



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.

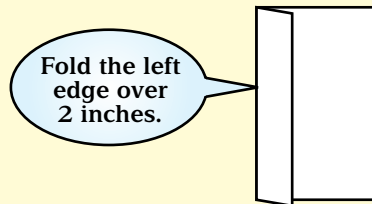


Social Studies Online

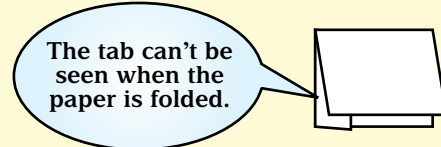
Chapter Overview Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at twip.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 9—Chapter Overviews** to preview information about the Andean countries.

Summarizing Information Make this foldable and use it to organize note cards with information about the people and places of the Andean countries of South America.

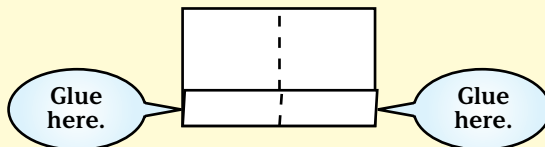
Step 1 Fold a 2-inch tab along the long edge of a sheet of paper.



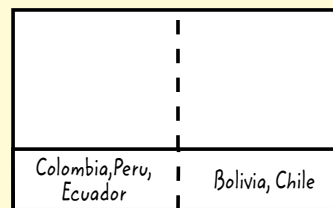
Step 2 Fold the paper in half so the tab is on the inside.



Step 3 Open the paper pocket foldable and glue the edges of the pockets together.



Step 4 Label the pockets as shown.



Reading and Writing As you read the chapter, summarize key facts about the Andean countries on note cards or on quarter sheets of notebook paper. Organize your notes by placing them in your pocket foldable inside the appropriate pockets. (Glue your foldable from Chapter 8 on the front cover of this foldable to form a four-pocket foldable on South America.)

Why It Matters

Wealth in the Andes

The Andes form the spine of South America and are the longest mountain chain on Earth. These high, rocky peaks are the source of some of the world's most highly desired substances, including oil, emeralds, gold, silver, coffee, and "Colombian Gold"—the illegal drug, cocaine. Worldwide demand for these products has caused corruption and instability in the countries of this region.

◀ Monastery of San Francisco, Quito, Ecuador



Section

1

Colombia's Culture and Challenges

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

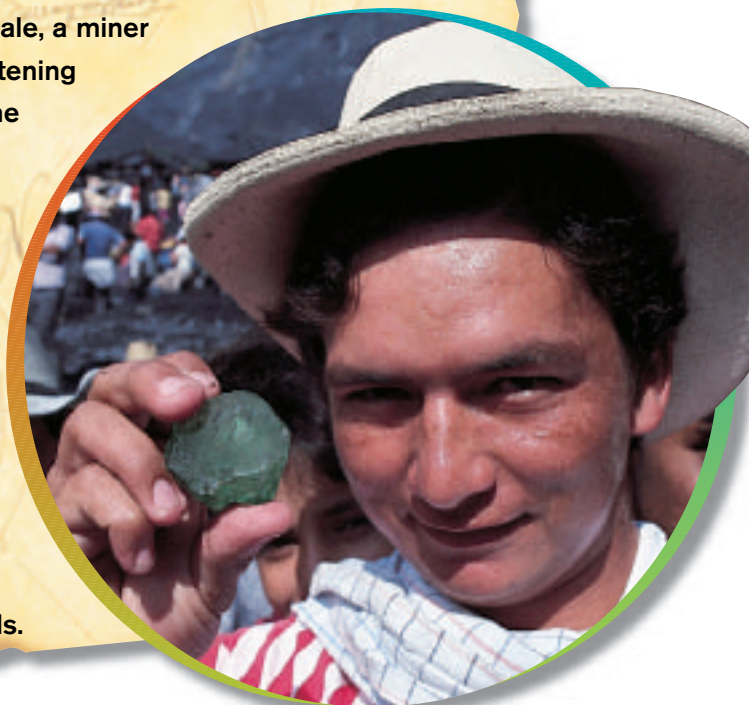
Create a chart like the one below and list advantages that Colombia enjoys in the left column. In the right column, list the challenges that it faces.

