems. City governments have tried to clean up these areas, but people continue to settle here because they have no money to pay for housing. Many children as young as 10 years old go to work to help earn money for their families.

Although Brazil has the largest area of remaining rain forest in the world, it also has the highest rate of deforestation. **Deforestation** is the destroying of large areas of forest. To increase jobs and products for export, the government has encouraged mining, logging, and farming in the rain forest. However, as you learned in Chapter 2, deforestation leads to soil erosion. It also harms the rain forest ecosystem and biodiversity. As deforestation takes place, roads are built, bringing companies, farmers, and change. Native Americans who live in the Amazon Basin find it difficult to follow their traditional cultures as this occurs. In addition, tropical forests give off huge amounts of oxygen and play a role in regulating the earth's climate. Thus, although the Amazon rain forest belongs to Brazil, the effects of deforestation are felt worldwide. Turn to page 250 to learn more about the vanishing rain forests.

 **Reading Check** Why has the Brazilian government encouraged mining, logging, and farming in the rain forest?

## Brazil's History and Culture

With 176.5 million people, Brazil has the largest population of all Latin American nations. Brazil's culture is largely Portuguese. The Portuguese were the first and largest European group to colonize

### Literature

#### BOTOQUE

##### Kayapo Indian Myth

In this myth of central Brazil, the hero brings fire to his people.

*“Botoque and the animals safely returned to their village with Jaguar's possessions. Everyone was delighted to eat grilled meat. They loved being able to warm themselves by the fire when the nights became cool. And they liked having the village fires provide protection from wild animals.*

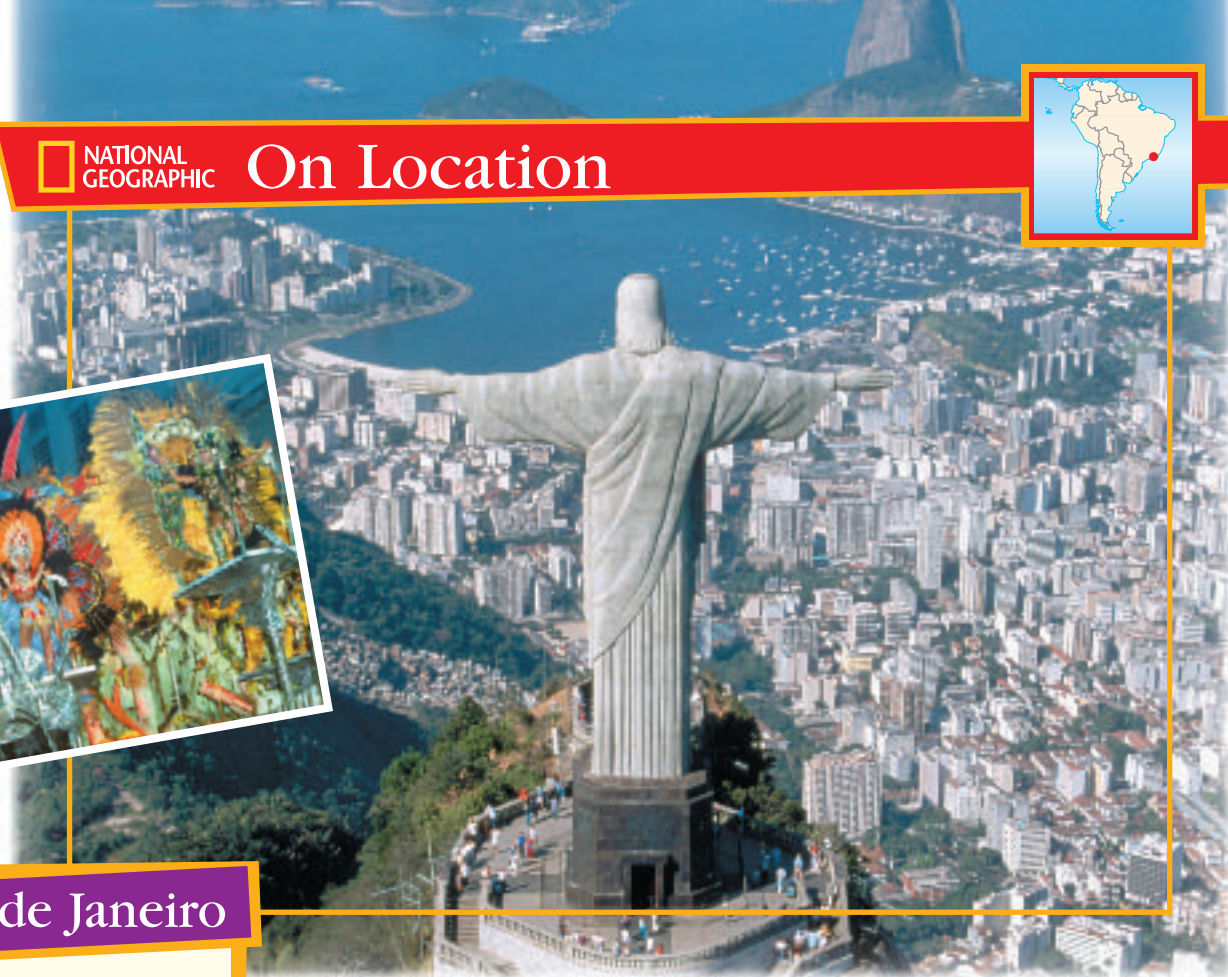
*As for Jaguar, when he returned home and found that he had been robbed of his special possessions, his heart flooded with fury. ‘So this is how Botoque has repaid me for adopting him as my son and teaching him the secret of the bow and arrow!’ he exclaimed. ‘Why, he did not even leave me fire. Well, no matter. In memory of this theft, from this time forth and evermore, I will eat my catch raw! This will keep the memory of my adopted son before my eyes and hatred for him—and all who walk the earth as he does—alive in my heart!’”*

Source: “Botoque, Bringer of Fire” excerpted from *Folklore, Myths, and Legends: A World Perspective*. Edited by Donna Rosenberg. NTC Publishing, 1997.



