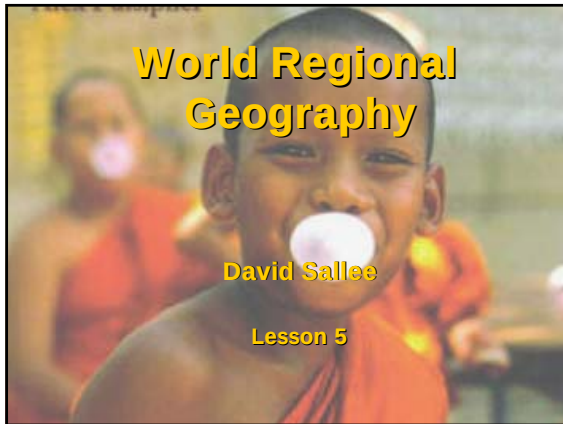




INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE AMERICA

- **DEFINING THE REALM**
 - MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, CARIBBEAN ISLANDS
- **MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC QUALITIES**
 - FRAGMENTED - PHYSICALLY AND POLITICALLY
 - DIVERSE CULTURALLY
 - POVERTY IS ENDEMIC

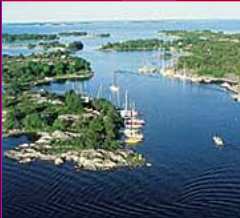


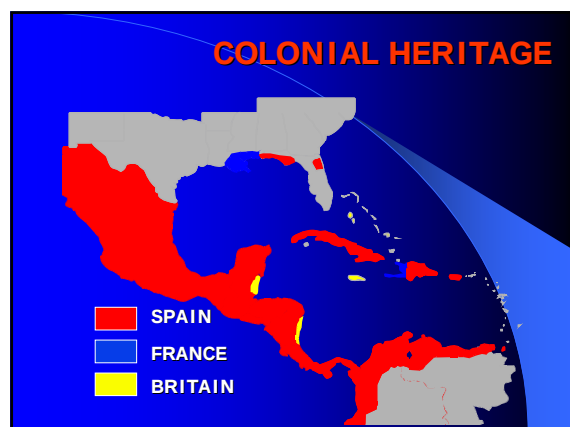
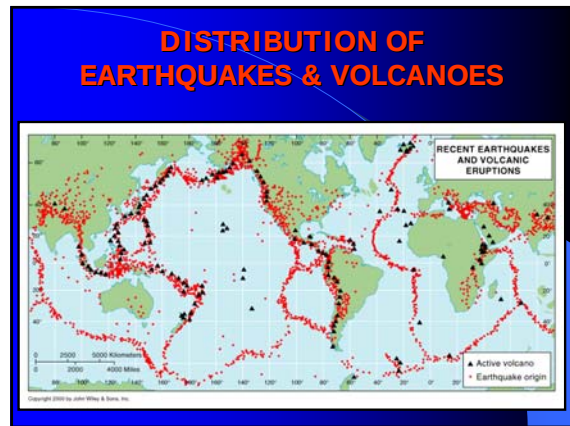
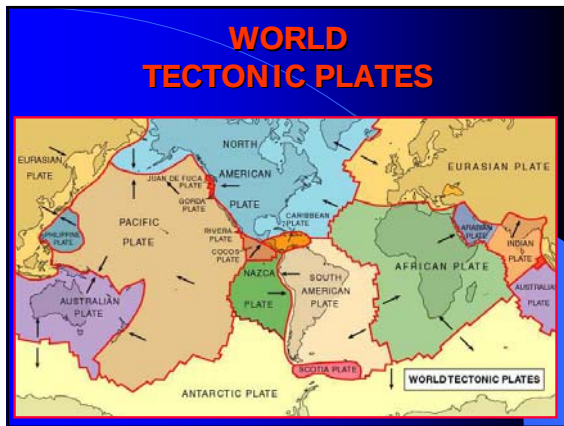
Countries of the Realm

