

South America

South America is the world's 4th largest continent. It sits below North America



and is surrounded by the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The population of South America is approximately 423 million and this continues to grow each year. There are 12 countries in South America. The largest country is Brazil which takes up almost half of the land area and population of the whole continent.

Climate

The weather in South America varies a great deal because it is such a large continent. Most of the continent is warm for the majority of the year. It rarely gets too cold except in higher, mountainous areas where the temperature can drop below freezing.

South America has a tropical climate and most of the continent receives plenty of rain each year. However, there are some places that are actually the driest areas on Earth.

Natural Wonders

There are many natural wonders in South America.

The Amazon Rainforest – this is the largest tropical rainforest in the world and is home to thousands of species of wildlife. More than half of the rainforest is located in Brazil.



The Amazon River – this is the second longest river in the world and runs for approximately 4000 miles.

The Atacama Desert – this is the driest desert in the world and is 600 miles long. It is in Chile which sits on the west coast of South America.

The Andes – this is the world's longest mountain range and stretches across many South American countries. The highest peak is Aconcagua which is 6962m tall.

Cape Horn – this is a narrow piece of rocky land that sits off the southern tip of South America where the Pacific and Atlantic oceans meet.

Did You Know...?

Brazil is so big that it is almost the same size as the whole of the USA!



Questions

1. South America is... Tick **one**.

- ☐ a country
- ☐ a capital city
- ☐ a continent
- ☐ an ocean

2. How many countries are in South America? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 4
- ☐ 12
- ☐ 423
- ☐ 600

3. What is the largest country in South America?

4. Explain in your own words how the climate in South America varies.

5. Draw lines to match the names of these natural wonders to the fact about them:

The Amazon River

this landmark is 600 miles long

The Andes

this is a thin piece of rocky land

The Atacama Desert

this is approximately 4000 miles long

The Amazon Rainforest

Aconagua is this landmark's highest peak

Cape Horn

more than half of this is located in Brazil

6. What country is the Atacama Desert in?

7. How tall is Aconcagua? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 6296m
- ☐ 9629m
- ☐ 2969m
- ☐ 6962m

Answers

1. South America is... Tick **one**.

- ☐ a country
- ☐ a capital city
- ☒ **a continent**
- ☐ an ocean

2. How many countries are in South America? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 4
- ☒ **12**
- ☐ 423
- ☐ 600

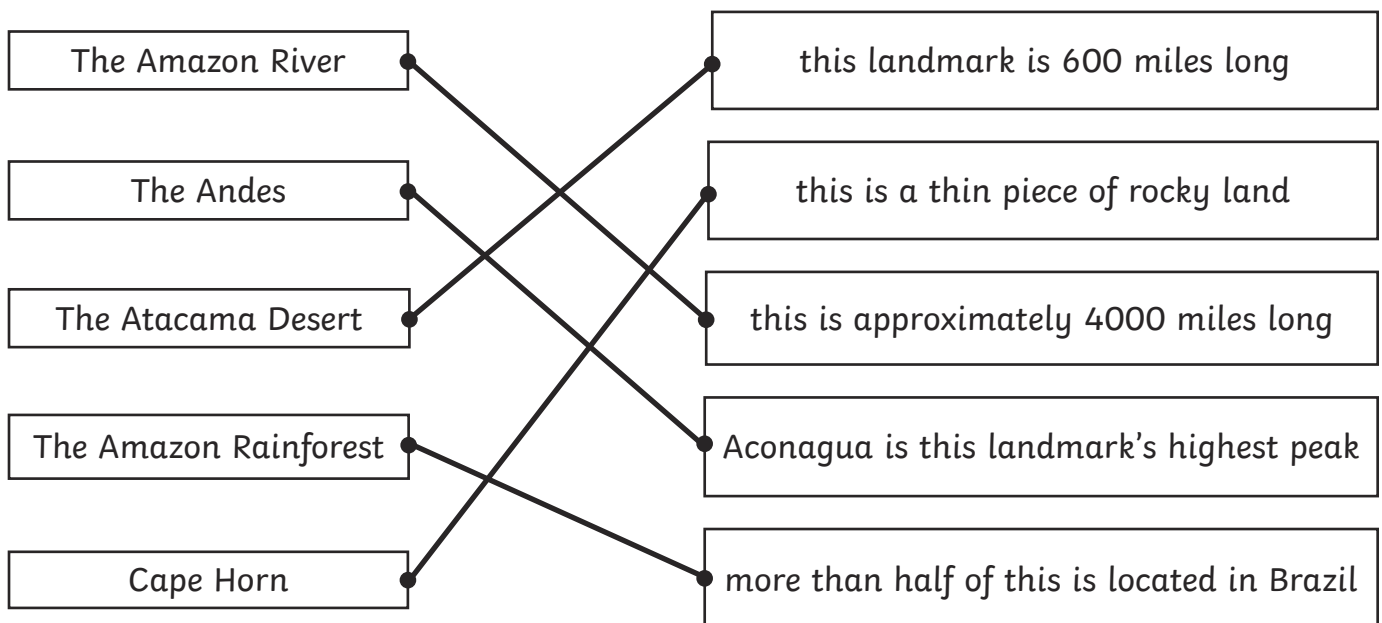
3. What is the largest country in South America?

