

Chapter

9

The Andean Countries



The World and Its People

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

To learn more about the people and places of the Andean countries, view *The World and Its People* Chapter 9 video.

Social Studies

online

Chapter Overview Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at twip.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 9—Chapter Overviews** to preview information about the Andean countries.



Section 1

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Although it has many resources, Colombia faces political and economic unrest.

Terms to Know

- cordillera
- cash crop
- mestizo
- campesino

Reading Strategy

Create a chart like the one below and list advantages that Colombia enjoys in the left column. In the right column, list the challenges that it faces.

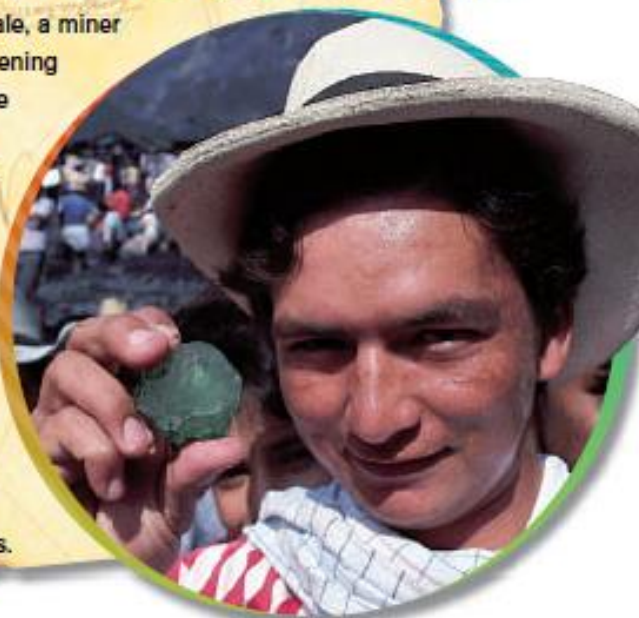
| Colombia | |
|------------|------------|
| Advantages | Challenges |
| | |

Colombia's Culture and Challenges



Exploring Our World

In a thin vein of black shale, a miner in Colombia spots a glistening green stone. He is not the first Colombian to mine the precious gemstones we call emeralds. The Colombian mine called Muzo has been producing top-quality emeralds for a thousand years. Early Native American rulers would offer these gems—more rare than diamonds—to their gods.



Colombia was named after Christopher Columbus. The lofty Andes mountain ranges at the northwestern edge of South America run through Colombia. These mountains continue south through five other countries—Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina.

Colombia's Landscape

Colombia—almost three times larger than Montana—has coasts on both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The Andes rise in the western part of Colombia. Here they become a **cordillera**—mountain ranges that run side by side. Nearly 80 percent of Colombia's people live in the valleys and highland plateaus of the Andes. Thick forests spread over lowlands along the Pacific coast. Few people live there.

Only a few Native American groups live in the hot, steamy tropical rain forests of the southeast. In the northeast, ranchers drive cattle across the llanos, which, as you recall, are grassy plains.



Colombia lies within the Tropics. Temperatures are very hot, and heavy rains fall along the coasts and in the interior plains. In the high elevations of the Andes, temperatures are very cool for a tropical area. **Bogotá**, Colombia's capital and largest city, lies on an Andean plateau. High temperatures there average only 67°F (19°C).

✓ Reading Check Where do most of Colombia's people live?

