

World Geography Series
Years 4–6

SOUTH AMERICA



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Introduction

About This Book

World Geography Series: South America presents an overview of the geography of the continent of South America. It is divided into five sections: Space, Place, Environment, Interconnection and Regions.

Each section contains a selection of teaching pages, maps, activities, interesting facts, review questions and puzzles or games. A plan for using the material to construct a geography centre is also included, as well as ideas for putting together a book as a culminating activity.

About the World Geography Series

The World Geography series consists of seven books, each dealing with a different continental region: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.

The books provide reproducible activities to aid primary teachers in teaching the topic of continents in alignment with the Australian Curriculum: Geography Knowledge and Understanding strand for Years 4–6, outlined in the table below. However, they can also be used to support the teaching of a range of geography topics from the curriculum, such as sustainability, the environment, cultural diversity and the natural and built features of places.

Further, the World Geography series has been designed to facilitate the integration of geography study with other subjects, including English, Civics and Citizenship, History and the Arts.

Continents in the Australian Curriculum: Geography Knowledge and Understanding Strand for Years 4–6

Year 4	<p>The location of the major countries of Africa and South America in relation to Australia, and their main characteristics, including the types of natural vegetation and native animals in at least two countries from both continents (ACHGK020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using geographical tools, for example, a globe, a wall map or digital application such as Google Earth, to identify the major countries of Africa and South America and their relative locations • using a globe to investigate the Great Circle routes of aeroplane travel between Australia and the major countries of Africa and South America • researching the main types of natural vegetation and native animals in a climate zone in Australia and comparing them with those found in a similar climate in Africa or South America
Year 5	<p>The location of the major countries of Europe and North America in relation to Australia and the influence of people on the environmental characteristics of places in at least two countries from both continents (ACHGK026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using geographical tools, for example, a globe, wall map or digital application such as Google Earth, to identify the relative location of the major countries of Europe and North America and their environmental characteristics • researching the changes made by people to a particular environment in a country in Europe or North America
Year 6	<p>The location of the major countries of the Asia region in relation to Australia and the geographical diversity within the region (ACHGK031)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using geographical tools, for example, a globe wall map or digital application such as Google Earth to identify the geographical division of Asia into North-East, South-East, South Asia and West Asia (the Middle East) • exploring the diversity of environments, in the Asia region, or in part of the region, or in a country in either North-East, South-East or South Asia • investigating the differences in the population size, density, life expectancy and per capita income between countries across the world • describing the location of places in countries of the Asia region in absolute terms using latitude and longitude

*Adapted from ACARA 2014, Australian Curriculum: Geography,
<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/humanitiesandsocialsciences/geography/Curriculum/F-10>*



Where on Earth Is South America?

(3 of 5)

You can also draw lines north and south around the Earth. These lines are called meridians or lines of longitude. They are usually shown 15° apart at the equator, but they all come together at the North and South Poles. (They also can be further divided into minutes and seconds just like the parallels.)

The line that runs through Greenwich, England, is called the prime meridian (0°). Longitude is the distance east or west of the prime meridian. The line directly opposite the prime meridian is at 180° and is called the date line. If you are still thinking of the Earth as a ball (a sphere or globe), you can separate the two halves into the Western Hemisphere and the Eastern Hemisphere. This is done along the prime meridian and the date line.



If you divide the Earth into its Western and Eastern Hemispheres, South America is in the _____ Hemisphere.



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Physical Characteristics of South America

(3 of 4)

Other Bodies of Water

South America has many rivers. A great many of them branch off from the *Amazon*, which is so huge that ocean-going ships can sail upstream 1600 kilometres from its mouth. There are two large lakes, *Lake Maracaibo* in Venezuela and *Lake Titicaca* on the Altiplano between Bolivia and Peru. The *Strait of Magellan* divides Tierra Del Fuego from the rest of the continent.

Use reference sources to draw in the rivers on the map on the next page. Then label the bodies of water with their numbers and use the list for a key.

1. Lake Maracaibo
2. Lake Titicaca
3. Orinoco River
4. Amazon River
5. Rio Negro
6. Purus River
7. Madeira River

8. Xingú River
9. Mamoré River
10. Ucayali River
11. San Francisco River
12. Parana River
13. Uruguay River
14. Strait of Magellan

Bonus questions!

Into what body of water does the Amazon River empty?

Which South American country has two capital cities? What are the names of these two cities?

What is the name of the long, narrow South American country that borders on the Pacific Ocean?



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People Adapt to and Change the Environment *(2 of 2)*

People adapt to and change the environment in many ways. Think of some possible solutions that may solve these environmental problems:

Housing in cold climates:

Clothing in hot climates:

Clothing in cold climates:

Transportation in mountainous or hilly areas:



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Movement Includes People, Ideas and Products *(2 of 2)*

Think about one of the places you would like to visit in South America. Design a cover for a travel brochure about that place. Sketch your design below. Write a description of the place that will make other people want to travel there too.



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