

Y4 Knowledge Organiser Geography: South America – The Amazon

South America

South America is made up of 12 countries.

South America has the widest river in the world – the Amazon.

Brazil is the largest country.

The world's longest mountain range – the Andes – runs along South America's western side

The world's driest desert – the Atacama – is in Chile

Know that Machu Picchu is the name of an abandoned stone city built by the Incas. It is a popular place to visit in the Andes Mountains in Peru



The Equator

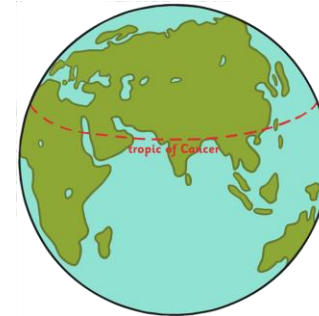
The **equator** is an imaginary line that divides the Earth in half. The equator is an equal distance between the North and South Poles.

The weather on the equator is hot all year round. At the equator, day and night are both 12 hours long. The time it takes for the sun to set and rise at the equator is the fastest on Earth. The change from day to night takes only a few minutes.



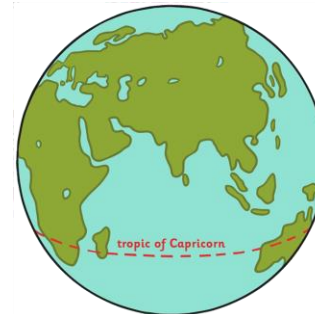
Tropic of Cancer

The **tropic of Cancer** is an imaginary line in the northern hemisphere. It is the exact location where the sun is overhead on June 21. It is the beginning of summer in the **Northern Hemisphere** and the beginning of winter in the **Southern Hemisphere**. This day is called the solstice. In Latin 'cancer' means crab!



Tropic of Capricorn

The **tropic of Capricorn** is an imaginary line in the southern hemisphere. It is the opposite of the tropic of Cancer. **Capricorn** is the location where the sun is overhead on 21 December. It is the beginning of winter in the **Northern Hemisphere** and the beginning of summer in the **Southern Hemisphere**. This happens once a year in December. This day is also called the **solstice**.



Key Vocab

Rainforest	A forest of broad-leaved evergreen trees that receives high annual rainfall
Solstice	When the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at noon, marked by the longest and shortest days
Deforestation	The clearing of large areas of forest lands which are never replanted
Agriculture	Another word for farming
Northern hemisphere	Everything north of the Equator
Southern hemisphere	Everything south of the Equator
Species	A group of animals, plants or other living things that all share common characteristics
Biome	Areas of our planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants.

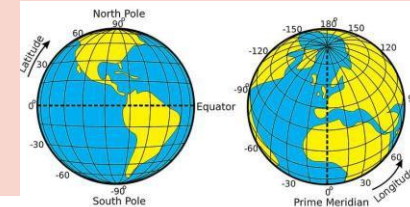
What is latitude and longitude?

To help locate where a place is in the world, people use imaginary lines:

To find out how far north or south a place is, **lines of latitude** are used. These lines run parallel to the **equator**.

To find out how far east or west a place is, **lines of longitude** are used.

These lines run from the top of the Earth to the bottom.



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Brazil

Brazil is the biggest country in South America. The capital is Brasilia.



Sao Paulo in Brazil is the biggest city in the whole of South America .

The second largest city is Rio de Janeiro (or Rio for short) and is one of the most famous cities in the world.

Most of Brazil is in the **Southern Hemisphere**. The Brazilian winter lasts for only three months (roughly June to August) then summer arrives from around December until February.

Agriculture is an important industry in Brazil and grows lots of food that is exported around the world. Brazil is responsible for about a third of all coffee grown in the world.

Rio de Janeiro

Human Features

Tijuca Forest is a hand-planted **rainforest**.

Christ the Redeemer statue is situated in Tijuca Forest and is a religious **statue** that stands on top of Corcovado Mountain.



Physical Features

Sugarloaf Mountain is a peak located at the mouth of Guanabara Bay. It is nearly 400 metres high.

Copacabana beach is 4km in length.



Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon **rainforest** is the largest tropical rainforest in the world. It covers part of 9 different countries with over half of it located in Brazil. It's so big that the United Kingdom and Ireland could fit in it 17 times. Tropical rainforests contain far more species of plants and animals than any other **biome**.

Tribes of people still live here with no contact to the outside world.

Deforestation is still an issue in this part of the world.

It is home to roughly 2.5 million different insect **species**.

Many different species of bird live here such as toucans, hummingbirds and the Hyacinth Macaw.

There are over 40,000 plant species in the rainforest.

Dangerous creatures such as cougars, jaguars and anacondas live there.

Deforestation

What is deforestation?

Deforestation means the clearing of large areas of forest lands which are never re-planted. Trees are cut down for many reasons including:

- To be sold as wood. This is called logging.
- To be used for farming.
- To make room for houses or roads

Why does it matter?

Rainforests are often known as the 'lungs of the Earth'. The trees absorb harmful carbon dioxide and produce 20% of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere. 25% of medicines come from plants found in the rainforest.

What are the effects of deforestation?

Lack of biodiversity: The number of different species becomes smaller.

Soil erosion: Tree roots help hold the soil and prevent it being washed away. Without trees, the soil is washed into rivers and streams, blocking them, causing flooding and contaminated drinking water.

Droughts: Trees are an important part of the water cycle. Without them, there will be a lack of rain.

Habitat loss: Animals and plants lose their home so some may become endangered or extinct.

Climate change: Scientists believe deforestation has a worldwide effect on climate.