Colombia's Economic Resources

Colombia has many natural resources. The mountains hold valuable minerals and precious stones, and Colombia has more coal than any other country in South America. Second only to Brazil in its potential hydroelectric power, Colombia also has large petroleum reserves in



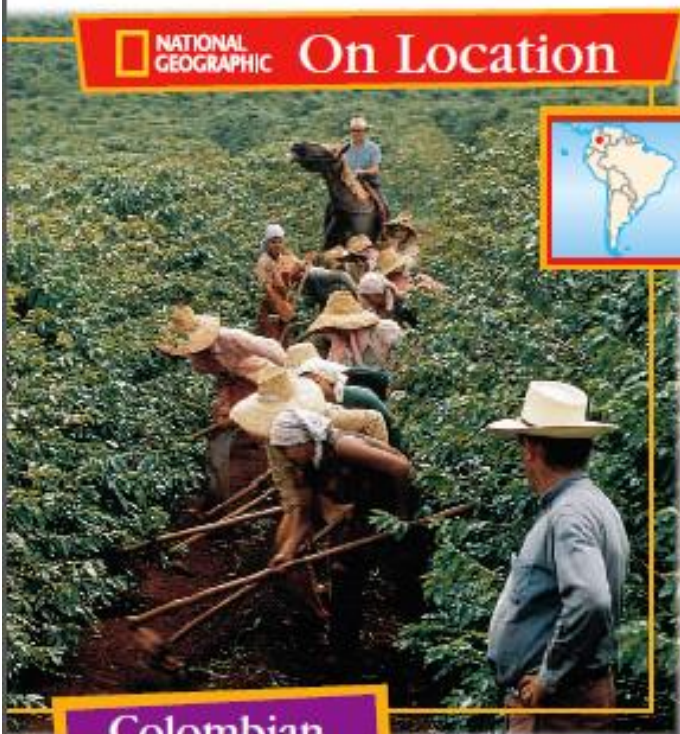
The Andean Countries: Political





NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

On Location



Colombian Coffee

Many historians believe that coffee was “discovered” in Ethiopia, Africa. Eventually, Spanish missionaries brought the first coffee plants to Colombia.

Economics What other crops does Colombia export?

the lowlands. In addition, the country is a major supplier of gold and the world’s number one source of emeralds. Factories produce clothing, leather goods, food products, paper, chemicals, and iron and steel products.

Agriculture The coastal regions and the highlands have good soil for growing a variety of crops. Coffee is the country’s major **cash crop**—a product sold for export. Colombian coffee is known all over the world for its rich flavor.

Colombia exports bananas as well as cacao, sugarcane, rice, and cotton. Huge herds of cattle roam large *estancias*, or ranches, in the llanos. The rain forests also supply a valuable resource—lumber.

Economic Challenges Despite many natural resources, Colombia faces economic challenges. Since the 1980s, drug dealers have been a major force in Colombia. The dealers pay farmers more to grow coca leaves—which are used to make the illegal drug cocaine—than the farmers earn growing

coffee. Much of this cocaine is smuggled into the United States and western Europe. The drug dealers have used their immense profits to build private armies. They have threatened—and even killed—government officials who have tried to stop them.

With U.S. support, the government of Colombia has stepped up its efforts to break the power of the drug dealers. In addition, the government has tried to persuade thousands of farmers to switch back to growing other crops. See **TIME Reports: Focus on World Issues** on pages 259–265 for an in-depth study of the drug problem.

✓ Reading Check What crop has been a problem in Colombia? Why?

Colombia’s History and People

About 44.2 million people live in Colombia. Nearly all Colombians are **mestizos** (meh•STEE•zohs). This means they have mixed European and Native American backgrounds. Most speak Spanish and follow the Roman Catholic faith.

In 1810 Colombia was one of the first Spanish colonies in the Americas to declare independence. Simón Bolívar, whom you read about in Chapter 8, led this struggle for independence. In 1819 Colombia became part of New Granada, an independent country that included Venezuela, Ecuador, and Panama. Later, these other regions broke away and became separate countries.

Colombia today is a republic with an elected president. Political violence has scarred the country’s history, though. During the late 1800s



alone, Colombia suffered through more than 50 revolts and 8 civil wars. Fighting broke out again in 1948. About 250,000 people died in this conflict, which ended in the late 1950s.

To prevent further unrest, the two main political parties agreed to govern the country together. Efforts were made to improve the lives of poor farmers by giving them more land. Factories and industrial jobs opened up. Still, a wide gap between rich and poor remained, causing further disturbances.

