

Geography Focus

Map of South America



Directions:

- Label Venezuela
- Label Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana
- Label the Compass Rose with cardinal directions
- Label the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of America
- Circle and label the Bahamas, as well as the Greater and Lesser Antilles

What features make a sea, an ocean, and a gulf distinct from each other?

Scan to watch episode:



Geographic Features of Venezuela



Directions:

- Find and label one example of each geographic feature:

Bay

Delta

Peninsula

Tributary

Isthmus

- Find and label the following important places:

Andes
Mountains

Lake
Maracaibo

Orinoco
River

Amazon
Jungle

Caracas

Angel Falls

Guiana
Highlands

Vocabulary Focus & Sentence Writing

Word Bank:

socialism	nationalize	corruption	shantytown	inflation	natural resource
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Match the term to its definition:

1. _____ When money loses value, and prices rise so fast that people can't afford basic things.
2. _____ When a government takes over control of private businesses or industries.
3. _____ Something found in nature—like oil or water—that people use to live or make money.
4. _____ A system where the government controls what people can own or buy.
5. _____ A poor area with makeshift homes made of scrap materials like metal, wood, and plastic.
6. _____ Dishonest or illegal behavior by those in power, often involving bribery or theft.

Write two sentences using any two words from the word bank above. Try to connect your sentence to the story.

7. _____

8. _____

Cause & Effect Chart

Use the chart below to track 2 to 3 challenges from the story and the policies or ideologies that cause them.

Problem	Policy/Ideology Behind It	Effect on the Character
<i>Example: Unsafe streets and crime.</i>	<i>Government corruption and collapse of civil order.</i>	<i>Vivi and Lita must stay indoors for safety; Vivi lives in fear and isolation.</i>

Reading Comprehension and Personal Reflection

Answer the following questions based on your reading.

1. Why did Vivi's father, Cesar, move to the United States?

2. Compare Lita's Venezuela with Vivi's Venezuela. Identify two major differences.

3. Explain the decision to homeschool Vivi; what were some major reasons for this decision?

Long Answer Response:

4. Explain why oil, as a natural resource for Venezuela, has been both a blessing and a curse.

Personal Reflection Prompt:

5. In Venezuela, the money Vivi's family earns is nearly worthless. Their currency, the **bolívar**, has lost so much value that people throw it away and use U.S. dollars instead. In the United States, money holds its value better, and families have more freedom to earn, save, and build a future.

Now Reflect:

- What are some things you can do because your money is stable and your economy works?
- How might your life change if your money suddenly became worthless?

Write your thoughts below (use another sheet of paper if more room is needed):

Vivi's Life Under Socialism | Answer Key

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What features make a sea, an ocean, and a gulf distinct from each other? *An **ocean** is the largest body of salt water, covering huge areas between continents. A **sea** is smaller than an ocean and is usually enclosed by land. A **gulf** is a part of an ocean or sea that is partly surrounded by land, usually with an opening to the larger body of water.*

Geographic Features of Venezuela

Geographic Features

Bay

Tributary

Delta

Isthmus

Peninsula



Directions:

- Find and label one example of each geographic feature:

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Vocabulary Focus & Sentence Writing

Word Bank:

socialism	nationalize	corruption	shantytown	inflation	natural resource
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Match the term to its definition:

1. Inflation When money loses value, and prices rise so fast that people can't afford basic things.
2. Nationalize When a government takes over control of private businesses or industries.
3. Natural Resource Something found in nature—like oil or water—that people use to live or make money.
4. Socialism A system where the government controls what people can own or buy.
5. Shantytown A poor area with makeshift homes made of scrap materials like metal, wood, and plastic.
6. Corruption Dishonest or illegal behavior by those in power, often involving bribery or theft.

Write two sentences using any two words from the word bank above. Try to connect your sentence to the story.

(open-ended; examples will vary. Sample sentences:)

7. Vivi's family struggled to afford food because of extreme **inflation** in Venezuela.
8. Oil is a **natural resource** that once brought wealth to Venezuela, but now causes problems.

Cause & Effect Chart

Use the chart below to track 2 to 3 challenges from the story and the policies or ideologies that cause them.

Note: Students may phrase things differently or find other problems, ideologies, and effects on the character, but these are the main ones that should be emphasized.

Problem	Policy/Ideology Behind It	Effect on the Character
<i>Example: Unsafe streets and crime.</i>	<i>Government corruption and the collapse of civil order.</i>	<i>Vivi and Lita must stay indoors for safety; Vivi lives in fear and isolation.</i>
Food Shortages	Socialism and nationalization of farms and industries	Vivi's family struggles to buy enough food. Even the basics are hard to find.
Inflation and worthless currency	Socialism and economic mismanagement	Vivi's family sees their savings become useless; daily life becomes a constant struggle
Power outages and unreliable public services	Corruption and neglect of infrastructure	Vivi and her family often lose electric power, making daily life harder

Reading Comprehension and Personal Reflection

Answer the following questions based on your reading.

1. Why did Vivi's father, Cesar, move to the United States? **To find better opportunities and escape the worsening conditions in Venezuela, such as poverty, instability, and lack of future prospects.**
2. Compare Lita's Venezuela with Vivi's Venezuela. Identify two major differences. **Lita's Venezuela was once prosperous and full of opportunity, with good jobs and strong infrastructure. Vivi's Venezuela is now poor, dangerous, and struggling with shortages of basic goods like food, medicine, and electricity.**

3. Explain the decision to homeschool Vivi; what were some major reasons for this decision? *Vivi's family decided to homeschool her because the public schools had become dangerous, poorly run, and heavily politicized. They were worried about her safety, the poor quality of education, and political indoctrination.*

Long Answer Response:

4. Explain why oil, as a natural resource for Venezuela, has been both a blessing and a curse.

Sample Response:

Oil made Venezuela very rich for a time, allowing the country to build infrastructure and support its people. However, when oil prices dropped, overreliance on oil made the economy weak and unstable. Instead of diversifying, the government mismanaged the wealth, leading to corruption, inflation, and eventual economic collapse.

Personal Reflection Prompt:

6. In Venezuela, the money Vivi's family earns is nearly worthless. Their currency, the **bolívar**, has lost so much value that people throw it away and use U.S. dollars instead. In the United States, money holds its value better, and families have more freedom to earn, save, and build a future.

Now reflect:

- What are some things you can do because your money is stable and your economy works?
- How might your life change if your money suddenly became worthless?

Write your thoughts below:

Answers will vary. Look for thoughtful responses that demonstrate an understanding of how a stable economy impacts daily life. Strong answers should identify specific things students can do because of stable money, and include a reflection on how life would change if that stability were lost.