

Year 5 Geography

South America

Key Learning



There are 12 countries in South America. These include Argentina, Chile, Peru and Brazil.

South America is in the southern hemisphere. This means it is in the southern half of the world.



Over 400 million people live in South America - that's a lot of people!

The five official languages spoken in many South American countries are Spanish, Portuguese, English, French and Dutch.

The Amazon Rainforest

- Rainforests are warm and wet areas.
- The Amazon Rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world with more than half located in Brazil. It is full of wildlife.
- Tribes of people still live in some areas of the rainforest with no contact with the outside world.
- 20% of the world's bird species live here, such as toucans, hummingbirds and the hoatzin.



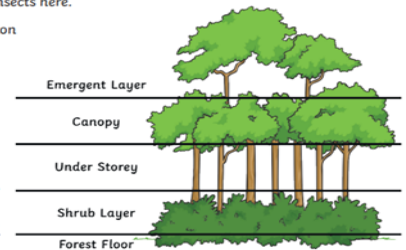
The Amazon River

- 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.



Layers of the Amazon Forest

- **Emergent Layer** - It's sunny here because it's the highest point. Only the tallest trees reach this level. You would find butterflies, bats, insects, monkeys and many birds here.
- **Canopy Layer** - Most trees of the forest grow to this height. Certain plants grow at this level but their roots don't reach the ground; these are called air plants. You would find toucans, snakes, orangutans, sloths, parrots, lizards and many insects here.
- **Understorey Layer** - Vegetation and vines can be found here and it's very dark. Here you would find bugs, jaguars, poison dart frogs and kinkajous.
- **Forest Floor** - A damp and dark part of the forest. Look out for tapirs and wild boar.
- **In the Water** - Beware of electric eels, anacondas and piranhas in the water here!



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.

Key Vocabulary

destruction	The action or process of causing so much damage to something that it no longer exists or cannot be prepared.
Vegetation	Plants found in a particular area or habitat.
deforestation	The action of clearing wide areas of trees.
endangered	When a species is at serious risk of becoming extinct it is considered endangered.
extinction	When a species, family or other group no longer exist.