

Exploring South America with Finn

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills while learning about the geography of South America.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences.

Finn the dolphin has been busy mapping the world's oceans, but today he is taking a trip inland to visit South America. South America is a vast continent located mostly in the Southern Hemisphere, though the equator runs right through the northern part. It is famous for being home to the Amazon Rainforest, which is the largest tropical rainforest on Earth. This lush green area is vital for our planet because it produces so much oxygen.

To the west, the landscape changes dramatically as the Andes mountain range stretches along the coastline. These mountains are the longest continental mountain range in the world, with some peaks staying snowy all year round. South America also features the mighty Amazon River, which winds through a massive basin before reaching the Atlantic Ocean. From the dry deserts in the south to the humid jungles near the centre, South America is a place of incredible natural variety. Finn loves exploring these diverse habitats, noting how the geography changes from the cool, high mountain air to the warm, wet climate of the jungle.

Word bank: continent · equator · rainforest · mountain range · basin · landscape

1. Which mountain range is mentioned as being the longest in the world? (1 mark)

2. What are two different types of landscapes Finn observes in South America? (2 marks)

3. Why does the text describe the Amazon Rainforest as being 'vital' for our planet? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why might the climate be different in the Andes compared to the Amazon basin? (2 marks)

5. If you were going on an expedition with Finn, would you prefer to visit the snowy mountains or the tropical rainforest? Explain your choice. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of South America showing the long Andes mountain range on the west coast and the Amazon River flowing through the middle.



Extension challenge: Research one animal that lives in the Amazon Rainforest and write three facts about why it is adapted to live in that environment.