

Exploring the Wonders of South America with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To describe and explain the diverse geographical features, climates, and biomes of South America.

Use this writing scaffold to structure your geographical report. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together and ensure you provide detailed explanations to show your geographical understanding.

South America is a continent of staggering geographical contrast, stretching from the frozen peaks of the Andes to the humid, vibrant expanse of the Amazon Basin.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · in contrast · situated · biodiversity · significant · tributary · temperate · topography · nevertheless · predominantly

1. Location and Physical Geography: Where is South America situated in relation to the Equator and the world's oceans? Describe its primary physical features using sentence starters like: 'Positioned between...', or 'The continent is characterised by...' (3 marks)

2. Climate Zones: Explain why the climate varies so significantly across the continent. Consider the impact of altitude and latitude. Start with: 'Due to the vast latitudinal range, the climate varies from...' (4 marks)

3. The Amazon Rainforest: Justify why the Amazon is often referred to as 'the lungs of the planet'. Start with: 'The Amazon plays a vital role in the global ecosystem because...' (4 marks)

4. Human Geography: Compare and contrast life in a major South American city with life in a rural mountain village. Start with: 'While urban centres like... offer..., rural communities often rely on...' (4 marks)

5. Environmental Challenges: What might happen if the rate of deforestation in the Amazon continues to increase? Explain the potential impact on local and global environments. Start with: 'If deforestation persists, the consequences for the environment would be...' (5 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: Evaluate the importance of South America's natural resources to the rest of the world. Start with: 'South America is economically significant to the global market due to...' (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer travelling from the coast of Chile to the heart of the Amazon. Write a diary entry describing how the landscape, climate, and vegetation change throughout your journey. Use at least five terms from the word bank.