

Chapter 8 Practice Test

Indicate whether the statement is true or false.

1. In the Caribbean, family structure is often matriarchal, or headed by a woman.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. Major cash crops in Central America and the Caribbean include bananas, sugarcane, and coffee.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. In Central America and the Caribbean, farm workers have been leaving rural areas to move to cities and look for better economic opportunities.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. Haiti was the first colony in Latin America to win its independence by successfully overthrowing the Spanish colonizers.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. Due to high infant mortality rates and low life expectancy, the population of Central America has declined since the 1950s.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

6. Which vertical climate zone is characterized by frosts in winter and is where potatoes and barley are grown?
 - a. *tierra caliente*
 - b. *tierra templada*
 - c. *tierra fría*
 - d. *tierra helada*

7. _____ refers to the combination of factors within a population that reduce the ability of an environment to support the population, thus causing migration or population decline.
 - a. Zero population growth
 - b. Population pyramid
 - c. Population density
 - d. Population pressure

8. In Central America, _____ agriculture has destroyed huge swaths of rain forest.
 - a. slash-and-burn
 - b. hydroponic
 - c. intensive
 - d. terraced

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9. Because of its location on the Ring of Fire, much of Central America is
- lowlands that are prone to flooding.
 - mountainous with active volcanoes.
 - in the path of El Niño.
 - covered by deciduous forests.
10. Like many disputes throughout the history of Central America, _____ was at the center of a 2010 conflict between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.
- nationalism
 - militarism
 - petroleum
 - water
11. In Central America, which climate zone is the most densely populated?
- tierra caliente*
 - tierra templada*
 - tierra fría*
 - tierra helada*
12. The growing populations in Central American and Caribbean cities adds to the problem of deforestation because
- most residents rely on biofuels, such as wood, to heat their homes.
 - suburbs are being carved out of the rain forest.
 - more land is cleared for agriculture to feed urban residents.
 - transportation systems, such as railroads and highways, require large quantities of lumber.
13. The Greater Antilles and the Lesser Antilles are part of a(n) _____ in the Caribbean Sea.
- archipelago
 - peninsula
 - isthmus
 - crossroads
14. Which vertical climate zone is a hot temperature zone where bananas and sugarcane are grown?
- tierra caliente*
 - tierra templada*
 - tierra fría*
 - tierra helada*
15. On small Caribbean islands that have been intensively farmed for centuries, _____ has become a serious environmental problem.
- soil erosion
 - desalination
 - flooding
 - eutrophication

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16. In slums in Central America and the Caribbean, disease spreads quickly because of
- the hot climate.
 - the lack of sanitary water.
 - the poor health care system.
 - the unavailability of nutritious foods.
17. Because they have a great variety of species of plants and animals that are threatened with destruction, Costa Rica and Panama are considered _____ hotspots.
- ecotourism
 - geothermal
 - biodiversity
 - seismic
18. Many small islands in the Caribbean have been used for intensive plantation agriculture for centuries. What problem has this caused today?
- The islands are sinking into the sea.
 - The islands are suffering from soil erosion.
 - It is no longer possible to grow crops on the islands.
 - Rural residents are migrating to cities.
19. One method of reducing the damage to the rain forests of Central America is to enact laws requiring _____ of land that has been cleared.
- industrial development
 - arborization
 - intense cultivation
 - reforestation
20. PRODESEC (Economic Development Program for the Dry Region of Nicaragua) is a Nicaraguan plan to
- provide new opportunities for rural families.
 - promote ecotourism.
 - end logging in the rain forest.
 - stimulate foreign investment.
21. Panama is a(n) _____ between North America and South America.
- archipelago
 - peninsula
 - isthmus
 - crossroads