Brazil

4. Explain in your own words how the climate in South America varies.

Pupil's own response, such as: The climate in South America varies because it is such a large continent. Although most of the country is warm, the mountainous areas can get very cold and temperatures can drop to below freezing. Some areas receive plenty of rainfall whereas other areas are the driest on Earth.

5. Draw lines to match the names of these natural wonders to the fact about them:



6. What country is the Atacama Desert in?

The Atacama Desert is in Chile.

7. How tall is Aconcagua? Tick **one**.

☐ 6296m

☐ 9629m

☐ 2969m

☒ **6962m**

South America

South America, the world's 4th largest continent, sits below North America and is surrounded by the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The population of South America is approximately 423 million and this continues to grow each year. There are 12 countries in South America, the largest of which is Brazil which takes up almost half of the land area and population of the whole continent. In fact, Brazil is almost the same size as the USA! Suriname is the smallest South American country.

The 12 countries in South America are:
Argentina, Bolivia,
Brazil, Chile, Colombia,
Ecuador, Guyana,
Paraguay, Peru,
Suriname, Uruguay
and Venezuela.



Climate

The weather in South America varies a great deal from country to country because it is such a large continent. For the majority of the year, most of the continent is warm. It rarely gets too cold except in higher, mountainous areas, such as the Andes, where the temperature can drop below freezing.

Did You Know...?

Portuguese is spoken by the most people in South America but it is only spoken in Brazil. Spanish is the most common language in the rest of South America.



Due to its tropical climate, most of South America receives plenty of rainfall each year. However, there are some places that are actually the driest areas on Earth, such as the Atacama Desert in Chile.

Natural Wonders

The Amazon Rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world and is home to thousands of species of wildlife. More than half of the rainforest is located in Brazil. Tribes of people still live in some areas of the rainforest and have little or no contact with the outside world.



The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world and runs for approximately 4000 miles. Unlike other rivers in the world, no bridges cross the river at any point.

The Andes are the world's longest mountain range and they stretch across many South American countries. The highest peak is Aconcagua which is in Argentina and stands at 6962m tall.

Cape Horn is a narrow piece of rocky land (a headland) that sits off the southern tip of South America where the Pacific and Atlantic oceans meet.

Angel Falls, in Venezuela, are the world's highest waterfalls and drop for 979 metres.



Did You Know...?

The Incas were the largest group of native people in South America. The Incan Empire lasted for about 100 years and they famously built the ancient city Machu Picchu in the Andes.



Questions

1. Which two oceans surround South America?

2. What is the smallest country in South America? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Brazil
- ☐ Chile
- ☐ Suriname
- ☐ Venezuela

3. Why do you think that Portuguese is spoken by more people in South America than Spanish?

4. In what parts of South America does the temperature sometimes drop below freezing?

5. What sort of climate does most of South America have? Tick **one**.

- ☐ polar
- ☐ Mediterranean
- ☐ dry
- ☐ tropical

6. Explain in your own words why it is important to protect the Amazon Rainforest.

7. How long is the Amazon River? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 4000 miles
- ☐ 6962m
- ☐ 40km
- ☐ 400 miles

8. What is Cape Horn? Tick **one**.

- ☐ a mountain
- ☐ a river
- ☐ a headland
- ☐ a rainforest

Answers

1. Which two oceans surround South America?

South America is surrounded by the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

2. What is the smallest country in South America? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Brazil
- ☐ Chile
- ☒ **Suriname**
- ☐ Venezuela

3. Why do you think that Portuguese is spoken by more people in South America than Spanish?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Portuguese is spoken by more people than Spanish because Brazil is such a large country and has almost half of the population of the whole continent.

4. In what parts of South America does the temperature sometimes drop below freezing?

Accept either:

- in the mountainous areas**
- in the Andes**

5. What sort of climate does most of South America have? Tick **one**.

- ☐ polar
- ☐ Mediterranean
- ☐ dry
- ☒ **tropical**

6. Explain in your own words why it is important to protect the Amazon Rainforest.

Pupil's own response, such as: It is important to protect the Amazon rainforest because thousands of different species of wildlife and tribes of people live there so if the rainforest was destroyed, so would the homes of many animals and groups of people.

