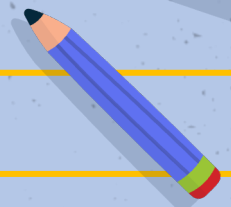
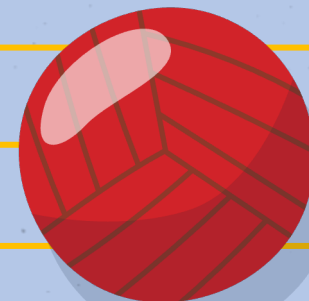
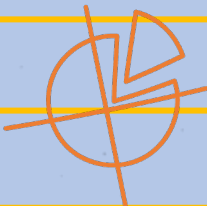
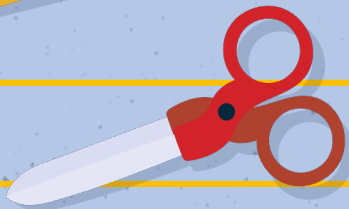
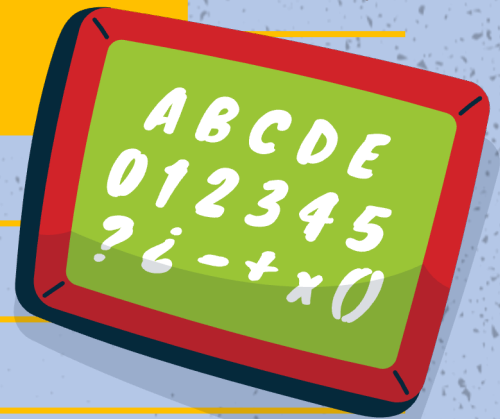


What Do You Already Know About South America?

INVESTIGATE



3.7

Physical Geography of South America



As a Young Geographer, I will be able to...

- **Analyze the landforms of South America**
- **Compare the water systems to Central America & Mexico**
- **Identify the importance of natural resources in the region**

Landforms

South America spans 4,700 miles from north to south, passing through the equator.

One of the defining characteristics of the region are the mountains, especially the Andes Mountain chain

Cordillera- Parallel chains or ranges of mountains, The Andes mountains contain these along with parts of the Rocky Mountains

The Andes circle the **Altiplano- Region in Peru & Bolivia encircled by the Andes**

Subregion Landforms

Southern Argentina includes hills & flatlands that form the plateau of Patagonia

This area has valleys, glaciers, fjords, climates are cool & volcanic soil proves to be good for agriculture

The Amazon Basin is the lowland area drained by the Amazon River

The Mato Grosso Plateau is a sparsely populated plateau of forests.

The Brazilian Highlands is a region of warm climates & wide space which are used for livestock farming



Continued Regions

The Eastern Highlands plunge into the Atlantic creating an **escarpment**- a steep cliff or slope between a higher & lower land surface

Llanos- Fertile grasslands of Colombia & Venezuela

Pampas- The grassy, treeless plains of southern South America in Argentina & Uruguay

Gauchos drive cattle across this region, which also serves as one of the world's breadbaskets for wheat & corn

Water Systems

Water systems in the region help transport goods & people

The world's 2nd longest river, The Amazon River, flows about 4,000 miles through the center of South America

The Parana, Paraguay, & Uruguay Rivers form the second-largest river system in Latin America

Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela & Lake Titicaca are the largest lakes in the region, Lake Titicaca being the highest in the world



Climate, Biomes, & Resources

South America is home to many diverse climates due to the equator & location of mountains

The Andes Mountains hold a cold climate due to their heights, even though they pass through the equator

The tierra templada is the temperate climates zones & the tierra fria is the colder climate in the Andes

The tierra helada & the puna are the highest zones located over the tree line. Made up of ice & snow

El Nino & The Amazon

The El Nino climate phenomenon creates warm ocean conditions on the west coast

Tropical Rainforests & tropical wet/dry savannas are the largest climate grouping in the region

Located along the Amazon River is the Amazon Rainforest, the largest rain forest in the world

The Amazon is home to more species of plants & animals per square mile than anywhere else on earth



Other Climate Areas

The tropical wet/dry climate of north-central South America has high temperatures & abundant rainfall. These create large grasslands

Humid subtropical regions in the south create long, hot, & humid summers with short mild winters

The inland parts of Peru, Bolivia, & Chile are home to an arid climate

The Atacama desert in Chile sees no water with only a dense fog called a camanchaca to supply precipitation in the area

Natural Resources

South America is among the world's leading producers of energy resources

South America is rich in oil & countries are constantly searching for more reserves

Mines in Columbia have provided emeralds & Chile & Peru hold 40% of the worlds copper reserves

However, political barriers have limited resources to specific countries while some have limited access to reserves



Find Me Five!

**What are 5 Things you
learned about today?**

Could be from a picture, information, or just
a fun fact!

RADICAL!

