

Alverton School Geography Knowledge Organiser Years 3 and 4 - South America

Prior knowledge:

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Key Vocabulary	
Continents	A large landmass containing several countries.
Country	A nation occupying a territory.
Biome	Large regions of the world sharing similar climate, vegetation and animal species.
Arid	having little or no rain; too dry or <u>barren</u> to support <u>vegetation</u> .
Equator	an imaginary line around the middle of a planet.
Tropics	The area of the planet either side of the Equator between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
Climate	the average weather conditions of a place over a 30 year + period.
Hemisphere	Half of the Earth, usually divided by the Equator
Physical feature	Something formed by nature.
Human Feature	Something formed by humans.

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South America is a continent that is mostly in the Southern Hemisphere. There are 12 countries in South America as well as a variety of biomes.

South America is home to the longest river in South America - the Amazon. The Amazon Basin is the part of South America drained by the Amazon River and its branches.

Rainforests are home to over half the species of plants and animals in the world and are a fantastic source of foods and medicines. A rainforest has many layers of vegetation (plants) growing within it. All of these plants grow to different heights and create layers within the rainforest.

## Core Knowledge

A biome is a large area characterised by its vegetation, soil, climate, and wildlife. Tropical wet climates have high rainfall and warm annual temperatures.

There are a wide range of physical and human geographical features in South America.

The rainforests are under threat because of a growth in population, demand for tropical hardwoods as well as cattle grazing.

