

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Central America Notes

1. Central America is a narrow bridge of land south of Mexico that includes 7 countries:
2. Although Central America is made up of \_\_\_\_\_ countries, it is smaller in size than the state of \_\_\_\_\_
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean lies to the west, and the \_\_\_\_\_ lies to the east.

### Ring of Fire

1. The chain of mountains that runs through much of Central America is part of a global geographic zone called the Ring of Fire.
2. The **Ring of Fire** is a \_\_\_\_\_
3. The movement of Earth's tectonic plates in this zone causes frequent volcanic eruptions, as well as earthquakes.
4. As a result, eruptions & earthquakes are a \_\_\_\_\_ in Central America.
5. In Nicaragua alone, there is a line of about \_\_\_\_\_ along the west. coast.
6. Volcanic eruptions in Central America often damage \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The ash from the eruptions help keep the soil \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The mountain areas of Central America are also where many plantations, or large farms, are located. Central America's highland plantations produce much of the world's \_\_\_\_\_

### Belize:

1. Only about \_\_\_\_\_ people live in Belize
2. Belize's jungle areas are home to \_\_\_\_\_
3. Belize is the only Central American country with \_\_\_\_\_
4. About \_\_\_\_\_ tourist visit each year
5. The Blue Hole a popular spot among recreational \_\_\_\_\_

#### Belize's Blue Hole

1. The blue hole was once a \_\_\_\_\_
2. How deep is it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. what rare bird live nearby? \_\_\_\_\_

### Costa Rica

1. Costa Rica has a population of \_\_\_\_\_
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ miles of coastline
3. There are - \_\_\_\_\_ active volcanoes
4. More than 25% of Costa Rica's land is dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_
5. Write 3 facts from the film  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Panama

1. At the southernmost end of Central America is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Panama.
2. The isthmus at its narrowest point measures only about \_\_\_\_\_
3. Near this point the Panama Canal, a human-made waterway, cuts through the isthmus and links the  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Panama Canal

1. Before the Panama Canal was completed in \_\_\_\_\_, a ship going from New York City to San Francisco had to travel around the southern tip of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The whole trip was more than-\_\_\_\_\_
3. By way of the Panama Canal, the trip is only about \_\_\_\_\_
4. The United States built the Panama Canal at a cost of \_\_\_\_\_
5. It took \_\_\_\_\_ years to complete.
6. Today, the country of \_\_\_\_\_ owns and operates the canal as an important waterway in world trade.

### Caribbean Geography

1. The Caribbean consists of a chain, or \_\_\_\_\_, of many islands in the Caribbean Sea, an arm of the Atlantic Ocean.
2. An archipelago is a \_\_\_\_\_
3. 3 groups of islands make up the Caribbean.
  - a. *Greater* and *lesser* in these names refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the islands.

### The Greater Antilles

1. 4 large islands
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. - \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the largest of the 4 islands
3. About the size of Tennessee
4. Only \_\_\_\_\_ miles south of Florida
5. Includes \_\_\_\_\_ other smaller islands
6. Varied landscape
  - a. Mountains, hills, rolling plains, wide, fertile valleys, rain forests
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is covered by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is the smallest island in the Greater Antilles and is about the size of Delaware.

### The Lesser Antilles

1. SE of Puerto Rico
2. Divided into 2 groups
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The NE trade winds are the reason for dividing them.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ are winds that consistently blow from the NE toward the equator. These winds give the Lesser Antilles a \_\_\_\_\_ climate all year long, but also put them in danger of \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Bahamas

1. The Bahamas are the \_\_\_\_\_ group of islands in the Caribbean.
2. They are only \_\_\_\_\_ miles off the eastern coast of Florida.
3. Made up of about \_\_\_\_\_ hundred islands and \_\_\_\_\_ cays.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are small low-lying islands made of sand, limestone, or coral.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a hard, stony substance made up of skeletons of many tiny sea animals.
6. Of the 700 islands in the Bahamas, people live on only about \_\_\_\_\_