Latin America Physical Geography

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. Which mountain system extends along the western side of South America?
   A. Andes
   B. Rockies
   C. Atlas
   D. Alps

2. Which desert occupies part of northern Chile’s arid Pacific region?
   A. Gobi Desert
   B. Sonoran Desert
   C. Atacama Desert
   D. Namib Desert

3. Which broad basin takes up much of tropical South America east of the Andes?
   A. Congo Basin
   B. Amazon Basin
   C. Murray–Darling Basin
   D. Mekong Basin

4. Which sea lies directly east of much of the Central American coast, from Belize to Panama?
   A. Bering Sea
   B. Arabian Sea
   C. Coral Sea
   D. Caribbean Sea

5. Which volcanic island group lies in the Pacific Ocean west of mainland Ecuador?
   A. Bahamas
   B. Galápagos Islands
   C. Falkland Islands
   D. Lesser Antilles

6. Which large lake spans part of the border between Peru and Bolivia?
   A. Lake Titicaca
   B. Lake Nicaragua
   C. Lake Maracaibo
   D. Lake Chapala

7. What landform in Panama connects the continents of North and South America?
   A. A volcanic caldera
   B. An atoll
   C. A river delta
   D. An isthmus

8. Which vast seasonal wetland lies partly in Brazil’s upper Paraguay River basin?
   A. Atacama
   B. Pampas
   C. Pantanal
   D. Altiplano

9. What feature in the limestone of the Yucatán Peninsula is locally called a cenote?
   A. A natural sinkhole that can expose groundwater
   B. A shallow reef built by coral
   C. A glacier-fed lake between two moraines
   D. A sand ridge deposited by persistent winds

10. Which landform is the Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia?
   A. A coral lagoon
   B. A lava plateau
   C. A barrier island
   D. A salt flat

11. Which term names the high plateau lying between two major ranges of the Andes in Bolivia and Peru?
   A. Llanos
   B. Pampas
   C. Altiplano
   D. Gran Chaco

12. Which general landscape would you expect at Argentina’s Los Glaciares National Park in Patagonia?
   A. Mangrove islands and warm tidal creeks
   B. High peaks and outlet glaciers
   C. Low coral banks and atolls
   D. Dry gullies in a lowland desert

13. Why can a salt crust accumulate at the Salar de Atacama after water flows in?

A. Glaciers repeatedly scrape away the salt
B. Ocean tides flood the basin every day
C. Freshwater springs wash all salts out to sea
D. Evaporation leaves dissolved salts behind in an enclosed basin

14. Which two bodies of water flank the Yucatán Peninsula on the northwest and east, respectively?

A. Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea
B. Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean
C. Gulf of California and Gulf of Mexico
D. Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of California

15. Which process contributes to mountain building and volcanism along the western edge of South America?

A. Two continental plates move apart beneath the Caribbean
B. The South American Plate descends beneath the African Plate
C. The Nazca Plate descends beneath the South American Plate
D. The Pacific and Antarctic plates collide beneath the Amazon Basin