



**PLANIT**  
TEACHERS

# Introduction to South America and Its Geographic Regions

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## Introduction to South America and Its Geographic Regions

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### Welcome to Our Lesson!

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*Today, we will explore the diverse landscapes and cultures of South America.*

South America is the fourth largest continent, covering an area of approximately 17.8 million square kilometers. It is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Caribbean Sea to the northwest, and Antarctica to the south. The continent is home to twelve countries, each with its unique cultural, economic, and geographic characteristics.

## Part 1: Teacher-Led Introduction

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### Key Terms

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*Let's review some important terms related to geography:*

- **Continent:** A large area of land that is separated by oceans.
- **Mountain Range:** A series of connected mountains.
- **Rainforest:** A dense forest with high rainfall.
- **Desert:** A dry and often hot region with little rainfall.

### South America's Geographic Features

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*Let's take a look at some of South America's notable geographic features:*

South America is home to the Andes mountain range, the world's longest mountain range, which stretches through seven countries. The continent is also home to the Amazon rainforest, the largest tropical rainforest in the world, which covers over 5.5 million square kilometers.

## Part 1: Teacher-Led Introduction (Continued)

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### Countries of South America

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*Let's learn about the twelve countries that make up South America:*

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Guyana
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Suriname
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

### Cultural Diversity

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*South America is home to a diverse range of cultures, including indigenous communities, European colonizers, and African influences.*

Each country has its unique cultural heritage, with its own language, customs, and traditions. From the vibrant cities of Brazil and Argentina to the ancient Inca ruins of Peru, South America is a continent that is rich in history and culture.

## Part 2: Worked Example

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### The Amazon Rainforest

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*Let's take a closer look at the Amazon rainforest, one of the most fascinating geographic regions in South America.*

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world, covering over 5.5 million square kilometers. It is home to an incredible array of biodiversity, including thousands of species of plants and animals. The Amazon rainforest plays a critical role in the global ecosystem, producing about 20% of the world's oxygen.

### Importance of the Amazon Rainforest

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*Why is the Amazon rainforest so important?*

- Produces 20% of the world's oxygen
- Home to thousands of species of plants and animals
- Regulates the global climate
- Supports indigenous communities

## Part 2: Worked Example (Continued)

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### Threats to the Amazon Rainforest

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*What are some of the threats facing the Amazon rainforest?*

- Deforestation
- Climate change
- Mining and drilling
- Agriculture and land-use changes

### Conservation Efforts

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*What can we do to help protect the Amazon rainforest?*

- Support conservation organizations
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Spread awareness about the importance of the Amazon rainforest
- Support sustainable land-use practices

## Activity

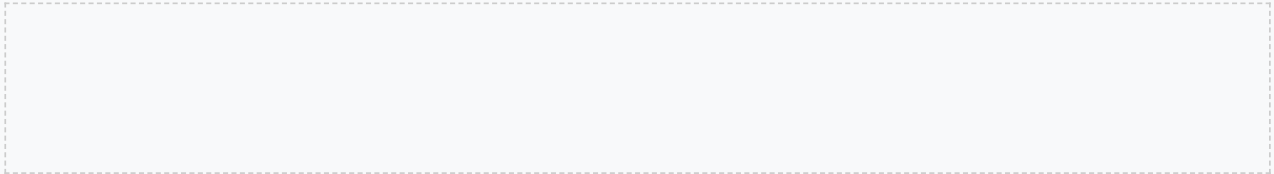
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### Label the Map

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*Label the following features on a map of South America:*

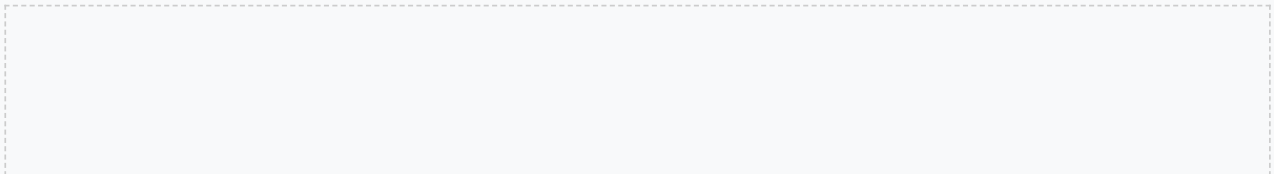
- Andes mountain range
- Amazon rainforest
- Patagonia region
- Galapagos Islands



### Short Paragraph

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*Write a short paragraph describing the unique characteristics of the Amazon rainforest.*



## Part 3: Independent/Pair Activity

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### Choose an Activity

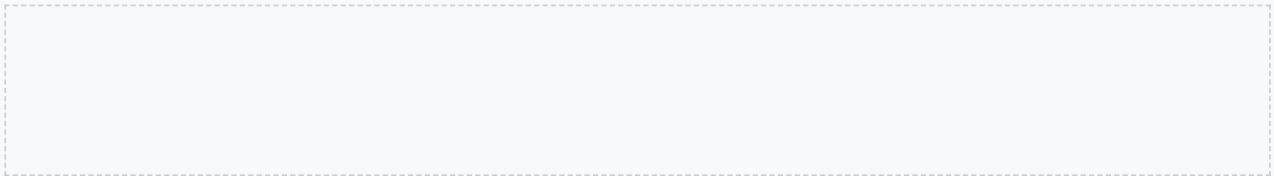
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*Choose one of the following activities to complete on your own or with a partner:*

1. Research and write a short report on a South American country, including its capital, language, main cities, and notable landmarks.
2. Create a diagram or drawing of a South American ecosystem, including the different types of plants and animals that live there.
3. Write a reflective essay on what you have learned about South America and its geographic regions, and how you think this knowledge can be applied in real-life situations.

### Space for Activity

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A large dashed rectangular box intended for students to complete their chosen activity. It is empty and occupies the majority of the lower half of the page.

## Assessment

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### Completed Map

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*Please submit your completed map with labeled features.*

### Short Paragraph

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*Please submit your short paragraph describing the unique characteristics of the Amazon rainforest.*

### Report, Diagram, or Essay

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*Please submit your report, diagram, or essay from the independent/pair activity.*



## Extension

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### Create a Model

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*Create a model of a South American landmark or geographic feature.*

### Research and Present

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*Research and present on a current event or issue affecting a South American country or region.*

### Creative Story or Poem

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*Write a creative story or poem about a South American culture or tradition.*

## Conclusion

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### Reflection

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*Take a moment to reflect on what you have learned about South America and its geographic regions.*

What did you find most interesting or surprising? How do you think this knowledge can be applied in real-life situations?

### Final Thoughts

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*What are your final thoughts on the importance of learning about South America and its geographic regions?*