

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Subject: Geography

Topic: Amazing Americas

Year: 6

What should I already know?

- There are seven continents
- Navigating a map, identifying North, East, South, West
- Identify the equator
- Name the Five Oceans of the world

What am I going to learn?

- The term America (or Americas) refers to all lands in the Western Hemisphere comprising of North, Central and South America, it also includes the West Indian Islands (Caribbean).
- The United States of America (USA) is a country in North America, when people use the word 'America' they are normally referring to the USA.
- North and South America are both continents – Central America lies within the continent of North America.

North America

- The USA is the third largest country in the world by both land area and population.
- The USA is a country that comprises of 50 states and other jurisdictions.
- Most North Americans speak English, Spanish and French.
- North America is the only continent that has every kind of climate: polar, temperate, subtropical and tropical.
- 50% of the world's corn harvest is produced in North America.

South America

- More than 30% of South America is covered by rainforests.
- The Amazon River is 4000 miles long.
- South America has the shortest coastline for its size of any of the continents.
- South America contains more than 40% of the world's plants and animals.
- The Amazon Basin is located in the countries of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.
- The Amazon Basin is an area of 2.1 million square miles and is mostly covered by the Amazon Rainforest – otherwise known as Amazonia (the largest rainforest in the world).

Vocabulary

Country – a geographical area that has its own government.

Continent – a large landmass usually made up of many countries.

Latitude – geographical coordinates that specifies north south position on the earth's surface (divides into climate zones).

0° = the Equator

90°N = the North Pole

90°S = the South Pole

Longitude – geographical coordinates that specifies east west position on the earth's surface (defines date and time).

0° = Greenwich Meridian (or prime meridian) lies in Greenwich, London.

Hemisphere – half of the earth, divided into the northern and southern hemispheres by the Equator, and western and eastern hemispheres by the Greenwich Meridian Line.

Weather – short term changes in the atmosphere.

Atmosphere – the layer of gas that surrounds Earth.

Climate – describes the average weather over a long period of time in a specific area.

Climate zone – areas with distinct climates which occur in an east-west direction around the earth.

Biome – a large geographical area that has a certain climate and certain types of living things. Major biomes include forests, deserts, grasslands.

Koppen Information System – used to denote different climate regions on Earth based on local vegetation.

Amazon Basin – a part of South America drained by the Amazon River and its tributaries (smaller rivers or streams flowing into a larger river or lake).



Useful Websites

<https://www.geography.org.uk/National-Curriculum-KS2-resources>



Denver, Colorado



Death Valley, California



Rio de Janeiro, South America