#### Analyzing Literature

Do you think the Kayapo Indians feared jaguars? Why or why not?



## Rio de Janeiro

A huge statue of Christ overlooks Rio de Janeiro (above right). Crowds of people in Rio de Janeiro celebrate Carnival wearing brightly colored costumes (above).

**Culture** What groups make up Brazil's population?

Brazil. Today Brazilians are of European, African, Native American, Asian, or mixed ancestry. Almost all of them speak a Brazilian form of Portuguese, which includes many words from Native American and African languages. Most of the population follow the Roman Catholic religion. Many Brazilians, however, combine Catholicism with beliefs and practices from African and Native American religions.

**Influence of History** Native Americans were the first people to live in Brazil. In the 1500s, the Portuguese forced Native Americans to work on large plantations that grew tobacco and, later, sugarcane. Many Native Americans died from disease or overwork. To replace them, early Portuguese settlers brought people from Africa and enslaved them. Slavery finally was banned in 1888, but Africans remained in Brazil, most of them living in the northeastern part of the country. Over the years, African traditions have influenced Brazilian religion, music, dance, and food.

**Moving to the Cities** Much of Brazil is sparsely populated. Millions of people have moved from rural areas to coastal cities to find better jobs. Now the government is encouraging people to move back to less populated inland areas to reduce city crowding. Highways now criss-cross the country and reach many formerly remote regions. In 1960 Brazil moved its capital from coastal Rio de Janeiro 600 miles (966 km) inland to the newly built city of **Brasília**. With more than 2 million people, Brasília is a modern and rapidly growing city.

**The Government** Brazil declared independence from Portugal in 1822. At first the new nation was an empire, with emperors ruling until 1889. Then, like some other countries in Central and South America, Brazil was ruled by military dictators. Today Brazil is a democratic republic, where people elect a president and other leaders. In Brazil, though, citizens cannot choose whether to vote or not vote. People from ages 18 to 70 are required by law to vote. Brazil has more than a dozen political parties—not just two main ones, as in the United States.

The national government of Brazil is much stronger than its 26 state governments. Brazil's president has more power over the country than an American president does in the United States.

**Leisure Time** Brazilians enjoy soccer, which they call *fútbol*. Every village has a soccer field, and the larger cities have stadiums. Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro seats 220,000 fans. Basketball is another popular sport.

Brazil is also famous for Carnival. This festival is celebrated just before the beginning of Lent, the Christian holy season that comes before Easter. The most spectacular Carnival is held each year in Rio de Janeiro. The celebration includes Brazilian music and showy parades.

Brazil has one of the largest television networks in the world. This network produces prime-time soap operas called *telenovelas*. These programs are wildly popular in Brazil—and viewers in more than 60 other nations enjoy them too.

 **Reading Check** Why do most Brazilians speak a form of Portuguese?



## Assessment

### Defining Terms

1. **Define** basin, *selva*, escarpment, favela, deforestation.

### Recalling Facts

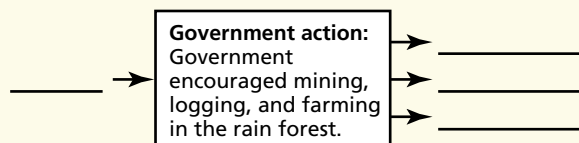
2. **History** Who was the first and largest group of Europeans to colonize Brazil?
3. **Economics** What resources attract companies to the Amazon Basin?
4. **Culture** What is the major religion of Brazil?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Drawing Conclusions** In what way is deforestation threatening the Native Americans who live in the rain forest?
6. **Summarizing Information** What economic challenges face Brazilians?

### Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like this one. Beside the left arrow, write the cause of the government action. On the right, list three results of this action.



### Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the physical map on page 233. What large landform in Brazil surrounds the Amazon River?

# Critical Thinking Skill

## Sequencing and Categorizing Information

*Sequencing* means placing facts in the order in which they occurred. *Categorizing* means organizing information into groups of related facts and ideas. Both actions help you deal with large quantities of information in a manageable way.

### Learning the Skill

Follow these steps to learn sequencing and categorizing skills:

- Look for dates or clue words that provide you with a chronological order: *in 2004*, *the late 1990s*, *first*, *then*, *finally*, *after the Great Depression*, and so on.
- If the sequence of events is not important, you may want to categorize the information instead. Categories might include economic activities or cultural traits.
- List these characteristics, or categories, as the headings on a chart.
- As you read, fill in details under the proper category on the chart.

### Practicing the Skill

Read the paragraphs below, and then answer the questions that follow.

After Brazil's independence from Portugal in 1822, a bill was presented to build a new capital named Brasília. More than 100 years later, in 1955, a planning committee chose the site for the new capital. The first streets were paved in 1958. On April 20, 1960, the festivities to officially "open" the new capital started at 4:00 P.M.

