



Location

South America is the fourth-largest continent in the world. It is the fifth most populous continent in the world; over half of those people live in Brazil.

The equator cuts through the continent. Most of South America is in the southern hemisphere.

Most of the people live on the east and west coasts; the southern coast and centre of the continent are sparsely populated.



Longest rivers

- Amazon
- Parana
- Madeira



River Amazon

Tallest mountains

- Aconcagua – Argentina
- Ojos del Salado – Argentina and Chile
- Monte Pissis – Argentina



Aconcagua

Key vocabulary

Amazon River – the longest river in South America. It flows through Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil.

Continent – very large land mass: Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australasia, North America and South America are the continents.

Equator – an imaginary line around the middle of the earth at an equal distance from the North and South Poles.

Rainforest – a forest which receives a large amount of rain all year round.

Time zones – these are imaginary lines which run north to south. Places East of the UK are ahead of UK time. Countries to the West of the UK are behind UK time.

Climate – is the average type of weather found in a region over the last 30 years or more.

Biomes – is an area with similar climate, landscape, plants and animals in it.

Vegetation belt – this is the plant life found within a biome.

Brazil

Brazil is by far the largest and most populous country in South America. It is also the 5th largest country in the world. The main language is Portuguese and the largest city is Sao Paulo. Rio de Janeiro is the most well-known city. Brazilians are known to love samba dancing and football.

Countries of South America

There are 12 countries in South America, and a further 4 states that are listed as dependencies of other nations.

Top 3 largest countries in South America by area

1. Brazil – Brasilia
2. Argentina – Buenos Aires
3. Peru - Lima

Peru

Peru is located on the western side of South America. It has a very diverse landscape, ranging from arid plains to the Andes Mountains. Peru is known for being the centre of the Incan empire – the Incan ruins of Machu Picchu remain a major tourist attraction today. The national language is Spanish.

Argentina

Argentina is located in the southern half of South America. The climate varies greatly from north to south.