Mexico	Mexico City
Belize	Belmopan
Guatemala	Guatemala City
Honduras	Teguchigalpa
El Salvador	San Salvador
Nicaragua	Managua
Costa Rica	San Jose
Panama	Panama City
Cuba	Havana
Haiti	Port au Prince
Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo
Puerto Rico	San Juan
Jamaica	Kingston

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- **LAND BRIDGE**
- **ARCHIPELAGO**
 - GREATER AND LESSER ANTILLES
- **NATURAL HAZARDS**
 - EARTHQUAKES
 - VOLCANOES
 - HURRICANES





THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM

- Land was **appropriated** - colonial commercial interests
- Lands devoted to food crops for local consumption were **converted** to **cash cropping** for export
- Land Alienation** induces:
 - Famine
 - Poverty
 - Migration
 - Little agricultural diversity

COLONIAL SPHERES



MAINLAND/RIMLAND FRAMEWORK

- **MAINLAND**
 - EURO-INDIAN INFLUENCE
 - GREATER ISOLATION
 - HACIENDA PREVAILED
- **RIMLAND**
 - EURO-AFRICAN INFLUENCE
 - HIGH ACCESSIBILITY
 - PLANTATION ECONOMY



MAINLAND – RIMLAND DISTINCTION

MAINLAND vs RIMLAND

	<u>MAINLAND</u>	<u>RIMLAND</u>
<u>Location</u>	greater isolation	greater accessibility
<u>Climate</u>	altitudinal zonation	tropical
<u>Physiography</u>	mountains	islands
<u>Culture</u>	Euro / Indian	African-European
<u>Race</u>	Mestizo	Mulatto
<u>Landholding Patterns</u>	haciendas	plantation

HACIENDA vs PLANTATION

- **HACIENDA**
 - SPANISH INSTITUTION
 - NOT EFFICIENT BUT SOCIAL PRESTIGE
 - WORKERS LIVED ON THE LAND
- **PLANTATION**
 - NORTHERN EUROPEAN ORIGINS
 - EXPORT ORIENTED MONOCROPS
 - IMPORTED CAPITAL AND SKILLS
 - SEASONAL LABOR
 - EFFICIENCY IS KEY

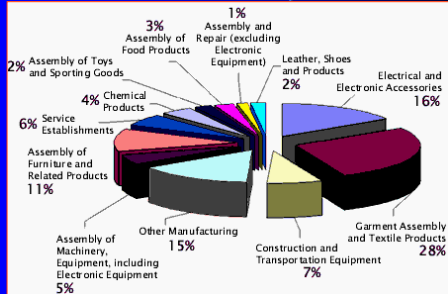


MAQUILADORAS

- Initiated in the 1960s
- Today > 4,000 *maquiladoras*
- > 1.2 million employees
- Export the finished products
- Mostly foreign-owned (U.S., Japan)
- 80% of goods re-exported to U.S.
- Assemble imported, duty-free components/raw materials
- Tariffs limited to value added during assembly

MAQUILADORAS

• Maquiladora products



Examples of Maquiladoras in Mexico

3 Day Blinds	General Electric	Mercedes Benz
20th Century Plastics	Company	Mitsubishi
Acer Peripherals	JVC	Electronics Corp.
Ball Company, Inc.	GM	Motorola
Bayer Corp./Medsep	Hasbro	Nissan
BMW	Hewlett Packard	Phillips
Canon Business Machines	Hitachi Home	Pioneer Speakers
Casio Manufacturing	Electronics	Samsonite
Chrysler	Honda	Corporation
Daewoo	Honeywell, Inc.	Samsung
Eastman	Hughes Aircraft	Sanyo North
Kodak/Verbatim	Hyundai Precision	America
Eberhard-Faber	America	Sony Electronics
Eli Lilly Corporation	IBM	Tiffany
Ericsson	Watsushita	Toshiba
Fisher Price	Mattel	VW
Ford	Maxell Corporation	Xerox
Foster Grant Corporation		

MAQUILADORAS

• ADVANTAGES

- Mexico gains jobs.
- Foreign owners benefit from cheaper labor costs.

