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

**The Geography of Latin America**

Latin America is a diverse land with many obstacles to trade. Examine the geography of Latin America using the World Studies: Latin America textbook and answer the following questions:

**Turn to page 39: Early Civilizations Map**

1. Where was the Mayan civilization located? When did they rule that area?

2. Where was the Aztec Empire located? When did they rule that area?

3. Where was the Incan Empire located? When did they rule that area?

**Turn to page 4: Physical Latin America**

4. Some of the Maya Civilization lived in the Yucatan Peninsula. At what elevation range is most of the Yucatan Peninsula? (in feet):

5. Some of the Aztec Civilization was located in the Plateau of Mexico. At what elevation range (brown) is most of the Plateau of Mexico? (in feet):

6. Some of the Inca Civilization was located in the Andes Mountains. What is most likely the elevation range of the majority of Inca towns (brown)? (in feet):

7. Imagine you were an Incan trader and you wanted to trade with the other major civilization at the time, the Aztec. What is the most elevation change you would likely experience: Use the following equations to help you answer the question:

The Inca's highest elevation - the Maya lowest elevation + the Aztec's highest elevation = total possible elevation change of a trip from the Incan Empire to the Aztec Empire (in feet)

8. The mountain with the largest elevation change (base of the mountain to it's summit) in the world is Mount McKinley in Alaska (18,000 feet). Would a trader from the Inca possible have to change elevation more or less than this to trade with the Aztec?

9. Describe how this would affect trade between peoples in Latin America? Why?

**Turn to page 16: Climate Regions of Latin America**

10. What is the climate in the former Aztec city in the city of Mexico City?

11. What is the climate in the former lands of the Maya in the country of Belize?

12. What is the climate in the former lands of the Inca in the city of Lima?

13. How many total different climate regions exist in the Latin American Region?

14. How many different climate regions are between Mexico City and Lima?

15. How might the different climate regions affect trading between the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations?

**Turn to page 20: Vegetation Regions**

16. What is the vegetation region of Mexico City (former home of the Aztecs)?

17. What is the vegetation region of most of the Belize and Honduras (former home of the Maya)?

18. What is the vegetation region of Lima (former home of the Inca)?

19. What is the vegetation region of the majority of Central America and northern South America?

20. What vegetation region would a trader from the Aztecs need to travel through the longest to get the Inca civilization?

21. Why is traveling through a tropical rainforest difficult? What obstacles might you encounter?

22. How would traveling through a tropical rainforest impact speed of trade between the Inca, Aztec, and Maya?