



Year 5 Geography Knowledge Organiser: Is Brazil one big rainforest?



Subject Specific Skills

- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
- Locate the world's countries, focus on North & South America
- Identify the position and significance of lines of longitude & latitude

Prior Learning

- Children will have used maps, atlases and globes to locate different places in the world.
- Children should be able to describe some of the key aspects of physical geography including rivers, mountains, volcanoes.

Key Information

South America is a continent in the southern hemisphere. It is surrounded by the Pacific, Atlantic and Southern Oceans. South America has an area of 17,840,000km² and a population of approximately 388 million people. It is the fourth largest continent on Earth. It is home to the world's largest river by volume, the Amazon River, which mainly runs through rainforest rather than towns or cities.

South America is made up of 12 countries and 2 separate territories. The Falkland Islands belong to the UK and French Guiana is part of France. The 12 countries are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guayana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.

There are lots of different languages that are spoken in South America. A lot of the main languages came to South America when it was settled by Europeans which began in the 15th century. The main spoken languages are Spanish and Portuguese.

Climate Zones: There are several different climates in South America depending on where they are. They vary from hot, tropical climates to cold, snowy climates. Some parts of South America are on the equator. Places by the equator are the warmest places on Earth but they can be wet or dry depending on where they are. Other parts of South America are nearer the Antarctic so they are colder. A large part of South America has a tropical wet climate. The rainforests of Brazil have this type of climate (which only occurs near the equator). Rainforests have rain every day and are very hot and humid. Some countries of South America, such as Argentina, have areas with a more temperate climate. However, because they are in the southern hemisphere, their summer months are from December to February and their winter lasts from May to September. The climate in Argentina ranges from subtropical areas in the north to icy glaciers in the south.

Key physical features : River: Amazon (river with greatest volume of water in world) , Mountain range: Andes (longest in world) , Largest lake: Titicaca Desert: Atacama (driest in world), Rainforests Volcanoes

Key human features: Christ the Redeemer (statue in Rio), Machu Picchu (Inca citadel in Peru), Salt Cathedral (Colombia), Reed Islands (Peru), Merida cable car (Venezuela)

Most populated countries: Brazil – 210 million people, Colombia – 49million people, Argentina – 44 million people, Peru – 32 million people, Venezuela – 32 million people

Key Vocabulary

Equator: An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth at an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole

Human feature: A man-made feature of a place

Physical feature: A natural feature of a place

Climate: The usual weather conditions of a place

Coast: Where the land meets the sea

Capital city: City where the government of a country is based

Lake: A large area of fresh water surrounded by land

Mountain range: A group of connected mountains

Rainforest: A forest that receives a large amount of rain all year round

Desert: An area that receives very little rain

Northern hemisphere : The half of the Earth that is north of the Equator

Southern hemisphere: The half of the Earth that is south of the Equator

Environmental region: Areas of land with similar environments / physical features

Land-use: The way that land is used eg: farming

Natural resources: Natural materials that can be used or sold by people eg: oil, wood, minerals

Population : The people that live in a place

Tropical: Hot and humid

Fertile: Land that is good for growing plants

Key Individual:



Sir Francis Drake

