

Finn's South American Expedition: Mapping the Continent

Learning objective: To identify and locate key geographical features and countries within South America, and to understand the physical and human geography of the region.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the South American coastline and its interior. Below is a list of geographical features and countries. Using an atlas or your knowledge of the continent, sort these items into two categories: 'Physical Geography' (natural features) and 'Human Geography' (countries/borders). Then, use the provided grid to label the map.

Word bank: Amazon Rainforest · Brazil · Andes Mountains · Argentina · Amazon River · Chile · Atacama Desert · Colombia

1. Sort the word bank into Physical Geography and Human Geography. Explain why the Amazon Rainforest is considered a vital physical feature for the entire planet. (4 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the climate of the Atacama Desert with the climate of the Amazon Rainforest. Justify your answer using geographical knowledge. (3 marks)

3. If you were planning a journey starting in Chile and ending in Brazil, which physical barriers might you encounter? Describe the terrain. (3 marks)

4. What might happen if the Amazon River were to dry up? Consider the impact on both the local wildlife and the human communities living nearby. (3 marks)

5. Justify why the Andes Mountains act as a significant barrier for travel and trade between countries like Chile and Argentina. (3 marks)

6. Explain why South America is home to such a diverse range of biomes, from frozen peaks to tropical jungles. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch map of South America. On your map, label the Equator, the Andes Mountains, the Amazon River, and at least three countries. Use different colors to shade the rainforest and the desert regions.



Extension challenge: Design a travel brochure for a fictional eco-tour in the Andes. You must include the cost of a guided trek (£450 per person) and a list of three pieces of specialist equipment a traveller would need to buy. Explain why these items are essential based on the altitude and terrain.