

Year 6 – South America

What should I already know?

- *The seven continents and five oceans.
- *Some main biomes around the world, including rainforests.
- *Effects of climate change and pollution.
- *The climate of South America is different to the UK.



Important facts

South America is the fourth largest continent in size with a population of over 420 million. It lies in the western hemisphere. The equator cuts through the continent.

There are 12 countries in South America with Brazil being the largest in size and population.

Language – mainly Spanish and Portuguese.

Seas – South America is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean and on the north and east by the Atlantic Ocean; North America and the Caribbean Sea lie to the northwest.

Key Facts

Human Geography

The Amazon rainforest has been rapidly destroyed over the past 50 years. This is known as deforestation.

Coffee is a huge regional export with the coffee plant grown in abundance in South America. The main countries this is exported from are Brazil, Columbia and Peru.

The Rio Carnival is a festival held every year before Lent and is considered the largest carnival in the world with over 2 million people attending daily.

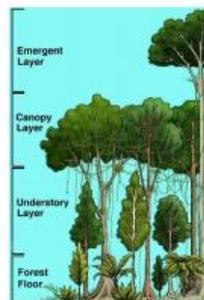
Physical Geography

Amazon River – runs through 7 countries, including Brazil, and is approximately 6400km in length.

Amazon Rainforest – stretches over 9 countries. It is the world's largest tropical rainforest famed for its biodiversity. An unknown amount of Amazon animals have become extinct since the start of deforestation.

The Andes – the tallest mountains in South America (and the world after the mountain ranges in Asia). The world's highest volcanoes are in the Andes.

Earthquake – the most powerful earthquake ever recorded happened in South America. Magnitude 9.4-9.6.



Where can rainforests be located?



Vocabulary

Biome – a biome is a large region of Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things. The main types are: Tundra, Desert, Grassland, Tropical Rain Forest.

Equator – an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth, equidistant from the North Pole and South Pole.

Tundra – the coldest of all biomes. Tundra comes from the Finnish word 'tunturia', meaning treeless plain. It is noted for its extremely low temperatures, little precipitation, poor nutrients and frosty landscapes.

Eastings – the numbers that run from left to right on a map.

Northings – the numbers that run from South to North on a map.

Cardinal points – the main points on a compass.

Magnitude – measurement of the motion of an earthquake.

