

Geography and Population

Objectives

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

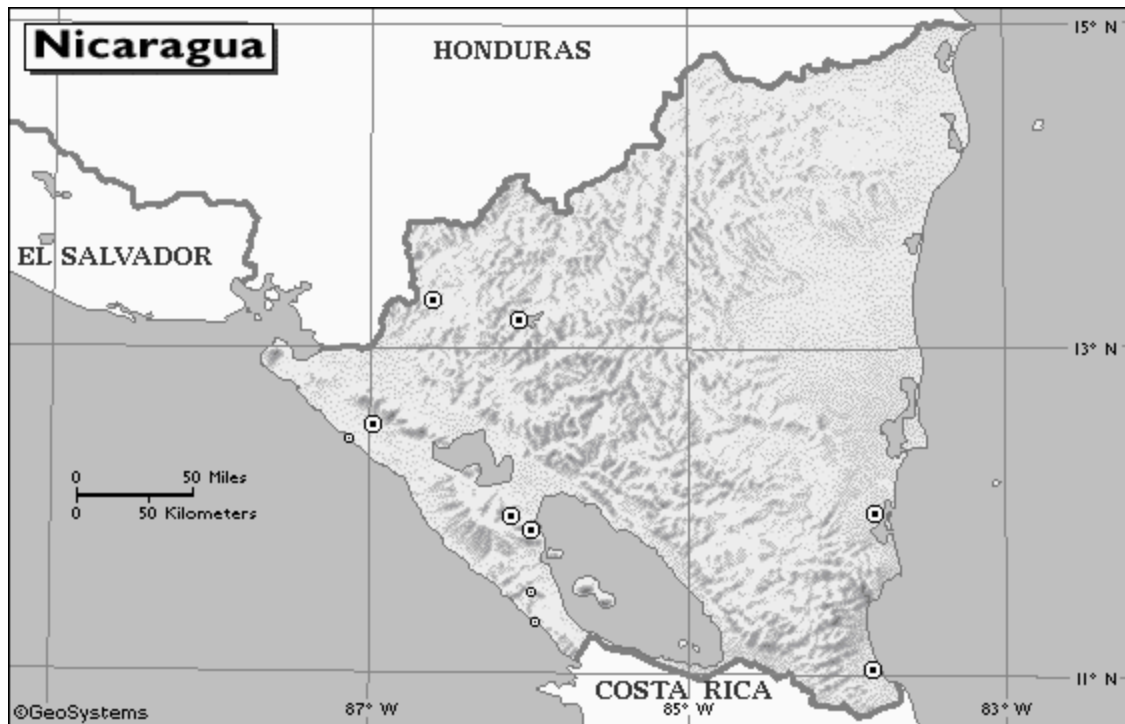
- label the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Lakes Managua and Nicaragua, the San Juan River, and cities (Managua, Leon, Granada) on a physical map.
 - describe Nicaragua's physical features.
 - infer where most people live based on a map.
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Materials

