



Year 5 and 6 Knowledge Organiser - South America

Key vocab

landmass:	a large continuous area of land
sparsely:	with only a small number of people
landlocked:	with no access to the sea
indigenous:	native to a country
colony:	a country occupied by another country
subduction:	the movement of one tectonic plate below another
topographic:	relating to the physical features of an area
sparsely:	with only a small number of people
river basin:	the portion of land drained by a river
tributary:	a river that flows into another river
discharging:	flowing into

South America is a continent made up of 12 countries. Its largest country is Brazil, which covers more than half the continent's landmass. Brazil is only slightly smaller than the USA. The smallest country is Suriname, one of the ten most sparsely populated countries in the world. The biggest island is Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire), at the southern tip of Argentina and Chile. Bolivia and Paraguay are both landlocked countries. Lake Titicaca (shared by Bolivia and Peru) is the continent's biggest lake.



Sticky knowledge

South America is a continent located in the western hemisphere and mainly in the southern hemisphere.	Most of the population lives near the continent's western or eastern coasts while the interior and the far south are sparsely populated.
While South America's rainforests are some of the wettest places on Earth, the Atacama Desert in Chile is considered the driest place on Earth.	Many of the largest cities of South America are struggling to overcome traffic problems, housing and water shortages, and other high-population related problems.
The Incas were the largest group of indigenous people in South America when the Europeans arrived. The Incan Empire lasted from 1438 until 1533.	South America is home to the largest river basin in the world - the Amazon.
Spanish is the main language in South American countries, but in Brazil people speak Portuguese.	It is also home to the Angel Falls waterfall, which is the highest in the world at over 900 m (2,950 ft). This can be found on a tributary to the Orinoco River - the River Churún.
The population of South America is estimated to be 432 million - about 5.6 per cent of the total world population.	The Amazon River basin has an area of almost 2.7 million square miles (7 million square km), making it the largest river basin in the world.
The median age in South America is 30.5 years.	The western coastline is dominated by the Andes mountain chain. This is also the location of a tectonic plate boundary and the mountains are formed through the process of subduction.
The most populous country in South America is Brazil, with 207.7 million people.	There is a great deal of seismic activity in this area as it is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.
The second largest country is Colombia with a population of 48.6 million, followed by Argentina with 43.8 million.	The Andes is a 4,300-mile (6,900-km) long mountain range located in South America that straddles seven countries.

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