Exploring South America with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify key geographical features and biomes of South America.

Read the passage carefully about South America and answer the questions below using full sentences.

South America is a vast continent located mostly in the Southern Hemisphere. Our friend Finn the dolphin loves to visit its long, winding coastlines. This incredible landmass is home to the Amazon Rainforest, the largest tropical rainforest on Earth, which plays a vital role in our planet's climate. Stretching down the western side of the continent is the Andes, the world's longest mountain range. These towering peaks, which are often covered in snow, create a dramatic contrast to the humid, dense jungles nearby. The continent also features the Atacama Desert, one of the driest places in the world, showing how varied the landscapes can be. Because the equator passes through the northern part of South America, many regions enjoy warm, tropical weather all year round. From the high-altitude mountain plateaus to the sprawling river basins, South America is a place of immense biodiversity, where countless unique species of animals and plants thrive in their natural habitats. Finn enjoys mapping these diverse regions, noting how the geography shapes the lives of those who live there.

Word bank: continent · Amazon · Andes · biodiversity · equator · topography

1. Identify two major physical geographical features of South America mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. Which line of latitude passes through the northern part of South America? (1 mark)

3. Why might animals in the Andes have to be different from animals living in the Amazon Rainforest? (2 marks)

4. How does the passage suggest that South America has a 'varied' landscape? (2 marks)

5. If you were planning an expedition, would you rather explore the Andes or the Amazon? Justify your choice using information from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of South America and label the Amazon Rainforest, the Andes Mountains, and the Atacama Desert. Draw Finn the dolphin swimming near the coastline.

Extension challenge: Research one animal native to South America and write a short paragraph explaining how its body is adapted to its specific environment (e.g., the rainforest or the mountains).