STANDARDS:

SS6G1 The student will locate selected features of Latin America and the Caribbean.

a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: Amazon River, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Ocean, Panama Canal, Andes Mountains, Sierra Madre Mountains, and Atacama Desert.

b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the countries of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Illustration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gulf of Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Madre Mountains</td>
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<td>Amazon River</td>
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<td>Panama Canal</td>
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<td>Caribbean Sea</td>
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<td>Andes Mountains</td>
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<td>Atacama Desert</td>
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<td>Pacific Ocean</td>
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<td>Gulf of Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gulf of Mexico</td>
<td>body of water</td>
<td>bordered by United States to the north, 5 Mexican states to the south, and Cuba to the east.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountains</td>
<td>mountain system, contains volcanoes</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panama Canal</td>
<td>man-made canal; major shortcut between Atlantic &amp; Pacific Oceans</td>
<td>Panama in Central America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caribbean Sea</td>
<td>surrounds islands of West Indies; tourist destination</td>
<td>east of Central America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andes Mountains</td>
<td>2nd largest mountain system in the world</td>
<td>along west coast of South America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atacama Desert</td>
<td>one of the driest deserts on earth; very little rainfall year-round</td>
<td>in Chile, between Pacific Ocean &amp; Andes Mountains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazon River</td>
<td>2nd largest river in the world; stretches 4000 miles from Peru to Atlantic Ocean; provides food &amp; hydroelectric power, transportation system; provides food &amp; hydroelectric power, transportation system; provides food &amp; hydroelectric power, transportation system</td>
<td>mainly in Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Ocean</td>
<td>world's largest ocean</td>
<td>along west coast of South America</td>
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**Directions:** Complete the chart below with information that you learn during the presentation. If time allows, color your illustrations.
Geography of Latin America
Latin America is divided into three regions:

1. Mexico and Central America
2. The Caribbean
3. South America
Mexico & Central America

• 2,500 miles (about as wide as the US)

• Mountains dominate the region
  • Part of a huge system that extends from Canada, through the US, and all the way to the tip of South America

• Central plateau in Mexico
  • Lies between Sierra Madre mountains and makes up more than half of the country’s area

• Central America is an Isthmus
  • Isthmus = a narrow strip of land that has water on both sides and joins 2 larger bodies of water
  • Many volcanoes in Central America, as a result, their soil is arable (fertile) and many people farm lands
The Gulf of Mexico is a body of water. It is bordered by:
- United States to the north,
- 5 Mexican states to the south,
- and Cuba to the east.
Sierra Madre Mountains

- A mountain system in Mexico

- Three major chains: the Sierra Madre Occidental in the west, the Sierra Madre Oriental in the east, and the Sierra Madre del Sur, which extends along the southern coast.

- The Sierra Madre range contains some of the highest mountains and volcanoes in Latin America.
Panama Canal

• A canal across the isthmus of Panama in Central America
  • A major “shortcut” that allows ships to travel between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

• It handles a large volume of world shipping and enables ships to avoid traveling around South America, reducing their voyages by thousands of miles and many days.

• It consists of artificially created lakes, channels, and a series of locks, or water-filled chambers, that raise and lower ships through the mountainous terrain of central Panama.
Caribbean Islands

• The smaller islands are made of coral.
  • (Skeletons of tiny sea animals, rock-like substance)

• The larger islands are tops of underwater mountains.
  • Examples: Cuba, Jamaica
Caribbean Sea

• It surrounds the islands of the West Indies.

• It’s east of Central America.

• It’s a major trade route for Latin American countries.

• A popular tourist area—noted for its mild tropical climate and beautiful waters
Andes Mountains

• 4,500 miles along west coast of South America

• They rise at some points to 20,000 feet—same height as twenty 100 story buildings stacked on top of each other!

• 2nd largest mountains in the world--Himalayas are the 1st.
Amazon Rain Forest

• Located in Brazil, in the Amazon River Basin

• It is the largest tropical rain forest in the world.

• It covers 1/3 of the continent of South America.
Atacama Desert

- It is located in Chile.
  - Between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains

- It’s one of the driest places on earth; very little rainfall year round.
Amazon River

• It’s the 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest river in the world (1\textsuperscript{st} is the Nile River).

• It stretches 4,000 miles from Peru across to Atlantic Ocean.

• The river contains 20% of all fresh water in the world!

• It serves as a natural highway where it’s hard to build roads.

• It provides food and hydroelectric power.
Pacific Ocean

- World’s largest ocean
- Covers the western coast of South America
PART ONE: Use a pen to label the following 8 countries on the map.
• Bolivia
• Brazil
• Colombia
• Cuba
• Haiti
• Mexico
• Panama
• Venezuela

Next, use a marker to outline the political border of each country.

PART TWO: Use a pen to label the following 8 physical features on the map.
• Amazon River
• Caribbean Sea
• Gulf of Mexico
• Pacific Ocean
• Panama Canal
• Andes Mountains
• Sierra Madre Mountains
• Atacama Desert

1. Color the Pacific Ocean, Amazon River, & the Gulf of Mexico DARK BLUE.
2. Color the Caribbean Sea LIGHT BLUE (or TEAL).
3. Draw a RED box where the Panama Canal is located.
4. Draw triangle symbols around the Andes Mountains and color them GREEN.
5. Draw triangle symbols around the Sierra Madre Mountains and color them YELLOW.
6. Color the Atacama Desert BROWN.
Political & Physical Features of Latin America
Panama Canal!
**Directions**: Write the physical features below where they are located in Latin America.
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- Caribbean Sea
- Gulf of Mexico
- Pacific Ocean
- Panama Canal
- Andes Mountain
- Sierra Madre Mountains
- Atacama Desert

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