Brasília has both positive and negative aspects. The positive include virtually no air pollution, no threat of natural disasters, many green areas, and a pleasant climate. The negative aspects of the capital include very high housing prices, inefficient public transportation, few parking spaces, and long distances between the various government buildings.

1. What information can be organized sequentially?
2. What information can be organized under these categories: "Positive Aspects" and "Negative Aspects"?

### Applying the Skill

Find two newspaper or magazine articles about Brazil or another South American country. Sequence or categorize the information in the articles on note cards or in a chart.

Brasília



GO TO



Practice key skills with **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 1.**

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

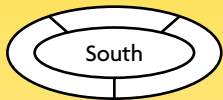
Brazil's neighboring countries have a diverse array of landforms, climates, and cultures.

### Terms to Know

- pampas
- *estancia*
- gaucho
- hydroelectric power
- llanos
- altitude
- caudillo

### Reading Strategy

Create a diagram like this one. Fill in the names of Brazil's neighbors to the north and south, and then write at least one key fact about the people from each country.



## Section 2

# Argentina to Venezuela



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## Exploring Our World

The traditional music of Paraguay seems to be out of place with the rest of its culture. The harp is the country's national instrument, and Paraguayans are famous for their slow, mournful guitar playing. In contrast, the traditional dances are much livelier. Here, a woman performs the bottle dance—a difficult feat even though the bottles are attached to one another.



**S**outh of Brazil lie **Argentina**, **Uruguay**, and **Paraguay**. North of Brazil is Caribbean South America, which includes **Venezuela**, **Guyana**, **Suriname**, and **French Guiana**.

## Argentina

Argentina is South America's second-largest country, after Brazil. Its southern tip reaches almost to the continent of Antarctica. Argentina is about the size of the United States east of the Mississippi River.

The Andes tower over the western part of Argentina. Snowcapped peaks and clear blue lakes attract tourists for skiing and hiking. **Aconcagua** (AH•kohn•KAH•gwah) soars to a height of 22,834 feet (6,960 m), making it the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere.

South and east of the Andes lies a dry, windswept plateau called **Patagonia**. Most of Patagonia gets little rain and has poor soil. As a result, sheep raising is the only major economic activity there.

## Brazil and Its Neighbors: Economic Activity



### Applying Map Skills

1. What agricultural activities take place throughout Argentina?
2. In what countries is gold mined?

Find NGS online map resources @ [www.nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps)

The center of Argentina has vast treeless plains known as the **pampas**. Similar to the Great Plains of the United States, the pampas are home to farmers who grow grains and ranchers who raise livestock. More than two-thirds of Argentina's people live in this region.

**Argentina's Economy** Argentina's economy depends heavily on farming and ranching. The country's major farm products include beef, sugarcane, wheat, soybeans, and corn. Huge **estancias** (ay•STAHN•see•ahs), or ranches, cover the pampas. **Gauchos** (GOW•chohs), or cowhands, take care of the livestock on the ranches. Gauchos are the national symbol of Argentina, admired for their independence and horse-riding skills. The livestock that the gauchos herd and tend are a vital part of the country's economy. Beef and food products are Argentina's chief exports. Turn to page 246 to read more about gauchos.

Argentina is one of the most industrialized countries in South America. Most of the country's factories are in or near **Buenos Aires**, Argentina's capital and largest city. The leading manufactured goods are food products, automobiles, chemicals, textiles, books, and magazines.

Petroleum is Argentina's most valuable mineral resource. The country's major oil fields are in Patagonia and the Andes. Other minerals, such as zinc, iron ore, copper, tin, and uranium, are mined in the Andes as well. Despite these resources, Argentina's economy has struggled during the early years of the twenty-first century.

**Argentina's History** In the late 1500s, Spaniards settled in the area that is now Buenos Aires. By 1800 the city was a flourishing port. In 1816 a general named José de San Martín led Argentina in its fight for freedom from Spain. After independence, the country was torn apart by civil war. By the mid-1850s, a strong national government had emerged, and Argentina entered a time of prosperity. During the first half of the 1900s, however, Argentina's elected leaders governed poorly. The economy suffered, and the military took over.

One of these military leaders, Juan Perón, became a dictator in the late 1940s. With his popular wife, Eva, at his side, Perón tried to improve the economy and give more help to workers. His crackdown on freedom of speech and the press made people unhappy, however. In 1955 a revolt drove Perón from power, and democracy returned.

Military officers again took control of Argentina in the 1970s. They ruled harshly, and political violence resulted in the deaths of many people. In 1982 Argentina suffered defeat in a war with the United Kingdom for control of the **Falkland Islands**. The Falklands, known in Argentina as the Malvinas, lie in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Argentina. The military stepped down, and elected leaders regained control of the government when Argentina lost this war.

Today Argentina is a democratic republic. As in the United States, the national government is much stronger than the 23 provincial, or state, governments. A powerful elected president leads the nation for a four-year term. A legislature with two houses makes the laws.

**Argentina's People** About 85 percent of Argentina's people are of European ancestry. During the late 1800s, immigrants in large numbers came to Argentina from Spain and Italy. Their arrival greatly influenced Argentina's society and culture. Many more immigrants arrived from Europe after World War II. European ways of life are stronger in Argentina today than in most other Latin American countries.


The official language of Argentina is Spanish, although the language includes many Italian words. Most people are Roman Catholic. About 90 percent of Argentina's people live in cities and towns. More than 13 million people live in Buenos Aires and its suburbs. Buenos Aires has wide streets and European-style buildings. Its citizens call themselves *porteños* (pohr•TAY•nyohs), which means "people of the port." Many have a passion for the national dance of Argentina, the tango.