In the 1960s, rebels in the countryside began fighting the government. This latest civil war is still being fought. It has left more than 100,000 people dead. In 2003 the United States responded to the Colombian government's call for help. It sent U.S. special forces to Colombia to train Colombian soldiers and to protect an oil pipeline.

A Diverse Culture Colombia has a rapidly growing urban population. Colombian farmers, or **campesinos**, and their families have journeyed to cities to look for work or to flee the fighting in the countryside. Thirty cities have more than 100,000 people each.

You can see Colombia's Spanish, Native American, and African heritages reflected in its culture. Native American skills in weaving and pottery date back before the arrival of Columbus. Caribbean African rhythms blend with Spanish-influenced music.

Reading Check What is a mestizo?

Social Studies Online

Web Activity Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at twip.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 9—Student Web Activities** to learn more about Colombia.

Section

1

Assessment

Defining Terms

1. **Define** cordillera, cash crop, mestizo, campesino.

Recalling Facts

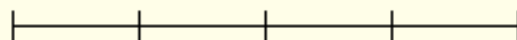
2. **Economics** Colombia is the world's number one source of what resource?
3. **Culture** What language do most Colombians speak? What religion do they practice?
4. **History** Who led Colombia's struggle for independence from Spain?

Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing Cause and Effect** Why does Bogotá, which is located in the Tropics, have an average temperature of only 67°F (19°C)?
6. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think it is so difficult for Colombian farmers to stop growing coca?

Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a time line like this one. Then put the following events and their dates in the correct order on it: U.S. special forces sent to Colombia, groups of rebels fight the government, Colombia declares independence from Spain, Colombia suffers 50 revolts and 8 civil wars, Colombia becomes part of New Granada.



Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Study the political map on page 255. What rivers run through Colombia? What are Colombia's major cities?



Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Peru and Ecuador share similar landscapes, climates, and history.

Terms to Know

- navigable
- foothills
- empire

Reading Strategy

Create two ovals like these. Under each heading, list facts about Peru and Ecuador in the outer parts of the ovals. Where the ovals overlap, write facts that apply to both countries.



Section

2

Land and People of Peru and Ecuador



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Exploring Our World

They built thousands of miles of roads. They built a city on mountain peaks and were expert bridge builders. The Inca accomplished these feats in western South America during the 1400s and 1500s. The ruins of their ancient city of Machu Picchu (MAH•choo PEEK•choo), built nearly 8,000 feet (2,438 m) high in the Andes, were not even known to modern people until 1911.



Peru and Ecuador lie along the Pacific coast of South America, west of Brazil and south of Colombia. The Andes form the spine of these countries. *Peru*—a Native American word that means “land of abundance”—is rich in mineral resources.

Peru

Dry deserts, the snowcapped Andes, and hot, humid rain forests greet you in Peru. Most of Peru’s farms and cities lie on a narrow coastal strip of plains and deserts. The cold **Peru Current** in the Pacific Ocean keeps temperatures here fairly mild even though the area is very near the Equator. Find the Peru Current on the map on page 57.

The Andes, with their highland valleys and plateaus, sweep through the center of Peru. On Peru’s border with Bolivia, you can see **Lake Titicaca** (TEE•tee•KAH•kah), the highest navigable lake in the world. **Navigable** means that a body of water is wide and deep enough to



allow ships to travel in it. East of the Andes you descend to the foothills and flat plains of the **Amazon Basin**. **Foothills** are the low hills at the base of a mountain range. Rainfall is plentiful here, and thick, hot rain forests cover almost all of the plains area.

Mining, Fishing, and Farming Peru's economy relies on a variety of natural resources. The Andes contain many minerals, including copper, silver, gold, and iron ore. Peru's biggest export is copper. The second-largest export—fish—comes from the Peru Current.

