

THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA

Directions

1. Read sentence 1 in the section on Population below. Use the letter clues to help you identify the missing word. If you know the answer, fill in the letters. Continue in the same way with numbers 2, 3, 4, and 5.
2. Some of the letters in the answers are circled. Rewrite these letters in the space below number 5. Then, rearrange the letters to form a key word used in sentences 1 through 5.



Population

- (1) Latin America is one of the fastest-growing regions of the world in ___ p ___ ___ t ___ o ___, increasing by about 2 percent a year.
- (2) One reason for the growing population is improved h ___ t ___ care, which has increased the life expectancy. Also, the birth rate is high.
- (3) Most Latin Americans live near the seacoast, along rivers, or in highland areas where the ___ i ___ is good for farming.
- (4) Large parts of South and Central America have few people because of thick rain forests, dry grasslands, ___ ___ ___ r ___ s, and rugged mountain ranges.
- (5) P ___ e ___ ___ ___ o, Barbados, and several other islands of the West Indies are among the most densely populated places on earth.

circled letters

solution

Ancestry

- (6) The four largest groups of people in Latin America are ___ ___ d ___ n , whites, blacks, and people of mixed ancestry.
- (7) Most Latin American countries have a system of social classes based mainly on ancestry. The small u ___ e ___ class tends to be made up mostly of whites. Whites are also found in the middle class and lower class.
- (8) The middle class consists mainly of people of mixed ancestry. "Mestizos" are of mixed Indian and w i ___ ___ descent. "Mulattoes" are of mixed black and white descent.
- (9) Latin Americans of black, Indian, or mixed descent are not restricted to low social status. Many have distinguished themselves in the arts, ___ ___ s i ___ ___ s , politics, and science.
- (10) Latin Americans usually speak the language of the European country that once colonized their nation. About two-thirds speak Spanish. Almost one-third — most of them Brazilians — speak Portuguese. Other languages include French, Dutch, and English. Many Indians speak traditional tribal l ___ ___ ___ g ___ ___.

circled letters

solution

Indians

- (11) The Indians who live in Latin America today descended from people who migrated from A ___ ___ to North America thousands of years ago.

- (12) When the Europeans arrived in America in the 1400s, they found that the A , Incas, and Mayas had developed highly advanced civilizations.
- (13) Conquistadors Hernando Cortes and Francisco Pizarro helped the Spanish establish an empire in the New World. The whites forced the Indians to work in mines and on l a t s.
- (14) Harsh treatment, warfare, and European s s s resulted in the deaths of millions of Indians. Many Indians fled into remote forest and highland areas in order to survive. Some of their descendants live in these regions today.
- (15) Today, Indians make up a large part of the population in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and e .

circled letters

solution

Whites

- (16) The first white settlers in a e c came from Spain and Portugal. They began arriving in the 1500s.
- (17) In recent years, immigrants have come to Latin America from Britain, France, e a , Italy, the Netherlands, and Poland.
- (18) Today, the majority of people living in Argentina, C a , and Uruguay are whites. Many whites also live in Brazil and Chile.

circled letters

solution

Blacks

- (19) White slave traders from Europe transported millions of blacks from A r to the Americas between the 1500s and 1800s.
- (20) The slaves were forced to work on plantations in the W n e and Central and South America.
- (21) Today, blacks make up the largest population group in Haiti, Jamaica, and Barbados. Large numbers of blacks also e in other parts of Latin America.

circled letters

solution

People of Mixed Ancestry

- (22) The intermarriage of blacks, h t , and Indians over hundreds of years has resulted in people of mixed ancestry.
- (23) Most Latin Americans today are of mixed n c y.
- (24) Mestizos (mixed Indian and white descent) make up the largest population group in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, and n e l .
- (25) u a s (mixed black and white descent) are numerous in Brazil, Panama, and the West Indies.

circled letters

solution

The People of Latin America

Multiple-Choice

- (1) ____ The population of Latin America today is: (a) the same as it was 20 years ago
(b) slowly increasing (c) growing at a fast rate
- (2) ____ The life expectancy has risen in recent years because: (a) the birth rate has declined
(b) health care has improved (c) more people are literate
- (3) ____ Most Latin Americans live in areas where: (a) rain forests provide lumber for housing
(b) the soil is good for farming (c) valuable minerals can be found
- (4) ____ Most people in the region speak: (a) tribal languages (b) Portuguese, Dutch, and English
(c) Spanish
- (5) ____ The majority of Latin Americans today are: (a) of mixed ancestry (b) blacks (c) whites

Matching

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| (6) ____ upper class | (a) consists mainly of people of mixed ancestry |
| (7) ____ middle class | (b) people of mixed black and white descent |
| (8) ____ conquistadors | (c) tends to be made up mostly of whites |
| (9) ____ mestizos | (d) helped Spain establish an empire in Latin America |
| (10) ____ mulattoes | (e) people of mixed Indian and white descent |

Indians, Whites, or Blacks?

- (11) _____ Their ancestors migrated from Asia to North America thousands of years ago.
- (12) _____ They first arrived in Latin America from Spain and Portugal in the 1500s.
- (13) _____ Traders transported them from Africa to Latin America.
- (14) _____ Millions died from harsh treatment, warfare, and European diseases.
- (15) _____ Today, they make up the largest population group in Haiti, Jamaica, and Barbados.

True-False

- (16) _____ In Central and South America, few people live in places where there are deserts, dry grasslands, and rugged mountains.
- (17) _____ Many islands in the West Indies, including Puerto Rico and Barbados, are densely populated.
- (18) _____ In Latin America, only the whites have an opportunity to succeed in the arts, business, science, and politics.
- (19) _____ Centuries of intermarriage between blacks, whites, and Indians has resulted in Latin Americans today of mixed ancestry.
- (20) _____ Whites make up the largest population group in Mexico, Nicaragua, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, Paraguay, and Venezuela.