

Important facts

- South America is the fourth-largest continent in the world. It covers about 17.8 million km². It lies completely in the western hemisphere.
- It is the fifth-most populous continent in the world – it has a population of around 420 million people (although over half of these people live in Brazil).
- It is surrounded by the Pacific, Atlantic and Southern oceans.
- The Equator cuts through the continent.
- South America is made up of 12 countries and 2 separate territories (The Falkland Islands belong to the UK and French Guiana is part of France)
- The 12 countries are: **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.**



Key Vocabulary

capital city	The city where the government sits. Buenos Aires in the capital city of Argentina.
civil war	A war between citizens of the same country.
climate	The general weather conditions that are typical of a place.
coastal	An area close to the sea.
compass points	Any of the main points of a compass e.g. north, south-east, etc.
equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the earth at an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole.
indigenous people	Inheritors of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment.
populous	Has a large population or is densely populated.
temperate	A place which is never extremely hot or extremely cold.
tourist	A person who is visiting a place for pleasure or interest, especially when they are on holiday.

Brazil



Brazil is by far the largest and most populous country in South America. It is also the 5th largest country in the world, by both area and population. The official language is Portuguese, and the most populous city is Sao Paulo. Rio de Janeiro harbour is its most famous landmark. Brazilians are known for samba dancing and a love of football.

Argentina



Argentina is a country located in the southern half of South America. Argentina is the 8th largest country in the world by area, and the largest Spanish-speaking country. Argentina endured a long fight for independence with Spanish invaders in the 19th century, followed by a painful civil war. The climate in Argentina varies hugely from north to south.

Colombia



Colombia is a country in the north-west of South America. Colombia has been inhabited by indigenous peoples since at least 12,000 BCE. However, the Spanish arrived in 1499 and conquered much of the region. As a result, the national language is Spanish. Much of the population live in the highlands.

Peru



Peru is a country on the western side of South America. It has a diverse landscape, ranging from arid plains to the Andes mountains. Peru is known for being the centre of the Inca Empire – the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu remain a major tourist attraction today. The national language in Peru is Spanish.

Largest S. American countries

1. Brazil– 8.5 million km²
2. Argentina – 2.8 million km²
3. Peru – 1.3 million km²
4. Colombia – 1.15 million km²
5. Bolivia – 1.1 million km²