About one-third of Peru's people farm the land. Some grow sugarcane, cotton, and coffee for export. Like Colombia, Peru grows coca leaves. Most people, however, work on subsistence farms, where they grow only enough food to meet their family's needs. Some of these farms are terraced, or stair-stepped, up the mountainsides of the Andes. The chief crops are rice, plantains (a kind of banana), and corn. Native Americans in the Andes were the first people ever to grow potatoes. Today potatoes are Peru's main food crop, and farmers grow hundreds of varieties in different colors and shapes. Refer back to page 228 to see how the potato was part of the Columbian Exchange.

From Empire to Republic During the 1400s, a Native American people called the Inca had a powerful civilization in the area that is now Peru. Their **empire**, or group of lands under one ruler, stretched more than 2,500 miles (4,023 km) along the Andes.

The Incan emperor developed courts, military posts, trade inspections, work rules, and a complex system of record keeping. Work crews built irrigation systems, roads, and suspension bridges that linked the regions of the empire to Cuzco, the capital city of the Inca. You can still see the remains of magnificent fortresses and buildings erected centuries ago by skilled Incan builders. The photograph on page 266 shows the ruins of one of the Inca's most famous cities—Machu Picchu.

In the early 1500s, Spaniards arrived in Peru. They desired the gold and silver found here. The Spaniards defeated the Inca and made Peru a Spanish territory. Peru gained its freedom from Spain in the 1820s. After independence, Peru fought wars with neighboring Chile and Ecuador over land.

Peru is now a republic with an elected president. In recent years, the country's economy has grown very rapidly. Many of Peru's people, however, still live in poverty and cannot find steady jobs.

Peru's Culture Peru's 27.1 million people live mostly along the Pacific coast. **Lima** (LEE•mah), with more than 7 million people, is the capital and largest city. In recent years, many people from the countryside have moved to Lima in search of work. Because of this sudden rise in population, the city has become overcrowded, noisy, and polluted.

About half of Peru's people are Native American. In fact, Peru has one of the largest Native American populations in the Western Hemisphere. Many live in the Andean highlands or eastern rain forests where they follow a traditional way of life. Most of them blend the Catholic faith, Peru's main religion, with beliefs of their ancestors.

Exploring Economics

The Quipu

The Inca did not have a written language. To keep records, they used a system of knotted strings called the quipu. The strings were of various lengths and colors, and each knot meant a different item or number. Men in charge of the quipu used the knots to record all the taxes brought each year to the Inca. They recorded the number of men who went to war and how many were born and died every year. In short, it might be said that they recorded on their quipu everything that could be counted.

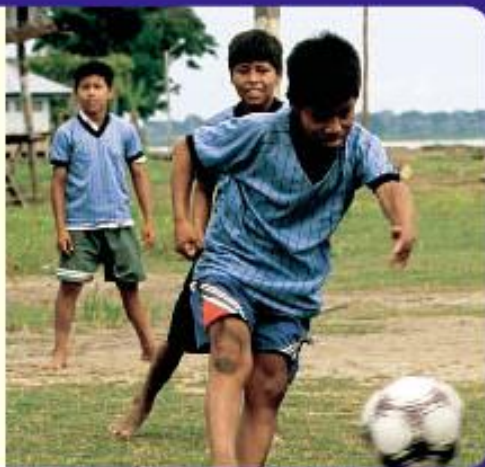


EXPLORING CULTURE

Sports

Sports have been played in Peru for centuries. Ancient vases show the Inca playing early forms of badminton and basketball. Today soccer, called *fútbol*, is the national sport of Peru. Boys and girls learn the sport at a young age, and every village has a local soccer team. Peruvians also enjoy baseball and basketball. In addition, volleyball has become very popular since 1988. That was the year the women's volleyball team from Peru won an Olympic medal.

Looking Closer How is the game shown here similar to and different from an American soccer game?



Peruvians also include many people of mixed or European ancestry. People of Asian heritage form a small but important part of the population. Although a minority, Peruvians of European ancestry (mainly Spanish) control most of Peru's wealth and political power.

