



**An Amazon Adventure  
Term 4  
Year Five**

**Main content: South America**

South America is the fourth largest continent in size and the fifth largest in population. It is located mainly in the southern hemisphere. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The physical geography of South America is dominated by the Andes Mountain Range and the Amazon River. South America's biggest country is Brazil, where the Amazon rainforest is located.

**Key Skills**

- Ask geographical questions.
- Analyse evidence and draw conclusions.
- Find patterns and suggest reasons for them.
- Collect and record evidence in different ways.
- Explain views about a place.
- Give increasing detail, justification and reasons that may influence these views.
- Communicate findings in ways appropriate to the purpose, task and audience.
- Use geographical vocabulary.

**Prior knowledge / Key Knowledge**

7 Continents	Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, Oceania (Australasia)
5 oceans	Arctic, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern
12 independent countries	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela
Major cities (In descending order of population)	Sao Paulo (Brazil –largest city in South America) Bogotá (Colombia -capital) Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) Santiago (Chile) Buenos Aires (Argentina)
Key physical features	River: Amazon (river with greatest volume of water in world) Mountain range: Andes (longest in world) Largest lake: Titicaca Rainforests Volcanoes Desert: Atacama (driest in world)
Key human features	Christ the Redeemer (statue in Rio) Machu Picchu (Inca citadel in Peru) Salt Cathedral (Colombia) Reed Islands (Peru) Merida cable car (Venezuela)
Environmental regions (Very varied)	Pampas –fertile lowland Atacama desert –driest desert in world Amazon basin –rainforest Patagonia –windy, bare, has southernmost city in the world

**Vocabulary**

Equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the earth at an equal distance from the north pole and the south pole.
Northern hemisphere	The half of the earth that is north of the equator.
Southern hemisphere	The half of the earth that is south of the equator.
Environmental region	Ares of land with similar environments/physical features
Land use	The way land is used.
Natural resources	Natural materials that can be used or sold by people e.g. wood, minerals.
Population	The people that live in a place.
Tropical	Hot and humid
Fertile	Land that is good for growing plants
Rainforest	A forest that receives a large amount of rain all year round.
Human/physical features	A man made or natural feature of a place.
Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn	Two imaginary lines that circle the globe mark the boundaries of the tropics. The line called the Tropic of Cancer marks the northern edge. Its latitude (distance from the Equator) is 23°27' N. The line called the Tropic of Capricorn marks the southern edge.
Longitude and latitude	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.

**Big Questions / Challenging Perceptions**

Who has a better childhood – a child in Thame or a child in the Amazon rainforest? Examine and discuss the roles of different people living in South America and in the Rainforest – how do they compare to our lives in UK? What is the impact of the environment on everyday life?