

3.1 Brazil's Growing Economy

TECHTREK

myNGconnect.com For an online map of Brazil's resources and photos of economic activity

Maps and
GraphsDigital
Library

Main Idea Brazil is a leading industrial country and has a strong, diverse economy.

Brazil is the largest and most populous country in South America with many different exports. Brazil is an emerging force in the global economy.

Diverse Products

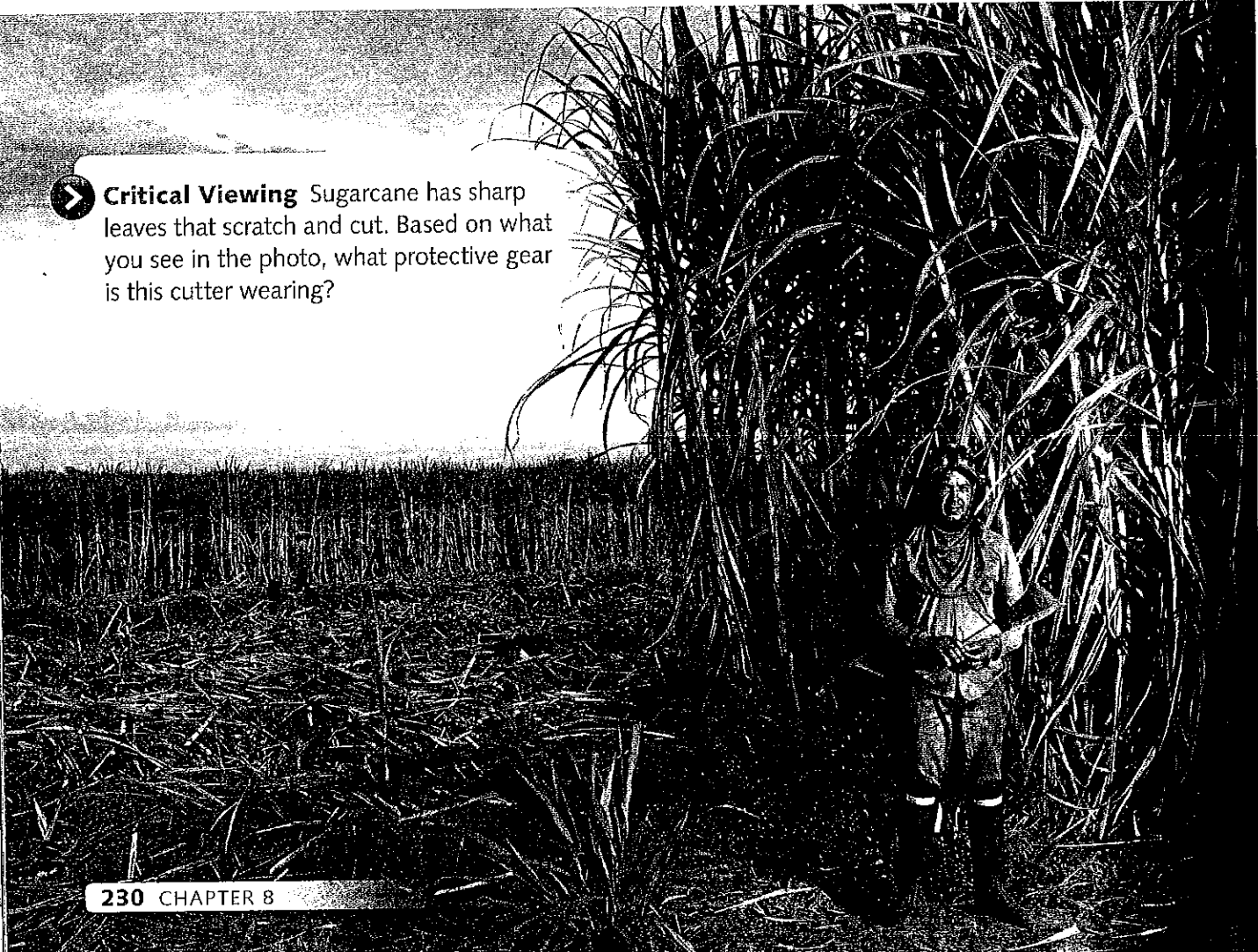
Agriculture, forestry, ranching, and fishing all contribute to the country's economy. Brazil exports bananas, oranges, mangoes, cacao beans, soybeans, rice, cashew nuts, and pineapples. It is the **foremost**, or leading, global coffee producer and grows one-third of the

world's total number of coffee beans. Brazil is also one of the leading exporters of sugarcane and raw sugar.

