

St Saviour's Catholic Primary and Nursery School



Subject: Geography

Topic: South America

Year: 6

What should I already know?

- Understanding of the lines of longitude, latitude and the four hemispheres.
- There are three main mountain ranges in North and South America: The Andes in South America, and the Rockies and Appalachians in North America.

What am I going to learn?

- South America is located in the Western Hemisphere. It is also almost entirely in the Southern Hemisphere, but some parts cross into the Northern Hemisphere.
- Scientists believe South America and Africa were once joined millions of years ago.
- Some of the countries in South America include Brazil, Chile and Argentina.
- The Inca Empire covered land in many South American countries.
- The Inca overcame the challenge of geography to build an empire covering deserts, rainforests and mountains.
- The highest point of the Andes Mountain range is Mount Aconcagua. There are volcanic zones in the Andes mountains.
- The Atacama Desert is one of the driest places in the world.
- A large proportion of land in Brazil is dedicated to farming of crops and animals.
- Brazil grows cotton, coffee, fruit and sugar cane for export.
- Brazil is the largest energy consumer in South America. It also produces coal, oil and hydroelectric power.
- The Amazon Rainforest has more species of plants and animals within it than any other rainforest in the world.
- Deforestation and forest fires are a threat to the biodiversity of the rainforest. Due to the large stores of carbon within the rainforest, its destruction would have global impact.

Vocabulary

Pangea- a supercontinent that broke apart 175 million years ago forming the continents we recognise today.

Rainforest- a dense forest, rich in biodiversity, that is often found in tropical areas and receives high levels of rainfall.

Subduction zone- an area where one tectonic plate is being forced under another, often creating mountain ranges.

Altitude- the height of a location, often relative to sea level.

Plateau- a flat area of land with high altitude.

Deforestation- the process of removing forest.

Biodiversity- the variety of plants and animals within a habitat.



Useful Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zp9sydm>

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/South-America/353792>