



Fuel for Thought

During an oil crisis, Brazil found an alternative to gasoline—the biofuel **ethanol**. Made from sugar cane, ethanol today accounts for 40 percent of all vehicle fuel in Brazil. It is cleaner and cheaper to produce than gasoline.

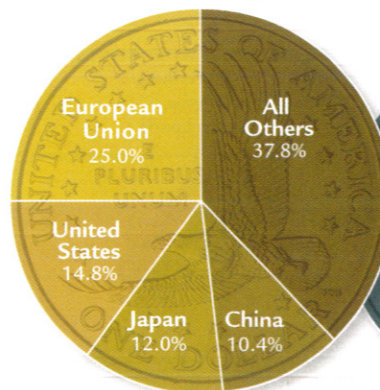


These derricks and pumps are in oil-rich Lake Maracaibo in northwestern Venezuela. Venezuela, a founding member of OPEC (see page 160), has the largest oil reserves in the Western Hemisphere and is the fifth largest exporter of oil in the world.

BALANCE OF TRADE

CHILE

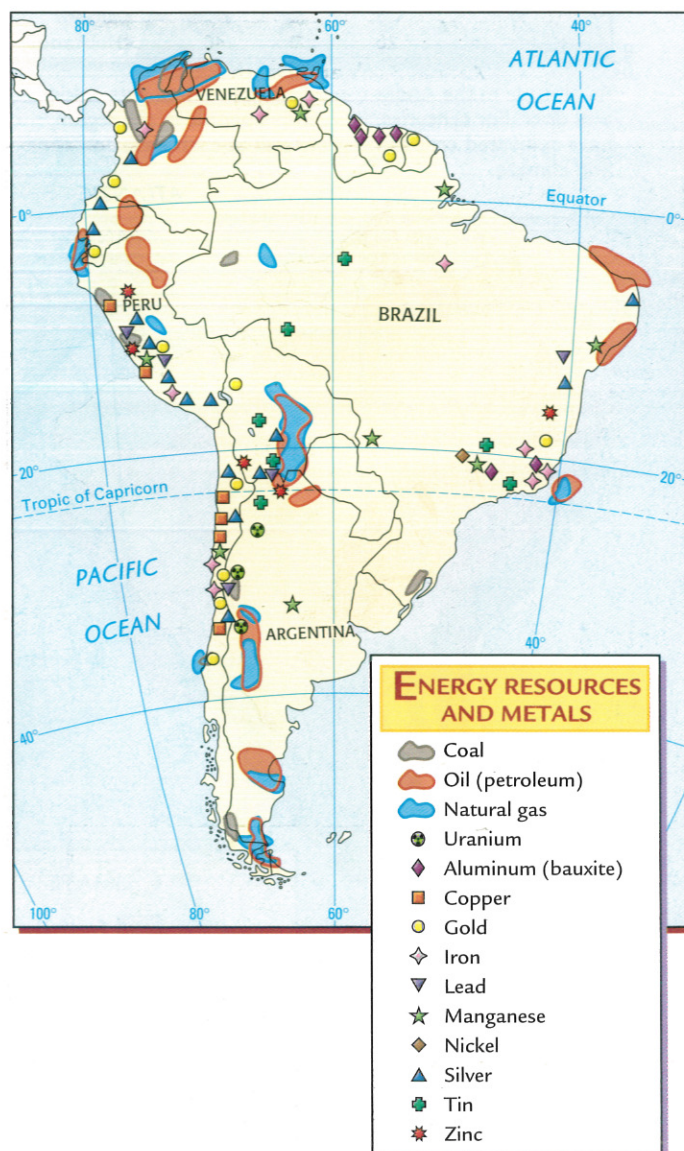
Total Exports
US\$ 32 billion



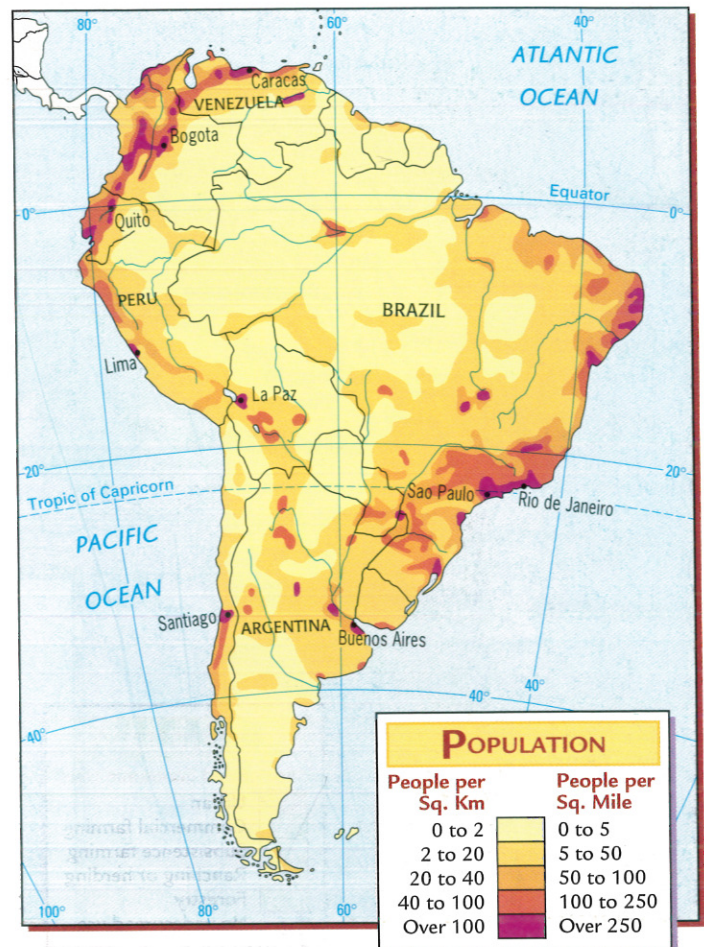
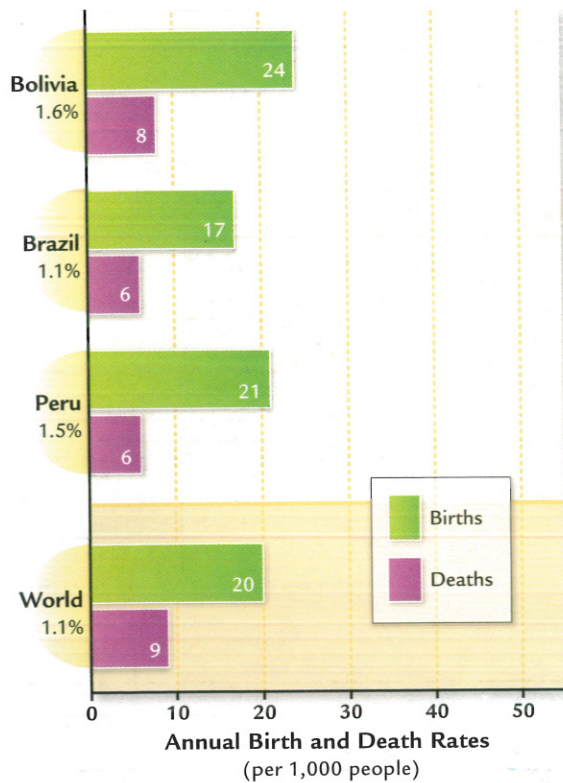
Total Imports
US\$ 25 billion



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NATURAL POPULATION GROWTH SOUTH AMERICA



Mixed Roots

Mestizo is Spanish for mixed. In Latin America, the term is used to describe a person of mixed European and American Indian parentage. *Mulatto* describes a person of mixed European and African parentage. Over 85 percent of the people in Paraguay are mestizo, while over 35 percent of those in French Guiana are mulatto.

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Peru has one of the larger indigenous populations in South America. (For more information, see page 119.) Many Quechua and Aymara still farm and bring goods to market in the highlands.