 **Reading Check** Why does Argentina have a strong European culture?

## Uruguay and Paraguay

Uruguay and Paraguay differ from each other in environment, population, and development. Uruguay has a mild climate, rolling hilly plains and rich grasslands. This nation is a buffer zone between the two powerful nations of Brazil and Argentina. Originally settled by the Portuguese, then taken over by Spain, Uruguay revolted against both countries and eventually became completely independent in 1828.

Immigration from Spain and Italy and the introduction of sheep are keys to Uruguay's development. The country's 3.4 million people, half of whom live in the capital city of **Montevideo**, are mostly of European descent. Uruguay's economy depends on raising sheep and cattle. In fact, sheep and cattle outnumber people by ten to one, and about 70 percent of the country is pasture. Animal products—meat, wool, and hides—top Uruguay's exports. The major industries—textiles, footwear, and leather goods—use the products of the vast animal herds. Large haciendas are complemented by many medium-sized and



**Social Studies** **Online**

**Web Activity** Visit **The World and Its People** Web site at [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 8—Student Web Activities** to learn about Paraguay.

## Believe It! or Not!

### Roping a Capybara

Capybaras are the world's largest rodents. They can grow to be 2 feet tall and 4 feet long, and weigh more than 100 pounds. Found in Central and South America, capybaras (ka•pih•BAR•uhs) live along rivers and lakes and eat vegetation. Here, a gaucho ropes a dog-sized capybara in Venezuela. Some Venezuelans eat capybara during the Easter season.



small farms. The Uruguayans have the highest literacy rate, the lowest population growth rate, the best diet, and one of the highest standards of living of any South American country. Spanish is the official language, and the Roman Catholic faith is the major religion.

**Paraguay** In Paraguay, the society and economy have followed quite a different course. The eastern third of Paraguay, with its rich soils and fertile grasslands, was settled by the Spanish. The western two-thirds of the country, a great forest area known as the **Gran Chaco**, was brought into the Spanish territory by Roman Catholic missionaries.

In the 1800s and 1900s, a series of wars severely hurt Paraguay, destroying the economy of the country. After the worst of these—the five-year war against Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay in the 1860s—Paraguay's male population was cut in half. Experts estimate that Paraguay also lost 55,000 square miles of territory.

Forestry and farming are Paraguay's major economic activities. Large cattle ranches cover much of the country. Most farmers, however, grow grains, cotton, soybeans, and cassava on small plots. Cassava roots can be ground up to make tapioca. They can also be sliced and fried just like potatoes.

Paraguay also exports electricity. The country has the world's largest hydroelectric power generator at the Itaipu (ee•TY•poo) Dam, on the Paraná River. **Hydroelectric power** is electricity that is generated by flowing water. Paraguay sells nearly 90 percent of the electricity it produces to neighboring countries.

Paraguayans today are mostly of mixed Guaraní—a Native American group—and Spanish ancestry. Both Spanish and Guaraní are official languages, but more people speak Guaraní. Most people practice the Roman Catholic faith. About one-half of the people live in cities. **Asunción** (ah•soon•see•OHN) is the capital and largest city.

Paraguayan arts are influenced by Guaraní culture. Guaraní lace is Paraguay's most famous handicraft. Like people in Uruguay, the people of Paraguay enjoy meat dishes and sip *yerba maté*, a tealike drink.

✓ **Reading Check** What important export is generated at the Itaipu Dam?

## Venezuela

Venezuela (VEH•nuh•ZWAY•luh) is the westernmost country of Caribbean South America. In the northwest lie the lowland coastal areas surrounding **Lake Maracaibo** (MAH•rah•KY•boh), the largest lake in South America. Swamps fill much of this area, and few people live here. The great number of towering oil wells, however, give you a clue that rich oil fields lie under the lake and along its shores. Venezuela has more oil reserves than any other country in the Americas.

The Andean highlands begin south of the lake and are part of the Andes mountain ranges. This area includes most of the nation's cities, including **Caracas** (kah•RAH•kahs), the capital and largest city. East of the highlands, you see grassy plains known as the **llanos** (LAH•nohs). The llanos have many ranches, farms, and oil fields. Venezuela's most

important river—the **Orinoco**—flows across the llanos. This river is a valuable source of hydroelectric power for Venezuela's cities.

South and east of the llanos rise the Guiana Highlands, which are deeply cut by rivers. **Angel Falls**—the world's highest waterfall—spills over a bluff in this region.

Because it is close to the Equator, Venezuela has a mostly tropical climate. In the Guiana Highlands to the south, you enter a steamy rain forest. As in Mexico, temperatures in Venezuela differ with **altitude**, or height above sea level. Higher altitudes have cooler climates.

**Venezuela's Economy** Venezuelans once depended on crops such as coffee and cacao to earn a living. Since the 1920s, petroleum has changed the country's economy. Venezuela is a world leader in oil production and one of the chief suppliers of oil to the United States. Because the government owns the oil industry, oil provides nearly half of the government's income. A two-month national oil strike from December 2002 to February 2003 temporarily halted Venezuela's economic activity. This shows how much the country relies on its oil production.

Iron ore, limestone, bauxite, gold, diamonds, and emeralds are also mined. Factories make steel, chemicals, and food products. About 10 percent of the people farm, growing sugarcane and bananas or raising cattle.

