Introduction to Latin America
In 1492 Columbus...
Christopher Columbus' Voyages

- **1492-1493**: First voyage to the Americas, landing in the Bahamas.
- **1493-1496**: Second voyage, exploring the Caribbean and returning to Spain.
- **1498-1500**: Third voyage, exploring the southern coast of North America and the Caribbean.
- **1502-1504**: Fourth voyage, exploring Central America and the Caribbean.

The map shows the routes of these voyages, indicating key locations such as the Gulf of Mexico, Hudson Bay, Saint Lawrence River, Mississippi River, and the Atlantic Ocean.
In fourteen hundred ninety-two
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.
He had three ships and left from Spain;
He sailed through sunshine, wind and rain.
He sailed by night; he sailed by day;
He used the stars to find his way.
A compass also helped him know
How to find the way to go.
Ninety sailors were on board;
Some men worked while others snored.
Then the workers went to sleep;
And others watched the ocean deep.
Day after day they looked for land;
They dreamed of trees and rocks and sand.
October 12 their dream came true,
You never saw a happier crew!
"Indians! Indians!" Columbus cried;
His heart was filled with joyful pride.
But "India" the land was not;
It was the Bahamas, and it was hot.
The Arakawa natives were very nice;
They gave the sailors food and spice.
Columbus sailed on to find some gold
To bring back home, as he'd been told.
He made the trip again and again,
Trading gold to bring to Spain.
The first American? No, not quite.
But Columbus was brave, and he was bright.
Columbus Day?
Celebrating Columbus...

USA - “Columbus Day”
2nd Monday in October

Latin America - “Dia de La Raza”
Day of the Race – Oct. 12th

Bahamas “Discovery Day”
Oct. 12th, 1492
(actual day his crew landed)
What/Where is Latin America?
Major Regions of Latin America?
The Major Regions of Latin America:

1) Caribbean/West Indies
2) Mexico
3) Central America
4) South American Continent
LA Quick Quiz!

The Main language spoken is Spanish, but they speak different dialects of Spanish throughout the region...define “Dialect”?

What is the most populated (largest) city in LA?

Number of Countries that make up LA?

What is the Major Mountain Range of LA?

Name the Highest Point in Latin America.

LA is home to the worlds largest Tropical Rainforest...how big is it in comparison to Minnesota? (Twice the size, Ten Times, 100 Times...please guess!)

The Atacama Desert in Chile is the DRIEST place on planet earth...how much rain per year does it receive?

Angel Falls, the highest waterfall in the world, is about ¾ of a mile tall...about how many feet does the water fall?
Language of Latin America
Dialects of Spanish

Dialect: is a local form of a language
Spanish Dialect Examples...

Castilian (European Spanish) – spoken in Spain

Latin American Spanish – uses many “borrowed” words from English

Portuguese – actually considered a separate language...more of a “cousin” of Spanish

**there are MANY more!!**
Population...

Latin America – 560 million

Mexico City – 9 million

Mexico City Metro Area – 21 million
Population Reality Check...

Mexico City is 3rd Largest Metropolitan Area on Earth

#1 Tokyo, Japan 32 million
#2 Seoul, South Korea 22 million
#3 Mexico City, Mexico 21 million
#4 New York, USA 20 million

Minnesota = 5 million

Minneapolis = 387,000 (MN Largest City)
Countries of Latin America...

**ALL LAND SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE RIVER on Texas/Mexico Border**

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Mountains... The Andes

**Andes are the LONGEST Mountain Range on Earth**
Highest Point in LA...

Mt. Aconcagua

Also the Highest Point in Western Hemisphere!!
The Amazon...

**Largest Tropical Rainforest on the Planet**
The Amazon...

33 TIMES THE SIZE OF Minnesota!!
Atacama Desert...

Driest Place on Earth!

**Averages 1 millimeter/.04 inches of Rain PER YEAR**
Angel Falls...

Highest Waterfall on the Planet

5,280 feet in a mile...Angel Falls is 3,212 feet TALL