

Year 6 Geography *South America*

Lesson Sequence: 12 hours

1. An introduction to South America-Text-South America Comprehension
2. Past civilisations and empires-Text-Inca Comprehension
3. The Andes Mountains and the Atacama Desert
4. Brazil (Agriculture and Industry)
5. The Amazon Rainforest
6. Assessment-Extended writing-A report on South America

National Curriculum Coverage:

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- describe and understand key aspects of:
 - physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
 - human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

Curriculum Intent Links - Justice & Wisdom 2 b (i, ii, iii)

Developing an understanding that wealth is unevenly distributed around the world

Local Links

What do we import from South America?



Think like a geographer by
Naming and locating an extensive range of places in the world including globally and topically significant features and events.
Recognising patterns in human and physical features and understanding some of the conditions, processes or changes which influence these patterns.
Explaining some links and interactions between people, places and environments.
Interpreting a wider range of geographical information and maps including scale, projections, thematic, and digital maps.
Communicating geographical information using a wide range of methods including writing at increasing length.
Making predictions and test simple hypotheses about people, places and geographical issues.
Developing their views and attitudes to critically evaluate responses to local geographical issues or global issues and events.
Asking and responding to questions that are more causal e.g. What happened in the past to cause that? How is it likely to change in the future?

• Key Content

- The countries on the continent of South America are Panama, Columbia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay, Suriname, Guyana.
- The Spanish and Portuguese established colonies in South America. Many South American countries speak Spanish and Portuguese languages.
- The Amazon Rainforest stretches across nine different countries in South America, including Brazil, Chile and Peru. It has the largest number of different species of plants and animals living there, of any rainforest in the world. It is also the largest tropical rainforest in the world.
- 34 million people live within the Amazon Rainforest and depend on the resources within it.
- Parts of the Amazon Rainforest have suffered from deforestation. The WWF (World Wildlife Fund) estimates that 27% of the Amazon biome will be without trees by 2030 if current rates of deforestation continue.
- The Andes are the longest mountain range in the world. There are different climates within the Andes mountains, tropical climates around the forests and cloud forests, but also dry parts such as the Atacama Desert which is 100 miles wide and 625 miles long and is very cold and dry.
- The Atacama Desert is the driest, non-polar region on earth. It has been semi-arid for the last 150 million years. The desert does not experience high temperatures, on average temperatures are around 18 degrees. The Andes Mountains block rainfall from the east of the desert, and cold water from the Pacific Ocean to the west creates atmospheric conditions that prevent sea water evaporating. This means clouds and rain cannot be formed.
- The Amazon River has a thousand tributaries and its drainage basin is the largest in the world.

Knowledge Organiser- Year 6 Geography – South America



Key Vocabulary	Definition
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 that receive high levels of rainfall.
Subduction Zone	An area where one tectonic plate is being forced under another, often creating mountain ranges.
Plateau	A flat area of land with high altitude.
Altitude	The height of a location, often relative to sea level.
Deforestation	The process of removing forest.
Biodiversity	The variety of plants and animals within a habitat.

The Inca Empire

Location	Dates	Places	Language and Communication
The Inca Empire spread along the pacific coast from Ecuador to Chile.	Began in 1100 CE Reached its height in 1530 Declined in 1535	Cuzco- the Inca Capital located in Peru built in the shape of a puma Machu Picchu- high in the Andes mountains	Quechua (Ketch-wah) the single Inca language, spread across the empire, to encourage clarity of communication. Quipu: lengths of knotted string, used to keep records and pass messages around the empire.

