Waterways

• Rivers
  – Amazon River- Andes 4000 miles to Atlantic
    • Fed by rains and tributaries
    • Tributary (small river that feeds into a larger river)
    • Ships can sail 2500 miles up the Amazon
    • Important for fishing
Waterways

– Parana River, the Paraguay River, and the Uruguay River
  • Second largest river system
  • Drain all of eastern South America
  • Flow into an estuary (where river currents and ocean tides meet)- Rio de la Plata (“River of Silver”)

– Orinoco River- Venezuela to Caribbean- fertile soil to the llanos
Waterways

• Other Waterways
  – Lake Maracaibo- Venezuela
    • South America’s largest
    • Holds oil
  – Lake Titicaca- between Bolivia and Peru
    • 12500 ft. above sea level- highest lake used by large ships
  – Panama Canal
    • Connects Atlantic to Pacific
A Wealth of Natural Resources

• Brazil’s Abundant Resources
  – 55% forests- mostly rainforests
    • Timber, rubber, palm oil, Brazil nuts, etc
  – Minerals- bauxite, gold, and tin
    • Iron ore and manganese- one of world’s largest steel industries
  – Limited oil and natural gas
    • Makes alcohol from sugarcane to fuel cars- gasohol
A Wealth of Natural Resources

- **Energy Resources**
  - Venezuela- largest oil and natural gas in LA
  - Mexico- many oil/ng along Gulf Coast
    - Both provide for themselves and exports
  - Bolivia and Ecuador- oil/ng
    - Bolivian oil controlled by foreign companies
    - Can’t benefit from exports
A Wealth of Natural Resources

- Other Resources
  - Silver- Mexico and Peru
  - Iron Ore- Venezuela
  - Emeralds- Columbia
  - Copper- Chile
  - Bauxite (makes aluminum)- Jamaica
  - Nickel- Cuba
  - Gold/Silver- Dominican Republic
  - Gold- Nicaragua and Guatemala