Exploring South America with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify key geographical features, countries, and climate zones of South America and understand their impact on the environment.

Use your atlas or geography knowledge to complete these questions about South America. Finn the Dolphin has been mapping the coastlines, and he needs your help to finish his report!

Word bank: Amazon Rainforest · Andes · Equator · Atacama Desert · Tributary · Biodiversity · Pacific Ocean · Atlantic Ocean

1. Finn is swimming along the western coast of South America. Name the large ocean he is currently exploring and the mountain range that runs along the western edge of the continent. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the Amazon Rainforest is often referred to as the 'lungs of the Earth' and why its biodiversity is so important to the global climate. (3 marks)

3. The Atacama Desert is known for being one of the driest places on the planet. Based on your knowledge of climate zones, why does this area receive so little rainfall? (2 marks)

4. If a traveller wants to visit the source of the Amazon River, in which mountain range would they begin their journey? Use the word 'tributary' in your answer. (2 marks)

5. South American countries have diverse currencies and economies. If a souvenir costs 1,500 local currency units and the exchange rate is 150 units to £1.00, how much does the souvenir cost in pounds (£)? Show your working. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of South America and label the Equator, the Andes Mountains, and the Amazon Basin. Add a small sketch of Finn the Dolphin near the coastline of your choice.

Extension challenge: Research one South American country. Write a short paragraph explaining its main language, its capital city, and one major physical feature that makes it unique.