• EFFECTS

- Regional development
- Development of an international growth corridor between Monterrey and Dallas - Fort Worth

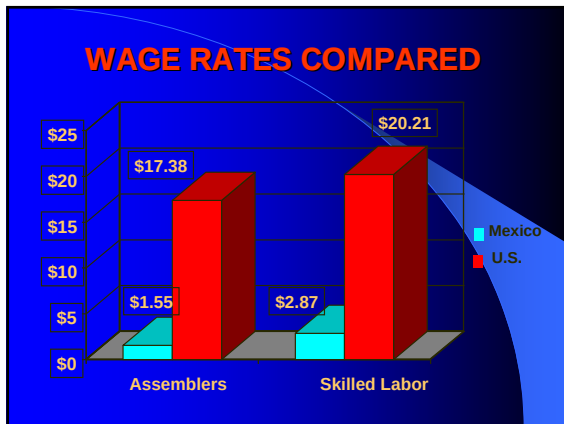
NAFTA

- Effective 1 January 1994
- Established a trade agreement between Mexico, Canada and the US, which:
 - Reduced and regulated trade tariffs, barriers, and quotas between members
 - Standardized finance & service exchanges

MEXICO AND NAFTA

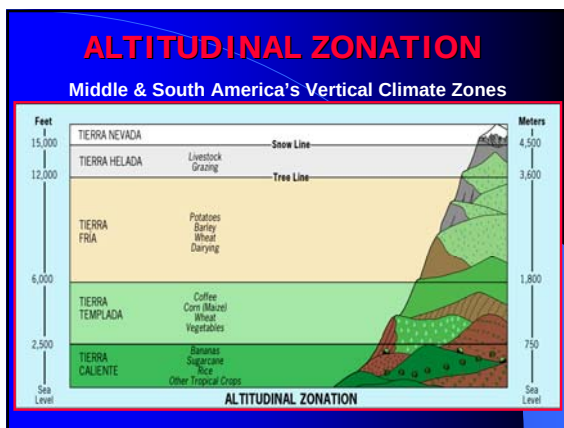
- Foremost, it promises a higher standard of living.
- NAFTA creates more jobs for Mexicans as US companies begin to invest more heavily in the Mexican market.
- Mexican exporters increase their sales to the US and Canada.
- Is that the entire story?





U.S. TRADE WITH CANADA & MEXICO

- Canada remains as the United States' largest export market.
- Since 1977, Mexico has moved into second place (displacing Japan).
- 85% of all Mexican exports now go to the United States.
- 75% of Mexico's imports originate in the United States.



THE TOURISM OPTION

- Antigua and Barbuda
 - Direct contribution of 13% to GDP and affects growth in other sectors
- The Bahamas
 - Tourism alone provides 50% of GDP and directly or indirectly employs 40% of the population.
- Cuba
 - Growing industry

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- **Tropical Deforestation**
- **3.5 million acres of woodland in Central America disappear each year!**
 - Clearing of rural lands to accommodate meat production and export
 - Rapid logging of tropical woodlands to meet global demands for new housing, paper, and furniture
 - Population explosion: forests are cut to provide crop-raising space and firewood

CULTURAL ASSESSMENT

MEXICO – adult males are perceived to be healthier than females and children

BELIZE – bones of spoiled fish are used to make a soup to cure illness from eating spoiled fish

GUATEMALA – witch doctors are important health care providers in rural areas

COSTA RICA – machismo society but women are viewed as morally and spiritually superior

PANAMA – having body fat in women is considered to be healthy and sign of fertility

CUBA – direct eye contact practiced and looking away may be interpreted as disrespect or dishonesty

JAMAICA – matrifocal society where it is not important for women to have a lifetime partner; therefore several different fathers may visit with their children in one household

HAITI – some believe that they must continue sexual intercourse during pregnancy to keep the birth canal lubricated and cold air should be avoided during this time

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – traditional mothers may not wish to bathe, wash hair or have intercourse for 40 days following childbirth