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22. What is the correct term for the transfer of plants, animals, people, and diseases that began when Europeans arrived in the Western Hemisphere?
- the Great Upheaval
 - the Columbian Exchange
 - the Industrial Revolution
 - the Technology Transfer
23. For most of Central America and the Caribbean, being located in the tropics results in
- large variations in seasonal temperature and frequent drought.
 - large variations in seasonal temperatures and unpredictable rainfall.
 - high temperatures year-round and frequent drought.
 - high temperatures and abundant rainfall year-round.
24. How did Cuba achieve its independence from Spain?
- through the intervention of United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces
 - as a result of the Spanish-American War
 - by seceding from the United States
 - by waging a successful revolt against the Spanish
25. Islands in the Antilles are surrounded by _____, which are home to a wide variety of fish.
- hot spots
 - coral reefs
 - volcanoes
 - freshwater lagoons
26. Which of the following are two leading causes of deforestation in Central America?
- slash-and-burn cultivation and the depletion of underground reserves
 - commercial logging and the depletion of underground reserves
 - slash-and-burn cultivation and commercial logging
 - habitat destruction and commercial logging
27. Prior to independence, Panama was part of
- Colombia.
 - Costa Rica.
 - the British Empire.
 - the Inca Empire.
28. Why does the location of many shantytowns in Central America and the Caribbean pose dangers to their residents?
- They are located below sea level and are thus prone to frequent flooding.
 - They are mainly constructed from cheap plywood, so fires break out and spread quickly.
 - They are located on hillsides and are thus susceptible to mudslides and flooding.
 - Their rural location means residents lack access to sanitation systems.

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29. Haitian Creole is an example of patois because
- a. it is a dialect that blends words from different languages.
 - b. it is the official national language of Haiti.
 - c. it is the most common dialect spoken in Haiti.
 - d. it is only spoken in Haiti.
30. Enacting laws that require the reforestation of cleared lands is one way that Central American countries can promote
- a. deforestation.
 - b. pastoralism.
 - c. sustainable development.
 - d. shifting cultivation.
31. In Central America, more workers are employed in the _____ sector than any other sector of the economy.
- a. agricultural
 - b. mining
 - c. industrial
 - d. high-tech
32. Which of the following describes the effects of deforestation in Central America?
- a. increased biodiversity and the introduction of nonnative diseases
 - b. loss of biodiversity and the extinction of species
 - c. corporate logging and slash-and-burn cultivation
 - d. corporate logging and soil erosion
33. Due to its colonial past, most people in Central America today are followers of
- a. Protestantism.
 - b. Catholicism.
 - c. Islam.
 - d. Santería.
34. What is the largest freshwater lake in Central America?
- a. Lake Nicaragua
 - b. Lake Titicaca
 - c. Lake Managua
 - d. Lake Chapala
35. The islands of the Caribbean typically have a _____ climate.
- a. humid continental
 - b. humid subtropical
 - c. semi-arid
 - d. tropical wet/dry

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36. What crops are typically grown in the *tierra caliente* zone?
- a. bananas and sugarcane
 - b. yams and taro
 - c. cotton and rice
 - d. potatoes and barley
37. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a program aimed at reducing
- a. water pollution.
 - b. greenhouse gases.
 - c. soil erosion.
 - d. rural-to-urban migration.
38. In Central America, most industrial employment occurs in
- a. sweatshops.
 - b. coal mines.
 - c. cottage industries.
 - d. factories.
39. _____ are large agricultural estates; _____ are small family farms.
- a. Minifundia; latifundia
 - b. Haciendas; plantations
 - c. Latifundia; minifundia
 - d. Plantations; haciendas
40. Since major volcanic eruptions occurred on the island of _____ in 1997, scientists have been closely monitoring the volcano with the goal of developing better forecasts and predictions of volcanic eruptions in other parts of the world.
- a. Cuba
 - b. Montserrat
 - c. Hispaniola
 - d. Antigua

Enter the appropriate word(s) to complete the statement.

41. As a result of centuries of intensive agriculture, the soil on many small Caribbean islands is weak and crops can only be grown with the help of _____.
42. A factory that relies only on renewable energy is an example of a _____ business.
43. The washing away of construction debris can result in the _____ of coral reef beds.
44. Most of the energy used in Costa Rica comes from _____ plants.
45. One method of replenishing and addressing damage to the rain forests in Central America is _____.

