

Exploring South America: Geography Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge of South American physical and human geography, including climate zones, biomes, and economic activity.

Read each question carefully. Use your geographical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure you use specific terminology where appropriate.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastal waters of South America, while Nova the owl has been observing the vast diversity of the continent from above. Together, they have identified that South America is a land of extreme contrasts, ranging from the world's largest tropical rainforest to one of the driest deserts on Earth.

Word bank: Amazon Rainforest · Andes Mountains · Equator · Tributary · Biome · Urbanisation · Climate · Indigenous · Continent · Atacama Desert

1. Name two major physical features found in South America and explain how they influence the climate of the surrounding areas. (4 marks) (4 marks)

2. Why is the Amazon Rainforest often referred to as the 'lungs of the planet'? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks) (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the climate of the Atacama Desert with the climate of the Amazon Basin. (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. A local market in a South American city sells 3kg of coffee beans for £12.50 and 5kg of cocoa beans for £15.00. Calculate the total cost if a trader buys 6kg of coffee and 10kg of cocoa. (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Explain why rapid urbanisation in South American countries can lead to both economic growth and environmental challenges. (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Justify why it is important for international organisations to protect indigenous territories within the rainforest. (3 marks) (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are a travel writer exploring South America. Describe the geographical journey from the coast of the Andes Mountains to the heart of the Amazon Rainforest, highlighting the changes in biome and vegetation. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Sketch a labelled cross-section diagram showing the change in altitude and vegetation from the Andes Mountains down to the Amazon Basin.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: What might happen to global weather patterns if the Amazon Rainforest were to be replaced by grassland? Write a paragraph justifying your prediction based on your understanding of the water cycle.