



- Provide students with additional time to think about and to talk about Questions #1, #2, and #3 of the assessment – The teacher should provide students with time to discuss and speculate, to infer and to conclude.
 - Make clear that discussion time is for *discussion only* and **not** for *writing*. Make clear that students **should not** be using their time together to generate group responses to the questions or to jot down superficial responses that they'll use later.
 - Remind students that when the time comes for them to respond to the questions, they will be responding *independently* and *thoughtfully*.
 - Remind students that while there is no one right answer to either Question #1, #2, or #3, that's not the same as saying that "all responses are correct," or that "any old answer will do." Responses need to be supported by evidence, examples and/or logic.

Assessment

The following questions assess students' abilities to apply reading processes and strategies for comprehending informational text. They are not intended to serve as social studies content assessments.

1. According to the text, when Napoleon set up his brother Joseph as the new King of Spain, the junta in South America refused to recognize him, but they also refused to take orders from the real Spanish king.

Write a two-paragraph response where you thoughtfully consider (1) why the junta might have refused to accept any governmental authority; and (2) why people living in the world today might refuse to accept governmental authority.

2. At key points in his military and political career, Simon Bolivar had a difficult time uniting people from different countries and different cultures under one government.

Write a one-paragraph response where you thoughtfully consider why, in the world today, people from different countries and different cultures might not want to be united.

Refer to the map on Page 5 of your informational text packet and respond to the following questions.

3. Many countries in South America share borders with more than one other country. What kinds of problems and issues can arise when countries share borders? Why might those problems and issues be more complicated when a country shares borders with more than one other country?

4. Bolivia (named after Simon Bolivar) shares borders with several countries. What countries?

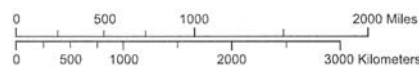
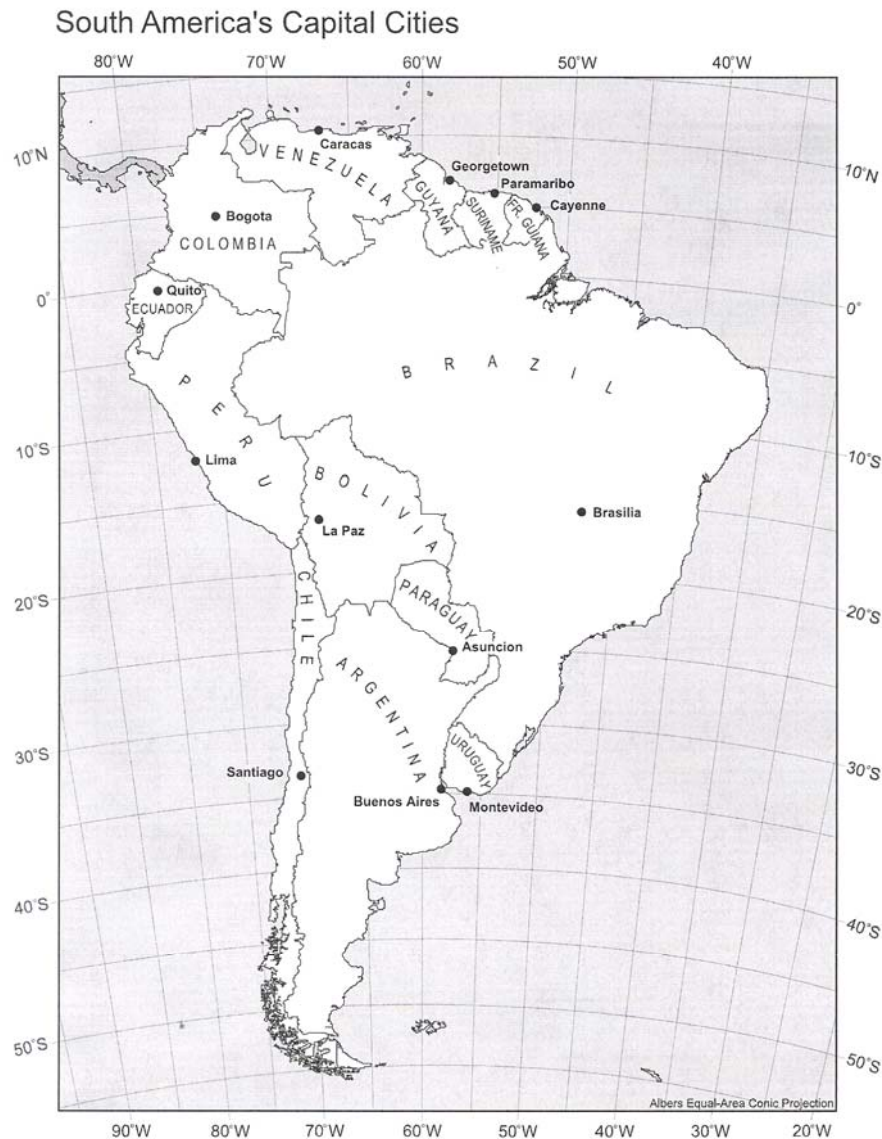
5. What South American country shares the greatest number of borders?