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- a. patois
 - b. archipelago
 - c. *latifundia*
 - d. isthmus
 - e. *minifundia*
 - f. Panama Canal
 - g. population pressure
 - h. sedimentation
 - i. Haiti
 - j. United Provinces of Central America
46. the sum of factors within a population that reduce the ability of an environment to support the population, therefore resulting in migration or population decline
47. a former federation that included the present-day countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua
48. a dialect used in everyday speech that blends elements of several languages
49. a large agricultural estate owned by a family or corporation in Latin America
50. a transportation route opened in 1914 and once controlled by the United States
51. a narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas
52. the action or process of forming or depositing eroded material
53. a country that won its independence in 1804, following a revolt led by François Toussaint-Louverture
54. a small farm that produces food chiefly for family consumption in Latin America
55. a group or a chain of islands
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- a. Volcanic Axis
 - b. Greater Antilles and Lesser Antilles
 - c. Lempa River
 - d. Panama
 - e. Central Highlands
56. the most densely populated region of Central America
57. area where mountains attain elevations of more than 12,000 feet and earthquakes are common
58. part of an archipelago in the Caribbean
59. generates hydroelectricity in El Salvador
60. an isthmus connecting North America and South America

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- a. Columbian Exchange
 - b. cottage industry
 - c. dialect
 - d. biodiversity hotspot
 - e. Panama Canal
 - f. Ring of Fire
 - g. ecotourism
 - h. shantytown
 - i. biodiversity
 - j. reforestation
61. the variety of different species of plants and animals in an environment
 62. the transfer of plants, animals, people, and diseases between the Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere
 63. the planting of young trees or seeds on lands where trees have been cut or destroyed
 64. a shipping shortcut across Central America between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
 65. a zone prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity due to tectonic plate movement
 66. a business that employs workers who work out of their homes
 67. a slum on the edge of a city which lacks running water and sanitation systems
 68. a place that hosts a great variety of species of plants and animals and is under threat
 69. a new type of environmentally responsible travel
 70. the local form of a language used in a particular place or by a certain group
71. Using information from the table about bird species and information from the chapter, write a paragraph explaining the effects of the destruction of the rain forests in Central America and the Caribbean.

Number of Threatened Bird Species in Select Central American and Caribbean Countries, 2012	
Costa Rica	22
Cuba	17
Dominican Republic	14
Guatemala	14
Haiti	13
Honduras	11
Jamaica	10
Nicaragua	14
Panama	19

Source: The World Bank, 2013

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Journalist Cynthia Gorney visited Cuba in 2012. In the quote below, she describes conditions in Havana and a *derrumbe* that occurred while she was there:

“Buildings that were once beautiful and grand are rotting now in the tropical air, and the country has no money to repair them, so they cave in, partially or all at once, a giant rumbling roar followed by rubble and grief. This derrumbe killed four people, three of them teenage girls; the building had been designated unsafe, but Cubans are inventive about their living space in Havana, where parts of the city are so crowded that multiple families and generations wedge into residences that in more decadent eras served as single-family homes.”

—Cynthia Gorney, “Cuba’s New Now,” *National Geographic*, November 2012

72. Use context clues to determine the meaning of *derrumbe* and explain how the *derrumbe* Gorney describes is a consequence of heavy rural-to-urban migration.
73. Based the table of information about bird species and information from the chapter, write a paragraph identifying the three countries in Central America and the Caribbean with the most threatened bird species and explaining the human factors that have caused them to be at risk.

Number of Threatened Bird Species in Select Central American and Caribbean Countries, 2012	
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Jamaica	10
Nicaragua	14
Panama	19

Source: The World Bank, 2013

74. In a paragraph or two, explain how tectonic activity has shaped the physical geography of Central America.
75. In a paragraph or two, explain the causes and effects of soil erosion and degradation in Central America and the Caribbean.

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Journalist Cynthia Gorney visited Cuba in 2012. In the quote below, she describes conditions in Havana and a *derrumbe*, or building collapse, that occurred while she was there.

“Buildings that were once beautiful and grand are rotting now in the tropical air, and the country has no money to repair them, so they cave in, partially or all at once, a giant rumbling roar followed by rubble and grief. This derrumbe killed four people, three of them teenage girls; the building had been designated unsafe, but Cubans are inventive about their living space in Havana, where parts of the city are so crowded that multiple families and generations wedge into residences that in more decadent eras served as single-family homes.”

—Cynthia Gorney, “Cuba’s New Now,” *National Geographic*, November 2012

76. Based on Gorney’s article, what problems has Havana experienced as a result of urban growth? Write a paragraph in which you cite specific examples of urban problems from the quote and explain how they are representative of the problems found in many Central American and Caribbean cities.