Spanish is Peru's official language, but about 70 Native American languages also are spoken. You can hear Quechua (KEH•chuh•wuh), the ancient language of the Inca, in many Native American villages. Another sound you may hear is the flutelike tones of the panpipe. An ancient instrument, panpipes are made from different lengths of bamboo stalks tied together.

✓ Reading Check Who built a huge empire centered in Peru?

Ecuador

Ecuador is one of the smallest countries in South America. Can you guess how it got its name? *Ecuador* is the Spanish word for "Equator," which runs right through Ecuador. West of Ecuador and also on the Equator are the **Galápagos Islands**. Owned by Ecuador since 1832, these scattered islands are known for their rich plant and animal life. Turn to page 270 to learn more about the unusual Galápagos Islands.

Ecuador's land and climate are similar to Peru's. Swamps and fertile plains stretch along Ecuador's Pacific coast. The Peru Current in the Pacific Ocean keeps coastal temperatures mild. The Andes run through the center of the country. The higher you climb up these mountains, the colder the climate gets. In contrast, hot, humid rain forests cover the lowlands of eastern Ecuador. Few people live in the rain forests.

An Agricultural Economy Agriculture is Ecuador's most important economic activity. Because of the mild climate, bananas, cacao, coffee,



rice, sugarcane, and other export crops grow plentifully in the coastal lowlands. Farther inland, farms in the Andean highlands grow coffee, beans, corn, potatoes, and wheat. The eastern lowlands yield petroleum, Ecuador's major mineral export.

Ecuador's People Mestizos and Native Americans each make up about 40 percent of Ecuador's population. Spanish is the official language, but many Native Americans speak their traditional languages. About half of Ecuador's 12.6 million people live along the coast. The port of **Guayaquil** (GWY•ah•KEEL) is the most populous city. The other half of the population live in the valleys and plateaus of the Andes. **Quito** (KEE•toh), Ecuador's capital, lies more than 9,000 feet (2,743 m) above sea level. From the heart of Quito, you can see several snowcapped volcanoes. The city's historic center has Spanish colonial churches and old whitewashed houses with red-tiled roofs. These houses are built around central courtyards. You will not find flashing neon signs here because the construction of modern buildings has been strictly controlled since 1978. In that year, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared the "old town" section of Quito a protected world cultural heritage site. Quito does have a "new town" section, though, in the north. This area has modern offices, embassies, and shopping centers.

✓ Reading Check Why are Ecuador's eastern lowlands important economically?

Section 2

Assessment

Defining Terms

1. **Define** navigable, foothills, empire.

Recalling Facts

2. **History** Who were the first people to grow potatoes?
3. **Culture** What has been the result of Lima's sudden population growth?
4. **Economics** What is Ecuador's major mineral export?

Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing Information** Why is Peru's name, which means "land of abundance," appropriate? Why is it also inappropriate?
6. **Analyzing Cause and Effect** What effect does the Peru Current have on the coastal areas of Peru?

Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create two diagrams like this one, one for Peru and one for Ecuador. Under each heading, list facts about the countries.



Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Turn to the political map on page 255. What Andean capital city lies closest to the Equator?



Section 3

The Bolivians and Chileans

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Bolivia and Chile share the Andes, but their economies and people are different.

Terms to Know

- landlocked
- altiplano
- sodium nitrate

Reading Strategy

Create a chart like the one below. In each row, write at least one fact about Bolivia and one about Chile.

| | Bolivia | Chile |
|---------|---------|-------|
| Land | | |
| Climate | | |
| Economy | | |
| People | | |