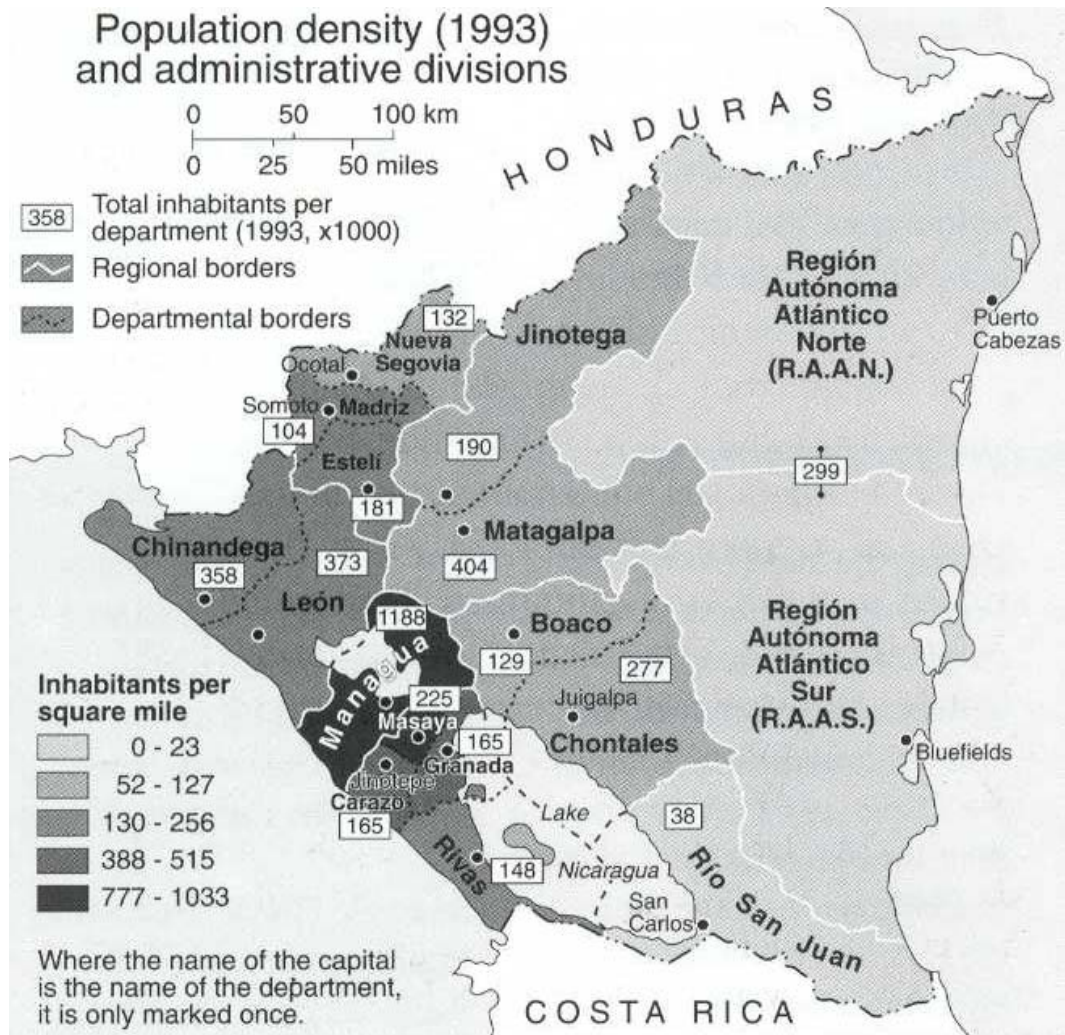
- Student Handout: **Blank Map of Nicaragua** (Courtesy of Geosystems)
 - Student Handout: **Population Density Map** (Extracted from *Nicaragua: A Guide to the People, Politics and Culture*. Interlink Books. 2002)
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Activities

1. Distribute the s **Blank Map of Nicaragua** to each student. (You may wish to group students together for this exercise.)
 2. Direct students to label each of the following on their Nicaraguan map:
 - a. Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
 - b. Lakes Managua and Nicaragua
 - c. San Juan River
 - d. Cities of Managua (capital), León, and Granada
 3. Using the map, ask students to infer where most Nicaraguans live and to give evidence to support their beliefs. Example:
 - a. The three major cities are in the west.
 - b. There are mountains that divide the country almost in two.
 - c. The lakes are important for transportation, fishing, and water.
 - d. Therefore, most people must live in the western part of the country.
 4. Distribute the **Population Density** map to each student (or group).
 5. Direct students to answer the questions on the handout and to use the population map to check their inferences.
 6. Based on the population map, ask students to identify and explain other factors that appear to influence where people might live.
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1. Label each of the following on the map:
 - a. Atlantic Ocean
 - b. Pacific Ocean
 - c. Lakes Managua
 - d. Lake Nicaragua
 - e. San Juan River
 - f. City of Managua
 - g. City of Leon
 - h. City of Granada
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2. Based on the map, where do you think most Nicaraguans live?
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1. Which two departments have the highest population densities?

2. Which three departments have the lowest population densities?

3. Which department has the most inhabitants? Which has the least?