**History and Government** Originally settled by Native Americans, Venezuela became a Spanish colony in the early 1500s. With its many rivers, the land in South America reminded early Spanish explorers of Venice, Italy, which is full of canals. They named the area *Venezuela*, which means "Little Venice."

In the early 1800s, rebellion swept across the Spanish colonial empire. Simón Bolívar (see •MOHN boh•LEE•VAHR), who was born in Venezuela, became one of the leaders of this revolt. He and his soldiers freed Venezuela and neighboring regions from Spanish rule. In 1830 Venezuela became independent.

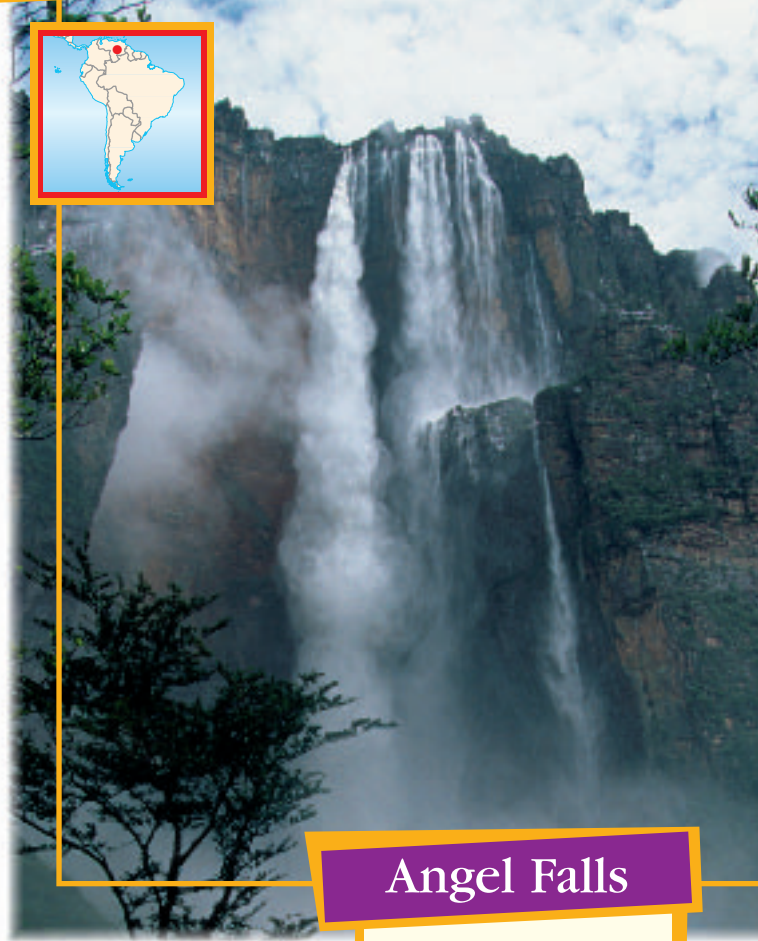
During most of the 1800s and 1900s, the country was governed by military rulers called **caudillos** (kow•THEE•yohz). Their rule was often harsh. Since 1958, Venezuela has been a democracy led by a president and a two-house legislature.

Rising oil prices during the 1970s benefited many Venezuelans. When oil prices fell in the 1990s, the country suffered. In 1998 voters



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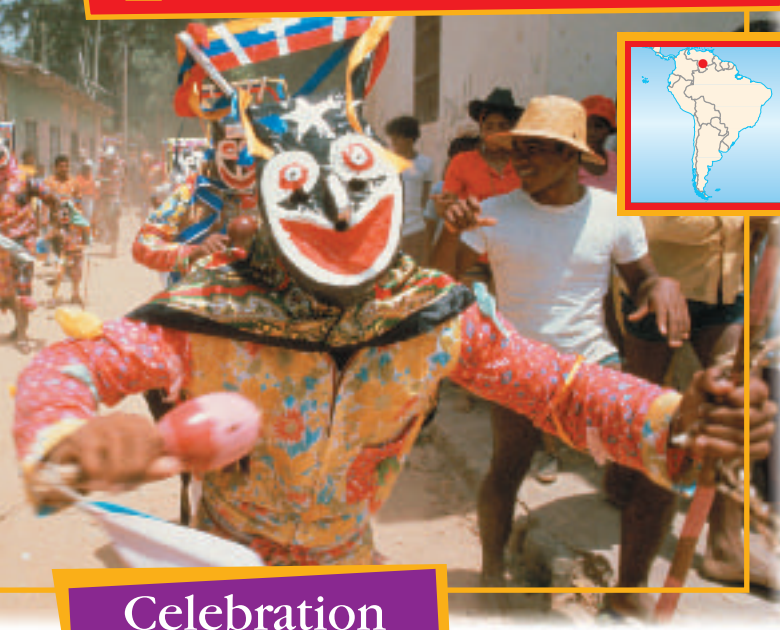
## On Location



### Angel Falls

Angel Falls—the highest waterfall in the world at 3,212 feet (979 m)—roars over a cliff in Venezuela. It would take 11 football fields stacked end-to-end to reach the top.

**Economics** What is one of the rivers that provides Venezuela with hydroelectric power?



## Celebration

Venezuelan dancers in costumes and playing maracas take part in Corpus Christi, a local Roman Catholic celebration.

**Religion** What is the major religion in Venezuela?

elected a former military leader, Hugo Chávez, as president. Chávez promised to solve Venezuela's problems, but his growing power split the country into opposing groups. In 2000 the military overthrew Chávez, but street protests put him back in office. Two years later, a nationwide strike also failed to remove Chávez from office. This strike lasted three months and damaged Venezuela's already weak economy.