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



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

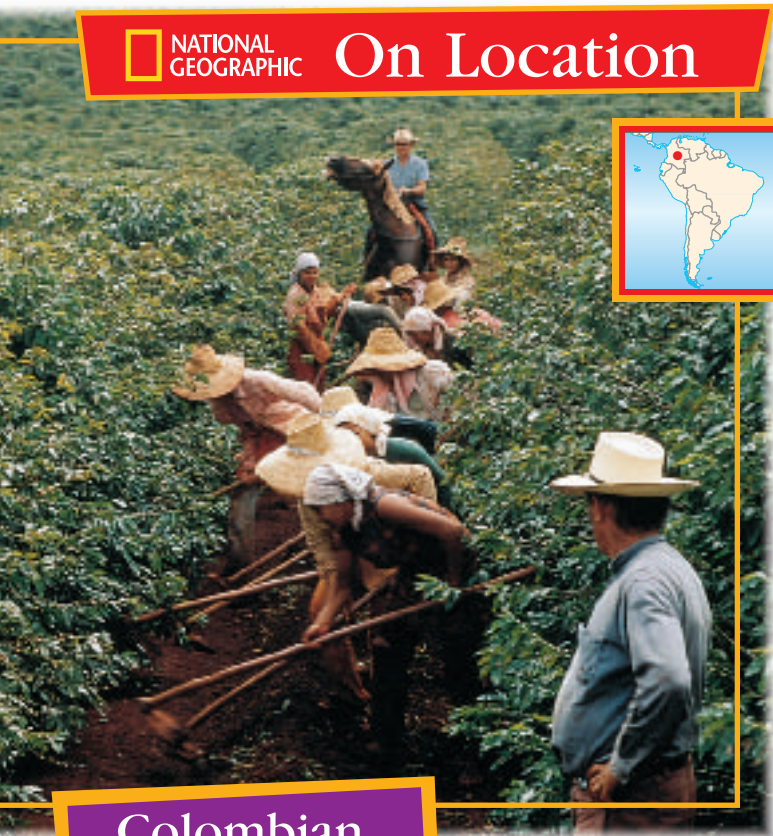


⊙ National capital
• Major city

Applying Map Skills

1. What bodies of water does Colombia border?
2. What country has a name that sounds like "Equator"?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps



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?

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?

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

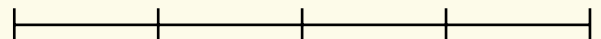
- 2. Economics** Colombia is the world's number one source of what resource?
- 3. Culture** What language do most Colombians speak? What religion do they practice?
- 4. History** Who led Colombia's struggle for independence from Spain?

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?

THE ANDEAN COUNTRIES



Guided Reading Activity 1

Colombia's Culture and Challenges

DIRECTIONS: Filling in the Blanks Reading the section and completing the summary paragraphs below will help you learn more about the country of Colombia. Refer to your textbook to fill in the blanks.

Colombia has a coast on both the **(1)** _____
 _____ and the **(2)** _____.

A mountain range called the **(3)** _____ runs through the
(4) _____ side of Colombia. The mountains become a
(5) _____, which is where a group of mountain ranges run side
 by side.

Colombia is the world's number one source of **(6)** _____.
 It also has more **(7)** _____ than any other country in South America.
 The major crop sold for export, also known as a **(8)** _____ crop, is
(9) _____. Other items Colombia exports are
(10) _____, cacao, **(11)** _____,
(12) _____, and cotton. **(13)** _____
 _____ became a major force in the 1980s. The government is trying
 to break their power.

Most Colombians are **(14)** _____, which means they
 have mixed European and **(15)** _____
 backgrounds. Today Colombia is a **(16)** _____ with an elected
(17) _____. Most of the people live in cities. The farmers, or
(18) _____, fled to cities for work or to avoid the fighting in the
 countryside. The culture reflects the **(19)** _____, Native American,
 and African heritages.