

Knowledge Organiser – Geography – South America – Spring 1

South America



Key Facts

South America is the fourth largest continent. It is made up of twelve different countries and three dependencies. Around 440 million people live there. South America is in the western hemisphere. Most of the continent also belongs to the southern hemisphere. The equator runs through three of its countries: Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador. The tropic of Capricorn passes through Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Chile.

Famous Features

Amazon Rainforest - This is the largest wet tropical forest in the world. Around 60% of it is in Brazil but it spreads across many other countries too. It is also home to one of the longest rivers in the world.



Christ the Redeemer - This statue of Jesus Christ is around 30 metres tall. It was completed in 1931 and stands above the city of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.



Andes Mountains - This mountain range is sometimes called the 'spine of South America' because of its position along the western side of the continent. It is the world's longest mountain range and runs through seven countries.



Atacama Desert - This desert, located in Chile, is known as one of the driest places on earth. Some parts haven't had any rain for hundreds of years!



Climate

South America has four main climate zones: tropical, temperate, arid and cold. More than half of the continent has a tropical climate. Temperate climates are located below the tropic of Capricorn. Arid climates are found throughout the continent, mainly along the western side. Southern parts of Chile and Argentina experience a cold climate; average annual temperatures there are below 10°C.

Did You Know...?

- The most widely-spoken languages in South America are Spanish and Portuguese.
- Almost half of the population of South America lives in Brazil.
- Angel Falls in Venezuela is the highest waterfall in the world.

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