

Name: _____

Human Development Index (HDI)

Learning Target #3 – I can compare the economies of Latin America.

We have used **Total GDP** (the total amount of goods and services produced by a country in a year) and **GDP per capita** (Total GDP divided by the size of the population) to compare different countries. But to use GDP numbers to compare countries is like using the amount of money a person makes in a year to compare different people. It is helpful and tells quite a bit, but it really does not show you the full picture of a person's quality of life. How healthy is that person? How educated is that person?

The **Human Development Index** (HDI) is used by geographers to compare quality of life in different countries. The United Nations Development Programme calculates, produces, and publishes the HDI numbers for all countries around the world.

The United Nations uses some complicated and complex math calculations to produce the HDI ranking. HDI combines measures of the health, education, and standard of living including GDP per capita—that includes the level of goods, services, and material comforts—of people in a country. People in countries with a low HDI, such as Haiti, are often less healthy, less educated, and poorer than people in countries with a high HDI, such as the United States.

The **actual HDI** of a country is a number from 0.000 to 1.000 (higher is better) used to **compare** that country to other countries. The HDI numbers are used to rank countries into four different groups: Very High Human Development, High Human Development, Medium Human Development and Low Human Development. Finally, each country is described as being either a **developed** country or **developing** country based on that country's HDI number. Countries with HDI numbers at .800 or higher (Countries in the "Very High Human Development" group) are considered to be developed countries. Countries with HDI numbers lower than .800 (Countries in any other group) are considered to be developing countries.

1. Why not just use "Total GDP" and "GDP per capita" to compare different countries?
2. How is the HDI used?
3. Who creates the HDI rankings?
4. What are the three categories used to calculate a country's HDI number?
5. HDI numbers range from _____ (low development) to _____ (high development).
6. What is the lowest HDI number that a country can have and still be considered a developed county?
7. How is a country described if that country has a HDI number lower than the answer to the previous question?

8. Complete this chart to compare the economies of different Latin American countries.

Country	Total GDP	GDP per capita	HDI	Status: Developed or Developing?
 Argentina				
 Brazil				
 Chile				
 Colombia				
 Costa Rica				
 Cuba				
 Guatemala				
 Haiti				
 Mexico				
 Nicaragua				
 Panama				
 Peru				
 Venezuela				