Exploring our World

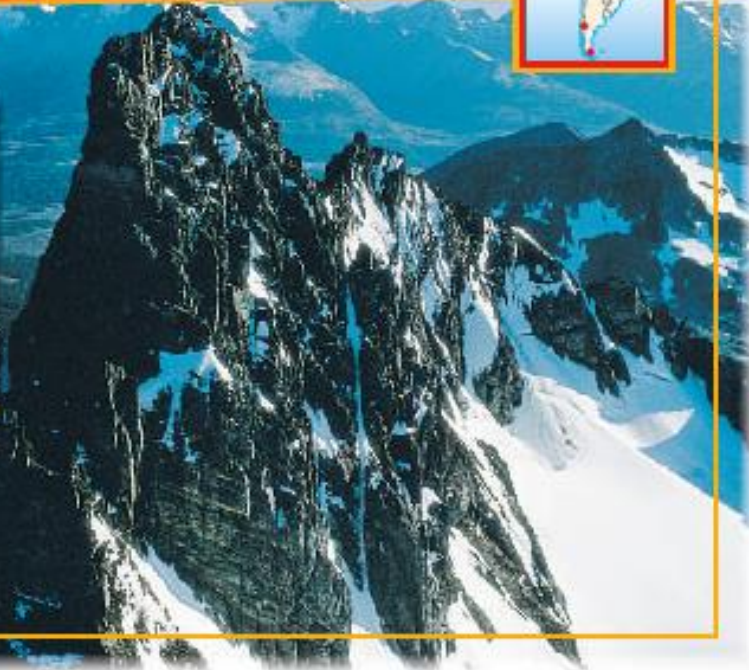
The woman hides her face from the gusting wind as she follows her herd of sheep across the plains of Bolivia. She worries about her teenage children, who want to leave their home to find work in the city. The woman is part of a Native American group called the Chipaya, who raise sheep and farm in the dusty altiplano of Bolivia.



At first glance, **Bolivia** and **Chile** seem very different. Bolivia lacks a seacoast, while Chile has a long coastline on the Pacific Ocean. The Andes, however, affect the climate and cultures of both countries.

Bolivia

Bolivia lies near the center of South America. It is a **landlocked** country, which means it has no sea or ocean that touches its land. Fortunately, in 1993 Peru agreed to give Bolivia a free trade zone in the port city of **Ilo**. This gave Bolivia better access to the free flow of people, goods, and ideas. Bolivia is the highest and most isolated country in South America. Why? The Andes dominate Bolivia's landscape. Look at the map on page 180. You see that in western Bolivia, the Andes surround a high plateau called the **altiplano**. Over one-third of Bolivia is a mile or more high. Unless you were born in this area, you would find that the cold, thin air makes it difficult to breathe. Few trees grow on



Chile's Contrasts

Chile has a wide variety of climates and landforms. The moderate capital city of Santiago in central Chile (above) contrasts sharply with the icy southern region (right).

Location What group of islands lies at the southern tip of Chile?

the altiplano, and most of the land is too dry to farm. Still, the vast majority of Bolivians live on this high plateau. Those areas that have water have been farmed for many centuries.

Bolivia also has lowland plains and tropical rain forests in the east and north. Most of this area has a hot, humid climate. South-central Bolivia, however, has more fertile land, and many farms dot this region.

A Struggling Economy Bolivia is rich in minerals such as tin, silver, and zinc. Miners remove these minerals from high in the Andes. Workers in the eastern lowlands draw out gold, petroleum, and natural gas.

Still, Bolivia is a poor country. About two-thirds of the people live in poverty. Throughout the highlands, many villagers practice subsistence farming. They struggle to grow wheat, potatoes, and barley. At higher elevations, herders raise animals such as alpacas and llamas for wool and for carrying goods. In the south, farmers plant soybeans, a growing export. Timber is another important export. Unfortunately, one crop that can be grown for sale is coca, which is made into cocaine.

Bolivia's People Bolivia was part of the Incan Empire until Spain conquered the Inca. The country won independence in 1825 and was named after Simón Bolívar. What is unusual about Bolivia's capital? There is not just one capital city, but two. The official capital is **Sucre** (SOO•kray). The administrative capital and largest city is **La Paz** (lah PAHZ). Both capital cities are located in the altiplano. La Paz—at 12,000 feet (3,658 m)—is the highest capital city in the world.



