



Climate There are 4 main climate zones which include tropical, cold, dry and temperate. The countries which are on the Earth's equator (Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia) are humid and wet. Summers are very hot and winters are mild/warm.

Longest Rivers



Amazon (Brazil) – 6400km

Paraná (Brazil/Paraguay) – 4880km

Madeira (Brazil) – 3380km

Largest Populations

Brazil
(212 million people)



Colombia
(48 million people)



Argentina
(43 million people)



Tallest Mountains



Aconcagua
(Argentina)
6962m

Ojos del Salado
(Chile)
6893m

Monte Pissis
(Argentina)
6793m

South America and Brazil

Physical Features

Amazon Rainforest



This is the world's largest rainforest, taking up 5.5million km² and most of north-western Brazil, extending into Colombia, Peru and other countries. It is famous for its biodiversity.

Pantanal



In the central-western part of Brazil sits a flat, swampy area called the Pantanal. This patchwork of flooded lagoons and small islands is the world's largest wetland. Here live giant [anacondas](#), huge guinea pig relatives called capybaras, and fierce South American alligators called [caimans](#).

Sugarloaf Mountain



Rising 396 m (1,299 ft) above the harbor, its name is said to refer to its resemblance to the traditional shape of concentrated refined loaf sugar. It is known worldwide for its cableway and panoramic views of the city and beyond.

Human Features

Deforestation



Industrial-scale cattle ranching, soybean production and logging for wood (e.g. mahogany) for the world market means the Amazon has lost 20% off its trees in the last 40 years at a rate of 20,000km² per year.

Christ the Redeemer



Some of the most famous landmarks include the giant statue of Christ the Redeemer atop Corcovado mountain, named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Brazilian Carnival



The Sambódromo (Sambadrome), a permanent grandstand-lined parade avenue which is used during Carnival.



Fact Box

Spanish is the main language in South American countries, only in Brazil people speak Portuguese. 90% are Catholic.

Key Vocabulary

archipelago	sea or stretch of water having many islands
Atlantic Ocean	covers 20% of the Earth's surface and lies between the Americas and Europe/Africa
Atacama Desert	West of the Andes and one of the driest places on Earth
biodiversity	the variety of plant and animal life
canopy	uppermost branches of trees in a rainforest
El Nino	an event every 2-5 years where the Pacific Ocean warms, causing more rain in the Americas
evolution	idea that animals adapt and humans developed from apes
landlocked	Countries surrounded by only land (e.g. Paraguay)
mining	Chile has the largest open pit and underground mines in the world, for mining copper and iron
native	original inhabitants of an area
Pacific Ocean	covers 30% of the Earth's surface and is the largest, deepest ocean on the planet separating the Americas with Asia/Australasia
reforestation	the process of replanting an area with trees
Rio Carnival	annual festival held in the Brazilian capital of Rio de Janeiro before Lent (Christian religious observance)
temperate	non-extreme temperatures, neither too hot or cold
tropical	wet and dry seasons, frost-free with high temperatures

Fauna (animals)



Examples: sloths, jaguars, caiman, tapirs, llamas, parrots and capuchins (also – toucans, giant anteaters and capybaras).

Flora (plants)



Rubber tree

orchids

Kapok tree

cacao tree

coffee plant