Ch. 7- Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean Islands
Your Task...

Glue the **Ch. 7 Map** into your notebook.
Bell Work...

Read the Chapter 7 opener, pg. 200-201, then discuss the following questions with a partner.

Step Into Place:
1. What is the largest country in this region?
2. Why was the Panama Canal built where it is?
3. Which of the Caribbean islands is part of the US?
4. Given their location, what might be a key economic industry of the Caribbean islands?
Isthmus - narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas

Peninsula - piece of land with water on three sides

Sierra Madre - mountain range consisting of Oriental, Occidental, and del Sur

Tierra Caliente - warmest climate zone, located at lower elevations

Tierra Templada - temperate climate zone, located at mid-level elevations

Tierra Fria - colder climate zone, located at higher elevations
**Bauxite** - mineral ore that is used to make aluminum

**Extinct** - describing a volcano that is no longer able to erupt

**Dormant** - still capable of erupting but showing no signs of activity
Your Task...

In groups, complete the following chart by skimming through *Lesson 7.1, Physical Geography* (pages 202-209).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Geography of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean Islands</th>
<th>Landforms</th>
<th>Climate</th>
<th>Natural Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean Islands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your Assignment...

Complete the **Ch. 7 Map** - Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean Islands.
Bell Work...

Copy and answer the following question into your notebook:

How is the climate in Mexico different from that in Central America? In the Caribbean Islands?
Early Mexican Cultures

1. **Olmecs** - built the first civilization in the Americas
2. **Mayans** - great pyramid builders
3. **Hieroglyphics** - form of writing that includes signs and symbols
4. **Aztecs** - built the island city of Tenochtitlan
5. Aztecs practiced a form of raised-field farming called chinampas
# Early Cultures of Mexico

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Olmec</strong></th>
<th><strong>Maya</strong></th>
<th><strong>Aztec</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Olmec made sculptures of giant stone heads.</td>
<td>The Maya had a trade network between cities.</td>
<td>The Aztecs built the first empire in the Americas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The heads may have represented rulers or gods.</td>
<td>This Maya pyramid stands in Uxmal.</td>
<td>Aztec artisans made art like this turquoise mask.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mestizos - person of mixed European and Indian ancestry

Missions - church outpost

Haciendas - huge expanse of farm or ranch land in the Americas
Spanish Mexico

1. Hernan Cortes landed on Mexico’s Gulf Coast, 1519
2. Spain made Mexico a colony
3. **Hacienda** - large ranches
4. Spanish priests converted many Native Americans to Catholicism
5. Mexico became an independent nation in 1821
Culture

1. Mexico’s history has influenced its culture
2. Most Mexicans speak Spanish because of the Spanish influence in colonial times
3. About 90% of all Mexicans are Roman Catholic
4. Many people still speak American Indian languages
5. **Day of the Dead** - Mexican holiday to remember and honor dead ancestors (mixes both Spanish and Native heritage)
Your Task...

Interactive Whiteboard Activities:

- Tenochtitlan
- Lake Farming: Then and Now
Bell Work...

Copy and answer the following question into your notebook:

What aspects of Mexican culture show the influence of Spanish rule?
Your Task...

Create a poster about your assigned Central American country.

Your poster should include the following:

- **Early History** (who first lived there; what European countries colonized there)
- **Culture** (ancestry of the people; common languages; religion; festivals; foods)
- **Area Today** (economic and political challenges)
Copy and answer the following question into your notebook:

How did Spain influence Central America’s history?
Your Task...

Using the posters created in class, complete the chart provided. Glue the chart into your notes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central America</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Historical Aspects</td>
<td>Cultural Aspects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your Task...

Complete the **Central America and the Caribbean Islands Webquest**.
Bell Work...

Copy and answer the following question:

How many countries make up Central America? What are their names?
Archipelago - large group of islands

Greater Antilles - Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico

Lesser Antilles - group of 20+ smaller islands in the Caribbean

Cloud Forest - moist, high-elevation tropical forest where low clouds are common
Copy and answer the following question into your notebook:

What physical features do Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean islands have in common?
**Inflation** - rise in prices that occurs when currency loses its buying power

**Slash and Burn Agriculture** - practice of burning forest in order to clear land for planting

**Cash Crop** - crop that farmers grow mainly to sell for a profit

**Smog** - mixture of smoke, chemicals, and fog

**Maquiladoras** - a US or other foreign-owned factory in Mexico
Inside the Panama Canal
Your Assignment...

Continue working on the Ch. 7 map.
Bell Work...

Copy and answer the following question into your notebook:

**Why is the Panama Canal important to Panama? Why is it important to other countries?**
The Caribbean Islands

1. Include 13 independent countries
2. AKA the West Indies
3. The English, French, Dutch, and Danish had a lot of interest in the islands
4. **Dialect** - regional version of a language
5. People practice a blend of Catholicism and traditional African religions
6. **Commonwealth** - self governing territory associated with another country
7. **Refugee** - someone who flees to another country, usually for political or economic reasons
Your Task...

Interactive Whiteboard Activities:

- Video: The Border between the U.S. and Mexico
- Central American Culture