

Mapping South America: Finn's Expedition

Learning objective: To identify and locate the key geographical features of South America, including biomes, mountain ranges, and major rivers.

Finn the dolphin needs your help to map his latest journey! Use the word bank to label the physical features on your drawing. Ensure you include the correct symbols for mountains and rivers.

Draw: Create a detailed physical map of South America on A4 paper. Use a landscape orientation. Start by sketching the outline of the continent. Use dark green for the dense canopy of the Amazon Rainforest and light yellow or brown for the arid Atacama Desert. Use blue for the surrounding Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Add a compass rose in the corner showing North, South, East, and West, and use a dashed line to indicate the position of the Equator.



Label words: Amazon Rainforest · Andes Mountains · Amazon River · Atacama Desert · Equator · Atlantic Ocean · Pacific Ocean

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw the long, winding Amazon River stretching across the northern half of your page. Label it clearly.
2. Step 2: Draw a series of sharp, jagged peaks along the western coast of your map to represent the Andes

Mountains. Label them.

3. Step 3: Draw a dense, bushy area around the Amazon River to represent the rainforest. Label this area.

4. Step 4: Explain why the Andes Mountains create a significant barrier for weather patterns in South America. What might happen if they were flat plains instead?

5. Step 5: Compare and contrast the climate of the Amazon Rainforest with the Atacama Desert. Justify your answer using geographical knowledge.

6. Step 6: If Finn the dolphin wanted to travel from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean using a river, which river would he choose and why?