7. How long is the Amazon River? Tick **one**.

- ☒ **4000 miles**
- ☐ 6962m
- ☐ 40km
- ☐ 400 miles

8. What is Cape Horn? Tick **one**.

- ☐ a mountain
- ☐ a river
- ☒ **a headland**
- ☐ a rainforest

South America

There are seven continents in the world and South America is the 4th largest. It sits below North America and is surrounded by the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The population of South America is approximately 423 million and this continues to grow rapidly. There are 12 sovereign countries in South America, the largest of which is Brazil which takes up almost half of the land area and population of the whole continent. In fact, Brazil is almost the same size as the USA! Suriname is the smallest South American country and is one of the 10 most sparsely populated countries in the world.



Due to the size of the continent, the weather in South America varies a great deal from country to country. The majority of the continent is warm all year round and rarely gets too cold. However, in higher, mountainous areas, such as the Andes, the temperature can drop below freezing. South America has a mainly tropical climate and therefore, most of South America receives plenty of rainfall each year. Surprisingly however, there are some places that are actually considered to be the driest areas on Earth. One such place is the Atacama Desert in Chile which receives less than 1mm of rainfall each year.

Natural Wonders

South America is a vast and varied continent and there are a great deal of natural wonders to behold. The Amazon Rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world and is located in 9 different countries. More than half of the rainforest is located in Brazil. Tribes of people still live in some areas of the rainforest and



have little or no contact with the outside world. It is even thought that there are groups of people living here that have not even been discovered yet. The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world and runs for approximately 4000 miles. Unlike other rivers in the world, no bridges cross the river at any point.

The Andes are the world's longest mountain range and they stretch across many South American countries. The indigenous Incas built the ancient city of Machu Picchu in the Andes and millions of people climb to visit it each year.



Cape Horn is a headland that sits off the southern tip of South America where the Pacific and Atlantic oceans meet. It is believed to be the most treacherous sailing route on the planet. Angel Falls, in Venezuela, are the world's highest waterfalls and drop for 979 metres. They are named after Jimmie Angel, a US pilot, who was the first person ever to fly over the falls in the 1930s.

Did You Know...?

Even though Portuguese is spoken by the most people in South America (it is the main language of Brazil), the most common language in South America is Spanish. This is due to the colonisation of many South American countries by Spain and Portugal in the 15th century.



Glossary

sovereign – a country that governs and rules itself

sparsely – a very small amount

colonisation – to take over a country or its people

indigenous – the first people

headland – a narrow piece of rocky land that projects into the sea

Questions

1. Order the seven continents from what you think is the largest to the smallest.

largest



smallest

Oceania
Europe
South America
Asia
North America
Antarctica
Africa

2. Why do you think Spanish is the most common language of South America? Explain your answer.

3. Which country is one of the 10 most sparsely populated countries in the world? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Brazil
☐ Suriname
☐ Venezuela
☐ Portugal

4. Would you like to sail past Cape Horn? Explain your answer fully using evidence from the text.

5. In which country is most of the Amazon rainforest located? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Chile
☐ Venezuela
☐ Brazil
☐ Argentina

6. What did the Incas build in the Andes?

7. Who are the Angel Falls name after?

8. If you were to visit South America, what two natural wonders would you like to see and why? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers

1. Order the seven continents from what you think is the largest to the smallest.

Asia
Africa
North America
South America
Antarctica
Europe
Oceania

largest



smallest

Oceania
Europe
South America
Asia
North America
Antarctica
Africa

Award the mark ONLY if South America has been put as the 4th largest continent.

2. Why do you think Spanish is the most common language of South America? Explain your answer.

Pupil's own response such as: I think Spanish is the most common language in South America because the text says many South American countries were colonised by Spain and Portugal in the 15th century, and as these countries speak Spanish, they would have brought their language to those South American countries.

3. Which country is one of the 10 most sparsely populated countries in the world? Tick **one**

- ☐ Brazil
☒ **Suriname**
☐ Venezuela
☐ Portugal

4. Would you like to sail past Cape Horn? Explain your answer fully using evidence from the text.

Pupils own response that refers to the text, such as: I would not like to sail past Cape Horn because the text says it is thought to be the most treacherous sailing route on the planet, which means it is very dangerous, and I wouldn't like to put myself in danger like that.

5. In which country is most of the Amazon rainforest located? Tick **one**

- ☐ Chile
☐ Venezuela
☒ **Brazil**
☐ Argentina

6. What did the Incas build in the Andes?

In Incas built Machu Picchu.

7. Who are the Angel Falls name after?

The Angel Falls are named after Jimmie Angel.

8. If you were to visit South America, what two natural wonders would you like to see and why? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: I would like to see the Amazon rainforest because I would like to see some different species of wildlife or even meet a new tribe of people. I would also like to see Machu Picchu because it is an ancient city which the indigenous people of South America built which would be fascinating to see.