**Venezuela's People** Most of the 25.7 million people in Venezuela have a mix of European, African, and Native American backgrounds. Spanish is the major language of the country, and the major religion is Roman Catholicism. About 90 percent of Venezuelans live in cities. Some 2.8 million people live in Caracas, the capital, which has skyscrapers surrounded by mountains.



**Reading Check** What product changed Venezuela's economy?

## The Guianas

Caribbean South America also includes the countries of Guyana (gy•AH•nuh) and Suriname (SUR•uh•NAH•muh) and the territory of French Guiana (gee•A•nuh). Guyana was a British colony called British Guiana. Suriname, once a colony of the Netherlands, was called Dutch Guiana. As a result, these three lands are called "the Guianas."

The Guianas have similar landforms. Highlands in the interiors are covered by thick rain forests. Toward the Caribbean coast, the land descends to low coastal plains. The climate is hot and tropical. Most people live on the coastal plains because of the cooling ocean winds. Sugarcane grows in Guyana and French Guiana, while rice and bananas flourish in Suriname. Many people earn their living mining gold and bauxite.

**Guyana** In the early 1600s, the Dutch were the first Europeans to settle in Guyana. They forced Native Americans and Africans to work on tobacco, coffee, and cotton farms and, later, on sugarcane plantations. The United Kingdom won possession of the Dutch colonies in the early 1800s and ended slavery. Still needing workers, the British paid Indians from Asia to move here. Today people from India make up most of Guyana's population. Another one-third are of African ancestry. Small numbers of Native Americans and Europeans also live here. Christianity and Hinduism are the chief religions. Most people speak English. **Georgetown**, the capital, is the major city.


Guyana won its independence from Britain in 1966. Guyana remains a very poor country, however, and depends on aid from the United Kingdom and other countries.

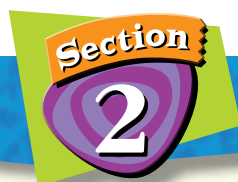
**Suriname** The British were the first Europeans to settle Suriname, but the Dutch gained control in 1667. As in Guyana, the Dutch brought enslaved Africans to work on large sugarcane plantations. Because of harsh treatment, many Africans fled into the isolated interior of the country. Their descendants still live there today. Later the Dutch hired workers from the Asian lands of India and Indonesia.

Asians form a large part of Suriname's population. About half of Suriname's people practice Christianity. The rest follow Hinduism or Islam. The main language is Dutch. **Paramaribo** (PAH•rah•MAH•ree•boh) is the capital and chief port. In 1975 Suriname won its independence from the Dutch. The country is poor, however, so it still relies on aid from the Dutch government.

**French Guiana** French Guiana became a colony of France in the 1600s and remains one today. The country is headed by a French official called a *prefect*, who lives in the capital, **Cayenne** (ky•EHN). The French government provides jobs and aid to many of French Guiana's people.

Most people in French Guiana are of African or mixed African and European ancestry. They speak French and are Roman Catholic. In Cayenne, you see sidewalk cafés and police in French uniforms. Shoppers use euros, the French currency—just as they would in Paris, France. You also see local influences, such as Carnival, Native American woodcarving, and Caribbean music and dance.

 **Reading Check** What European countries influenced the development of Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana?



## Assessment

### Defining Terms

1. **Define** pampas, *estancia*, gaucho, hydroelectric power, llanos, altitude, caudillo.

### Recalling Facts

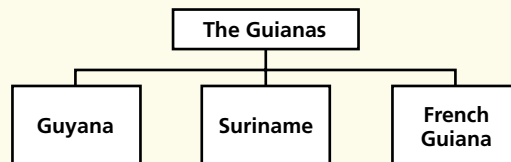
2. **Region** Describe two ways in which the pampas are similar to the Great Plains of the United States.
3. **Human/Environment Interaction** What is the significance of the Itaipu Dam?
4. **History** Who was Simón Bolívar?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing Cause and Effect** Which of Juan Perón's policies led to his removal from office?
6. **Drawing Conclusions** Why is Hinduism one of the major religions of Guyana?

### Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like this one. In the top box, under the heading, list similarities about the Guianas. In the bottom boxes, under the headings, write facts about each country that show their differences.



### Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the economic activity map on page 240. What agricultural activities take place in Venezuela?

# MakingConnections

ART

SCIENCE

CULTURE

TECHNOLOGY

## Poetry on the Pampas

As you learned in Section 2, gauchos herd cattle on the pampas. In 1872 José Hernández wrote the epic poem *El Gaucho Martín Fierro*. The poem tells the story of Martín Fierro, who recalls his life as a gaucho on the pampas. The following lines were translated from the poem.

### **El Gaucho Martín Fierro**

by José Hernández (1834–1886)

A son am I of the rolling plain,  
A gaucho born and bred;  
For me the whole great world is small,  
Believe me, my heart can hold it all;  
The snake strikes not at my passing foot,  
The sun burns not my head.

. . . . .

Ah, my mind goes back and I see again  
The gaucho I knew of old;  
He picked his mount, and was ready aye,  
To sing or fight, and for work or play,  
And even the poorest one was rich  
In the things not bought with gold.

The neediest gaucho in the land,  
That had least of goods and gear,  
Could show a troop of a single strain,  
And rode with a silver-studded rein,  
The plains were brown with the grazing herds,  
And everywhere was cheer.

