

Exploring South America: The Continent of Extremes

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of South American geography. Finn the dolphin is waiting to see how much you know about this diverse continent!

Which major mountain range runs along the western edge of South America?

The Andes Mountains.

What is the name of the world's largest tropical rainforest located primarily in Brazil?

The Amazon Rainforest.

Which imaginary line of latitude passes through the northern part of South America, resulting in a tropical climate?

The Equator.

What is a 'tributary' in the context of the Amazon River?

A smaller river or stream that flows into a larger main river.

Which South American desert is known as one of the driest places on Earth?

The Atacama Desert.

Define the term 'biodiversity' as it applies to the Amazon basin.

The variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem.

What is the primary language spoken in Brazil?

Portuguese.

Compare and contrast the climate of the Amazon Basin with that of the Atacama Desert.

The Amazon is hot and humid with high rainfall, whereas the Atacama is extremely arid with very little precipitation.

Explain why the Andes Mountains are significant to the continent's weather patterns.

They act as a barrier to moisture-laden winds, creating different climate zones on either side of the range.

Justify why protecting the Amazon Rainforest is considered globally important.

It acts as a massive carbon sink and houses an immense variety of unique flora and fauna essential to the Earth's health.

What might happen if the glaciers in the Andes Mountains were to melt completely?

It would significantly affect the water supply for millions of people who rely on glacial run-off for agriculture and drinking water.

Compare the population distribution of South America: why do many major cities settle near the coast?

Historically, coastal areas provided easier access for trade, transport, and communication with the rest of the world.