Passage

Simon Bolivar

Simon Bolivar, the great revolutionary leader known as “the **Liberator** of South America,” was born in **Caracas, Venezuela** in 1783. He belonged to a family of **Spaniards** who had been born in the New World. His parents died when he was very young and he was educated by private tutors. In 1799 he left for Spain and it was there that he met his wife.



Courtesy: Arizona Geographic Alliance
Department of Geography,
Arizona State University
Susan Westhouse
s-america-caps.ai

Map Courtesy Arizona Geographic Alliance <http://alliance.la.asu.edu/azga/>



Bolivar returned to Venezuela in 1803 and his wife died of yellow fever shortly thereafter. Bolivar never married again and for the next few years he lived the life of a wealthy citizen. In 1804 he returned to Spain. While in Europe he traveled to France where he saw the crowning of **Napoleon** as emperor.

Meanwhile great changes were taking place in Europe. Napoleon invaded Spain and overthrew the Spanish king. In his place he set up his brother, Joseph Bonaparte, as king. The Spanish colonies in South America refused to recognize this new king and they set up what was known as a, “**Junta**,” or governing council to rule the colonies. This Junta refused to recognize the power of Joseph, but it also refused to take orders from the representatives of the real Spanish king.

The Junta gave Bolivar the rank of lieutenant colonel and he was part of the group that took Caracas from the Spanish and declared Venezuela’s independence with the **First Republic of Venezuela** on July 5, 1811. The people of the country were not united though, and the republic only lasted one year. Bolivar himself fled to Cartagena in **New Granada**, which is the present-day country of **Colombia**. It was here that he called upon Colombians to help the Venezuelans in their struggle for independence. He said that the freedom of Venezuela would help bring freedom to New Granada and therefore they should help their neighbors fight.

In 1813 Bolivar led a force back into Venezuela and retook Caracas. He set himself up as ruler but the country was still divided and he could not hold onto his power for long. A group of **royalists** (those loyal to the king) defeated Bolivar after a series of battles and he was again forced to flee.

This time he fled to **Jamaica** and it was here that he wrote his, “Jamaica letter” in which he outlined his ideas about government. He then traveled to **Haiti** where he lobbied for support. He got it and he went back to South America to finish what he had started. His first attempts were not very successful but eventually he became more popular and gained more support. He was able to unite the different groups. He had retaken Venezuela by 1816 and by 1819 the movement really started to gain strength.



In February of 1819 a conference was called at the town of Angostura in Venezuela. It was here that Venezuela, New Granada, and **Ecuador** decided to join together and form the country of **Gran Colombia**. They chose Bolivar as president and though unwilling to take the position at first, he eventually agreed. Bolivar wanted a government with a strong leader and pushed for this at the congress. He got some things that he wanted put into the constitution, yet other things were not. But now that the work of uniting the three countries was done the next main concern was to defeat the remaining groups within the country. Bolivar and his generals led a forceful battle against these parties and by 1822 all of Gran Colombia was free.



<http://en.wikipedia.org>

Bolívar's message to the Congress of Angostura, February 1819

Bolívar's next goal was to free **Peru**. Before acting on this he met with the great **Argentine liberator**, José de San Martín. San Martín had already freed **Argentina** and **Chile** and had fought some battles in Peru. Bolívar and San Martín's meeting was secret but as a result of it San Martín pulled out of Peru, resigned his presidency of Argentina, and basically left Peru for Bolívar to take. So Bolívar took it, the final victory coming in December of 1824.

After this success Bolívar tried to unite the Spanish nations of South America at the Congress of Panama but there were too many differences between the countries for this to happen. Bolívar then returned to Colombia to resume his presidency, but a lot had changed. He had never really held power long enough to gain much support and on top of this the peoples of Ecuador, Venezuela, and Colombia had many cultural differences that could not be solved by putting them together in one country.



There were many uprisings by the people until 1829 when both Venezuela and Ecuador left the republic. Bolivar remained its president until 1830 when he left for **exile**. On the way, though, he fell ill to tuberculosis and died on December 17, 1830. He was buried in Colombia because his native Venezuela would not allow him on their land. By the end of his life his fame had fallen greatly.

Today he is remembered and honored by South Americans as a great leader and liberator.



<http://en.wikipedia.org>

Simon Bolivar

Sources

Adapted from:

<http://www.hyperhistory.net/apwh/bios/b4bolivarsimon.htm>

Map courtesy Arizona Geographic Alliance <http://alliance.la.asu.edu/azga/>

Standards Connections: Grade 5

Social Studies: Strand 2 Concept 6 PO3, PO4

Reading: Strand 1 Concept 4, Strand 3 Concept 1