And when the time of the branding came,  
It did one good to see  
How the hand was quick and the eye  
was true,  
When the steers they threw with the  
long lasso [lasso],  
And the merry band that the years have swept  
Like leaves from the autumn tree.

Excerpt from *The Gaucho Martín Fierro*, adapted from the Spanish and rendered into English verse by Walter Owen. Copyright © 1936 by Farrar & Rinehart. Reprinted by permission of Henry Holt and Company, LLC.



Gauchos on Argentina's pampas ▲

## Making the Connection

1. How does the poet describe the land on which the gaucho lives?
2. How can you tell from the poem that a gaucho is often on the move?
3. **Drawing Conclusions** What evidence does the poem give that the gaucho's way of life was a proud and happy one?



## Section 1

## Brazil—Emerging Giant

## Terms to Know

basin  
selva  
escarpment  
favela  
deforestation

## Main Idea

**Brazil is a large country with many resources, a lively culture, and serious economic challenges.**

- ✓ **History** Brazil declared independence in 1822 after centuries of colonial rule by Portugal.
- ✓ **Economics** Brazil is trying to reduce its number of poor people and balance the use of resources with the preservation of its rain forests.
- ✓ **Culture** Most Brazilians are of mixed Portuguese, African, Native American, and Asian ancestry.

## Section 2

## Argentina to Venezuela

## Terms to Know

pampas  
estancia  
gaucho  
hydroelectric power  
llanos  
altitude  
caudillo

## Main Idea

**Brazil's neighboring countries have a diverse array of landforms, climates, and cultures.**

- ✓ **Region** Few people live in Argentina's Andes region or Patagonia. The most populous area is the vast grassland called the pampas.
- ✓ **Culture** Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, is a huge city with European style.
- ✓ **Economics** Uruguay and Paraguay have large areas of grass-covered plains that support ranching and industries that depend on raising livestock.
- ✓ **Culture** Most Venezuelans are of mixed European, African, and Native American ancestry. Most live in cities in the central highlands.
- ✓ **History** Simón Bolívar led a revolt that freed Venezuela from Spain in 1830.
- ✓ **Culture** Guyana and Suriname have large numbers of people descended from workers who were brought from Africa and Asia.

This broad street in Buenos Aires is the Avenida 9 de Julio—or the Avenue of the Ninth of July. It is named in honor of the day Argentina won independence from Spain. ►



# Assessment and Activities



## Using Key Terms

Match the terms in Part A with their definitions in Part B.

### A.

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. basin           | 6. gaucho        |
| 2. <i>estancia</i> | 7. <i>selva</i>  |
| 3. escarpment      | 8. deforestation |
| 4. caudillo        | 9. llanos        |
| 5. altitude        | 10. pampas       |

### B.

- steep cliff separating two flat land surfaces, one higher than the other
- cowhand
- cutting down large areas of forest
- military ruler
- large, grassy plains region with many ranches, farms, and oil fields
- height above sea level
- broad, flat lowland surrounded by higher land
- vast treeless plains
- tropical rain forest in Brazil
- large ranch



## Reviewing the Main Ideas

### Section 1 Brazil—Emerging Giant

- History** Why are Brazil's inland areas sparsely populated?
- Government** What are the voting requirements in Brazil?
- History** When and why did Brazil's government move the capital city to Brasília?

### Section 2 Argentina to Venezuela

- Economics** Why are the pampas an important region of Argentina?
- Culture** What are the major language and religion of Uruguay?
- Economics** What are the major economic activities of Paraguay?
- Economics** Which of Venezuela's resources is its main source of income?
- Culture** Where do most of the people of the Guianas live? Why do they live there?
- History** Which of Brazil's neighbors has been a colony of France since the 1600s?



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

## Brazil and Its Neighbors

### Place Location Activity

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with the numbered places listed below.

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Brazil         | 6. Orinoco River |
| 2. Amazon River   | 7. Uruguay       |
| 3. Argentina      | 8. Venezuela     |
| 4. Rio de Janeiro | 9. Brasília      |
| 5. Paraguay       | 10. Suriname     |





## Social Studies Online

**Self-Check Quiz** Visit **The World and Its People** Web site at [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 8—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the Chapter Test.



### Critical Thinking

- 20. Analyzing Information** What facts support the statement “Argentina is one of the most industrialized countries in South America”?
- 21. Identifying Points of View** In a chart like the one below, identify arguments for and against the cutting down of the rain forest.

Cutting Down the Rain Forest	
For	Against



### Comparing Regions Activity

- 22. Geography** Rain forests of the Amazon have the highest rate of deforestation. Other regions in the world face similar challenges to their natural resources. Create a chart in your notebook that shows the current deforestation rates of five regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America. Find sample pictures of each region’s forests to illustrate your chart.



### Mental Mapping Activity

- 23. Focusing on the Region** Create an outline map of South America. Refer to the map on page 233, and then label the following:
- Patagonia
  - Brazil
  - Atlantic Ocean
  - Argentina
  - Pacific Ocean
  - Brazilian Highlands
  - Amazon Basin
  - Falkland Islands
  - Venezuela
  - Guiana Highlands



### Technology Skills Activity



- 24. Using the Internet** Conduct a search for information about the Amazon rain forest and create an annotated bibliography of five useful Web sites. Your bibliography should contain the Web address, a brief summary of the information found on the site, and a statement of why you think the site is useful.

