

Name _____

Date _____

Introducing Place

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PLACE

Every place has its own *characteristics*, those special features that set it apart from other places. For example, look at the map and photograph of broadleaf trees on page 12 and the map and drawing of tropical rain forests on page 59. What are some of the rain forest's characteristics?

NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS

The characteristics of a place include the plant and animal life that occurs there naturally. Other natural characteristics include landforms, bodies of water, and climate. Use the map and climographs on pages 18-19 to describe the climate of southern Italy.

CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

The people who live in a place create its *cultural characteristics*. Cities, roads, factories, and crops are among such features. So is anything that describes the people themselves.

Use page 61 to answer the following questions about cultural characteristics of South America.

1. What percentage of people in Chile live in the city? _____
2. What percentage of people in Ecuador live in the city? _____
3. What is Latin America? _____
4. What languages are spoken in Latin America?

WAYS OF REPRESENTING PLACES

There are many different ways of showing the characteristics of a place. Some of these ways are listed below. Circle as many of them as you can find on pages 64-67

globe map drawing graph table photograph description

TESTING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Label the following characteristics as either *natural* or *cultural*.

1. Hot summers and cold winters _____
2. Fields of corn and soybeans _____
3. A narrow coastal plain _____