Forests in Brazil contain many raw materials, including timber, or wood prepared for use in construction. Wood from Brazilian forests is also used to make pulp for paper products. Mahogany, a rain forest hardwood, is a valuable export used to make fine furniture.

Cattle ranching is a big business in Brazil. Export products from cattle include leather and beef. Today, Brazil exports more beef than the United States, Australia, and Argentina.

Critical Viewing Sugarcane has sharp leaves that scratch and cut. Based on what you see in the photo, what protective gear is this cutter wearing?



Brazil's coastline stretches more than 4,600 miles along the Atlantic Ocean. New technology, facilities, and processes will allow Brazil to develop its commercial fishing industry.

Mining and Manufacturing

Mining contributes to Brazil's growing economy. Brazil is a top producer and exporter of iron ore, bauxite (aluminum ore), gold, copper, and diamonds. Oil wells dot Brazil's coast.

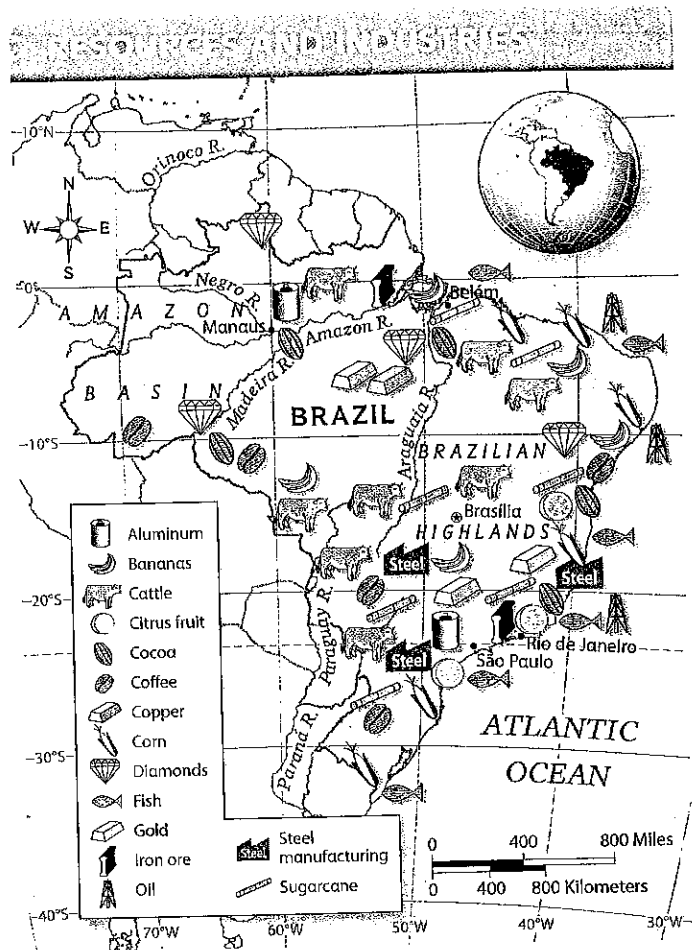
In addition to its mineral production, Brazil's manufacturing industry is central to the country's economic strength. Brazil manufactures **steel**, a strong metal made from iron and other metals. Brazilian steel is used in automobiles, transportation equipment, and aircraft. Brazil also manufactures computers and electronic equipment.

Fuel of the Future

Brazil has produced and exported sugarcane and sugar since the 1500s. For several decades, the country has been developing its sugar-based ethanol industry. **Ethanol** is a liquid removed from sugarcane or corn. It is mixed with gasoline to make an alternative fuel called a **biofuel**. Cars that run on biofuels use less gasoline. Because they are made from agricultural products, biofuels are a renewable source of energy. Today, Brazil is poised to be a global leader in the production of biofuel.

Before You Move On

Summarize What factors enable Brazil to develop a diverse economy?



ONGOING ASSESSMENT

MAP LAB

- 1. Interpret Maps** Study the map. What are two resources that provide fuel for Brazil? Where are these resources found?
- 2. Draw Conclusions** Where are most cattle resources located in Brazil? Why might cattle not be concentrated in the Amazon Basin?
- 3. Human-Environment Interaction** In what ways have Brazilians used natural resources to build a strong economy?
- 4. Form and Support Opinions** What part of Brazil's economy do you think will be the most important in the future? Why?