



South America

During this topic, children will have the opportunity to learn about the continent of South America. They will be studying the different countries in the continent and learning about some of the natural features of South America including the largest mountain, longest rivers and the rainforest.

South America is the fourth largest continent in size and the fifth largest in population. It is located primarily in the southern hemisphere. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The geography of South America is dominated by the Andes Mountain Range and the Amazon River (second longest river in the world). The Amazon rainforest is one of the world's most important natural resources and provides around six percent of the world's oxygen.

Key Information

Total Population: Approximately 435 million people.

Largest city: Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Highest Mountain: Aconcagua (6962 meters above the sea)

Land area: 17,461,112 square kilometers (6,741,770 square miles)

Largest Lake: Lake Titicaca.

Longest River: Amazon River

Important Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
Equator	The Equator is an imaginary circle around Earth. It divides Earth into two equal parts: the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.
Trade	Trade is the buying and selling of goods and services. Goods are objects that people grow or make—for example, food, clothes
Civilisation	A civilization is a large group of people who share certain advanced ways of living and working.
Economic	relating to, or based on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services
Natural	A natural resource is something that is found in nature and can be used by people.
Manmade	made or formed by human beings; not natural

South American Climate

Most of South America receives plenty of rain. There are areas that receive downpours like the rainforest but there are also areas that receive little or no rain.

- Iquique, Chile - (5mm of rain per year)
- Ica, Peru - (2mm of rain per year)
- Arica, Chile - This is the driest city on the planet (less than 1mm of rain per year)

Did you know that some parts of South America are the driest areas on Earth?

The Amazon Rainforest

- Rainforests are warm and wet areas.
- The Amazon Rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world with more than half located in Brazil. It is full of wildlife.
- Tribes of people still live in some areas of the rainforest with no contact with the outside world.
- 20% of the world's bird species live here, such as toucans, hummingbirds and the hoatzin.



The Andes

The world's longest mountain range

- The Andes stretch the following countries: Argentina, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador.

The Atacama Desert

- The Atacama Desert is 600 miles long.
- It is the driest desert in the world despite living right next door to the Pacific Ocean!

The Amazon River

- The River is approximately 4000 miles long, mostly flowing through rainforest.
- It has around 200 tributaries.
- It begins in the Andes Mountains and is the second longest river in the world.
- Piranhas, anacondas and thousands of species of fish can be found here.
- No bridges cross the river at any point.

Cape Horn

- The most southern point of South America.
- The waters around Cape Horn are very dangerous, due to icebergs, strong winds and large waves.
- Penguins and seals live there.