Most of Bolivia's 8.6 million people live in the Andean highlands. About half are of Native American ancestry, and another 30 percent are mestizos. In the cities, most people follow modern ways of living. In the countryside, you may hear traditional sounds, such as music played with panpipes and other flutelike instruments.

✓ Reading Check What is the altiplano?

Chile

Chile is almost twice the size of California. Although its average width is only 110 miles (177 km), Chile stretches 2,652 miles (4,267 km) along the Pacific Ocean.

About 80 percent of Chile's land is mountainous. The high Andes run along Chile's border with Bolivia and Argentina. Except in the alti-plano area of Chile's north, very few Chileans live in the Andes.

Also in the north is the **Atacama Desert**. It is one of the driest places on the earth. Why? This area is in the rain shadow of the Andes. Winds from the Atlantic Ocean bring precipitation to regions east of the Andes, but they carry no moisture past them. In addition, the cold Peru Current in the Pacific Ocean does not evaporate as much as a warm current does. As a result, only dry air hits the coast.

A steppe climate zone lies just north of **Santiago**, Chile's capital. Most of Chile's people live in a central region called the Central Valley. With a mild Mediterranean climate, the fertile valleys here have the largest concentration of cities, industries, and farms.

The lake region, also known as "the south," has a marine west coast climate that supports thick forests. Chile's far south is a stormy, wind-swept region of snowcapped volcanoes, thick forests, and huge glaciers. The **Strait of Magellan** separates mainland Chile from a group of islands known as **Tierra del Fuego** (FWAY•goh)—or "Land of Fire." This region is shared by both Chile and Argentina. Cold ocean waters batter the rugged coast around **Cape Horn**, the southernmost point of South America.

The Andean Countries






Chile's Economy In recent years, Chile has had high economic growth, and the number of people below the poverty line has fallen by half. Mining forms the backbone of Chile's economy. The Atacama region is rich in minerals. Chile ranks as the world's leading copper producer. The country also mines and exports gold, silver, iron ore, and **sodium nitrate**—a mineral used in fertilizer and explosives.

Agriculture is also a major economic activity. Farmers produce wheat, corn, beans, sugar, and potatoes. The grapes and apples you eat in winter may come from Chile's summer harvest. (Remember that the seasons here in the Southern Hemisphere are opposite of those you experience in the Northern Hemisphere.) Many people also raise cattle, sheep, and other livestock.

Chile has factories that process fish and other foods. Other workers manufacture wood products, iron, steel, vehicles, cement, and textiles. Service industries such as banking and tourism also thrive.

Chile's Culture Of the 15.8 million people in Chile, most are mestizos. A large minority are of European descent, and some Native American groups live in the altiplano and "the south." Nearly all the people speak Spanish, and most are Roman Catholic. Some 80 percent of Chile's population live in urban areas. Chile has been a democratic republic since the end of strict military rule in 1990.

 **Reading Check** What are the three cultural backgrounds of Chile's 15.8 million people?

Section
3

Assessment

Defining Terms

1. **Define** landlocked, altiplano, sodium nitrate.

Recalling Facts

2. **Economics** What part of Bolivia's population lives in poverty?
3. **Geography** What makes La Paz unusual?
4. **Economics** Chile is the world's leading producer of what mineral?

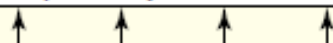
Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing Cause and Effect** Why is the Atacama Desert one of the world's driest places?
6. **Making Comparisons** What are differences and similarities between the economies of Bolivia and Chile?

Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like this one. Under each arrow, list supporting facts for the main idea.

Main Idea: Bolivia is rich in minerals but is still a poor country.



Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Study the physical map on page 180. The southernmost tip of South America is part of what country? What is the name of the group of islands at the southern tip of South America? What does the name mean?