

Important facts

- South America is a continent in the southern hemisphere. It is surrounded by the Pacific, Atlantic and Southern oceans.
- Most of the people live on the east and west coasts; the southern coast and centre of the continent are sparsely populated.
- The physical geography of South America varies greatly.



Key Vocabulary

Capital city	The city where the government sits. Buenos Aires in the capital city of Argentina.
climate	The general weather conditions that are typical of a place.
colonisation	A group or community settling among and establishing control over the indigenous people of an area.
coastal	An area close to the sea.
compass points	Any of the main points of a compass e.g. north, south-east, etc.
deforestation	Clearing a wide area of trees.
equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the earth at an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole.
Illegal logging	When timber is harvested, transported, processed, bought or sold in violation of national laws
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.
tropics	Part of the world that lie between two lines of latitude. The tropics have a humid climate, where the weather is hot and damp.

Human Geographical Features

Deforestation

The Amazon Rainforest has been rapidly destroyed over the past 50 years. Nearly 800,000 km² of rainforest has been lost. The main causes are agriculture, illegal logging, and human encroachment into the forest.



Colonisation

Throughout the 16th-17th centuries, European settlers (mainly from Portugal and Spain, but also the French, Dutch and British) invaded and colonised South America. South Americans still speak European languages today.



Physical Geographical Features

- There is a range of landscapes including the Amazon river, the Atacama desert, Galapagos islands, Machu Pichu, waterfalls and rainforests.
- There are different climate types throughout South America.



Machu Picchu



Atacama Desert



Amazon Rainforest

Most populous S. American countries

1. Brazil – 210 million people
2. Colombia – 49 million people
3. Argentina – 44 million people
4. Peru – 32 million people
5. Venezuela – 32 million people