



Geography: Turquoise Class – South America

How diverse is life in South America?

Key Vocabulary	
Population	The total number of people living in a country, city or area
Capital City	The city where the government is located
Tourist	A person who travels to a place for pleasure or to explore
Landlocked	A country whose border has no access to sea
Grid reference	Numbers and letters along the edges of a map to help locate places
Land-use	What the land in a certain area is used for
Rural	Within a town or city
Tropics	The tropics are the region of the Earth surrounding the Equator. The tropics include all the areas on the Earth where the Sun contacts a point directly overhead at least once during the solar year
Equator	an imaginary line around the middle of a planet halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole, at 0 degrees latitude.
Norther Hemisphere	the half of Earth that is north of the Equator
Southern Hemisphere	the half of Earth that is south of the Equator
Climate Zone	The weather changes in different parts of the world. Where there are similar weather patterns this is known as a climate.
Topographical	Topography describes the physical features of an area of land. These features typically include natural formations such as mountains, rivers, lakes, and valleys.



South America	
Population	422.5 million
Size (Area)	17.84 million km ²
Official Language	Portuguese and Spanish
Countries	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela —and the overseas department of French Guiana
Government	presidential republican (most countries)
Climate	Desert , Grassland and Mediterranean .

Key Vocabulary	
Continent	any of the world's main continuous expanses of land (Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Antarctica).
Desert	a waterless, desolate area of land with little or no vegetation
Grassland	a large open area of country covered with grass, especially one used for grazing
Region	an area, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries.
Human features	created by humans, e.g. roads, houses, canals
Physical features	naturally occurring e.g. rivers, mountains
Amazon Basin	the area drained by the River Amazon and all its tributaries
Tropical	Very hot and humid
Slum	A densely populated and run down area of a city, usually associated with poverty
favela	a Brazilian shack or shanty town; a slum.





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South America Key Facts

South America is the 4th biggest continent. The population of South America was recorded at over 387 million in 2010. The average life expectancy of a South American is 75 years.

South American Climate

South America is a huge continent and so the climate can vary depending on where you are. Most of South America is warm for most of the year. The climate is generally tropical so it never gets too cold but there are higher areas where it does get cold and the temperature drops below freezing. 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.

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! On the map to the right, the Atacama is yellow. The orange areas are arid areas, which are also severely dry.

The Andes

The world's longest mountain range. The islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao in the Caribbean Sea, off the coast of Venezuela, are the submerged peaks of the northern Andes Mountains. The highest peak of the mountain range is Aconcagua, which rises to a height of 6962m.

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

The Inca built their ancient city, Machu Picchu, in the Andes.

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.



The Amazon Key facts

The Amazon Rainforest

Rainforests are warm and wet areas.

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world with over half located in Brazil.

Tribes of people still live here with no contact to the outside world.

Deforestation is still an issue in this part of the world.

It is home to roughly 2.5 million different insect species.

20% of the world's bird species live here, such as toucans, hummingbirds and the hoatzin

There are over 40,000 plant species in the rainforest.

Dangerous creatures such as cougars, jaguars and anacondas live there!

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.