## Standardized Test Practice

**Directions:** Read the passage below, and then answer the question that follows.

The Amazon Basin is a gigantic system of rivers and rain forests, covering half of Brazil and extending into neighboring countries. Much of the Amazon is still unexplored, and the rain forest holds many secrets. Some of the animals found here include the jaguar, tapir, spider monkey, sloth, river dolphin, and boa constrictor. Forest birds include toucans, parrots, hummingbirds, and hawks. More than 1,800 species of butterflies and 200 species of mosquitoes give you an idea about the insect population. In addition, the fish—such as piranha, pirarucu, and electric eel—are very unusual. Biologists cannot identify much of the catch found in markets.

- 1. On the basis of this passage, which of the following generalizations is most accurate?**
- F** The Amazon rain forest covers about one-third of the South American continent.
  - G** Native Americans living in the rain forest are losing their old way of life.
  - H** The Amazon Basin is huge, and its rain forests hold thousands of animal species.
  - J** The Amazon Basin is located only in Brazil.

**Test-Taking Tip:** This question asks you to make a generalization about the Amazon Basin. A *generalization* is a broad statement. Look for facts and the main idea *in the passage* to support your answer. Do not rely only on your memory. The main idea can help you eliminate answers that do not fit. Also, look for the statement that is true and that is covered in the paragraph.






## VANISHING Rain Forests

**Rain Forest Riches** Imagine never tasting chocolate. Think about never eating a banana, chewing gum, or munching cashews. If there were no rain forests, we would have none of these foods. We also would not have many of the drugs used to treat malaria, multiple sclerosis, and leukemia. In fact, rain forest plants provide one-fourth of the world's medicines.

Millions of kinds of plants and animals live in rain forests—more than half of all species on Earth. Scientists have studied only a fraction of these species. So no one really knows what new foods, medicines, or animals are there, just waiting to be discovered.

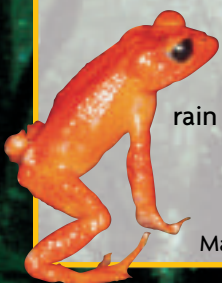
**Rain Forest Destruction** Yet we may never know. Why? Because a chunk of rain forest the size of two football fields vanishes every second! The forests are being destroyed for many reasons.

-  Loggers cut trees and sell the lumber worldwide.
-  Ranchers and farmers clear land for cattle and crops.
-  Miners level acres of forest to get at valuable minerals.

People are trying to find ways to use rain forests without destroying them. Changing farming practices and developing different forest industries are possible solutions. However, time is running out. Can we afford to lose rain forests and all their treasures?



Settlers clear trees for a home in the rain forest.



Male golden toad



## Making a Difference

**Discovering New Monkeys** How would it feel to discover an animal that no one knew existed? Dutch scientist Marc van Roosmalen knows. He recently discovered a new species of monkey (photo, at right) in Brazil.

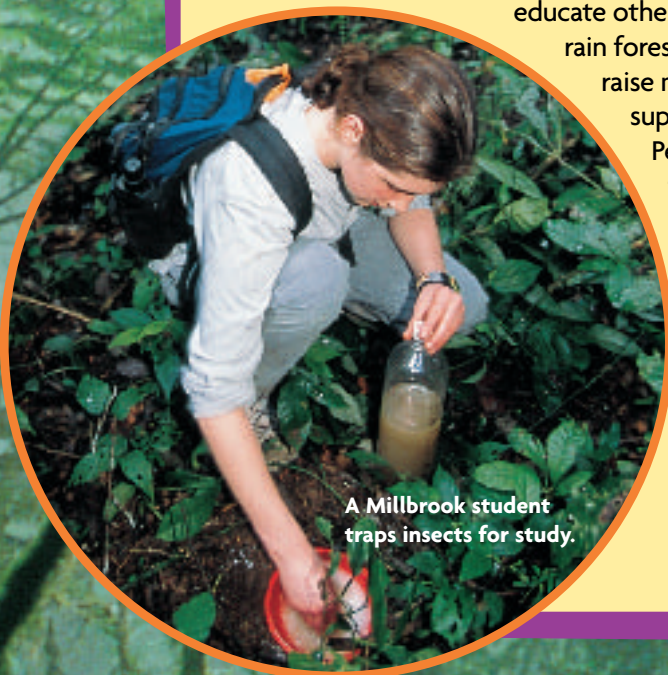
Van Roosmalen runs an orphanage for abandoned monkeys. One day, a man showed up with a tiny monkey van Roosmalen had never seen before. He spent about a year tracking down a wild population of the monkeys deep in the Amazon rain forest. Of some 250 kinds of monkeys known worldwide, about 80 live in Brazil. At least 7 new species have been discovered since 1990.



New species *Callithrix humilis*, a dwarf marmoset

**Rain Forest Field Trip** With help from the Children's Environmental Trust Foundation, students from Millbrook, New York, traveled to Peru's Yarpa River region, deep in the Amazon rain forest. Students studied the forest from platforms built in the canopy, and they soared among the tall trees using ropes. The students met rain forest creatures at night, went bird-watching at dawn, and swam in the Yarpa River—home to crocodiles called caimans.

Back in Millbrook, the students educate others about saving rain forests. They also raise money to help support a Peruvian zoo that protects rain forest animals.



A Millbrook student traps insects for study.

### What Can You Do?

#### Write a Note

Write to your government representatives and encourage them to support plans that help save rain forests.

#### Check Out Your Community

What environmental problems face your community? What can you do to help solve the problems? For example, does your community have problems with water pollution or water shortages? What steps does your community take to make sure you have clean water to drink?