

## Delving into South America - Key Facts

-South America is the fourth-largest continent in the world. It covers about 17.8 million km<sup>2</sup>. It lies completely in the western hemisphere.

-South America is the fifth-most populous continent in the world - it has a population of around 420 million people (although over half of these people live in Brazil).

-The Equator cuts through the continent. Most of South America is in the southern hemisphere.

-Most of the people live on the east and west coasts; the southern coast and centre of the continent are sparsely populated.

## Significant individuals

**Queen Victoria** - Victoria was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20<sup>th</sup> June 1837 until her death on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1901. On 1 May 1876, she adopted the additional title of Empress of India. Known as the Victorian era, her reign of 63 years and seven months was longer than that of any of the previous kings or queens.

**Captain Robert FitzRoy** - An English officer of the Royal Navy and a scientist. He achieved lasting fame as the captain of HMS Beagle during Charles Darwin's famous voyage, FitzRoy's second expedition to Tierra del Fuego and the Southern Cone.

## Vocabulary dozen

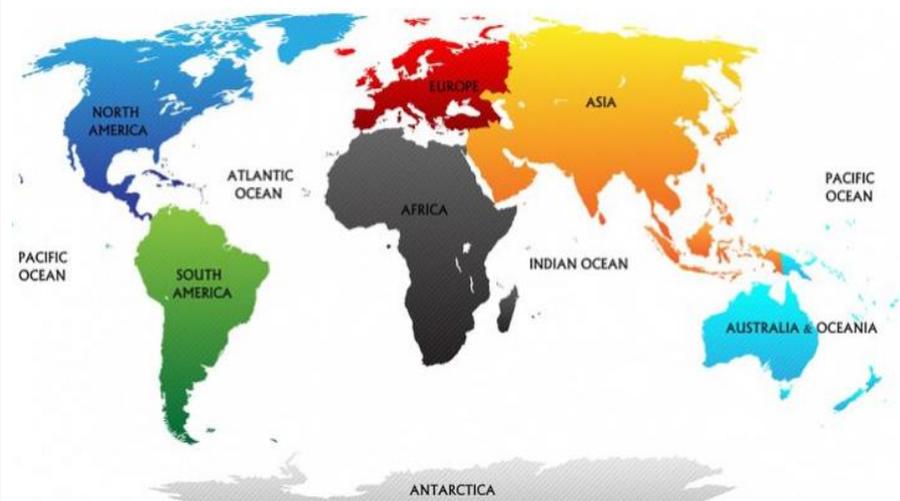
1. Hemisphere - A half of the earth, usually divided into Northern and Southern halves by the equator.	4. Climate - The average measurements of temperature in a place over years.	7. Desert - A large region of land that gets very little rain each year.	10. Respect - Due regard for the feelings, wishes or rights of others.
2. Habitat - The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism.	5. Continent - One of the earth's seven major areas of land.	8. Rainforest - A forest of broad-leaved evergreen trees that has a high rainfall each year.	11. Explorer - A person who explores a new or unfamiliar place.
3. South - Direction, to or towards the south.	6. Mountain - A landform that rises high above its surroundings.	9. Liberty - The right or power to act and choose freely.	12. America - A country made up of 50 states.

## Wise thought

"If man doesn't learn to treat the oceans and the rainforest with respect, man will become extinct."

**Peter Benchley, American author**

## Map of the World



## Geography terms

<b>Deforestation</b> 	The Amazon Rainforest has been rapidly destroyed over the past 50 years - since 1970, nearly 800,000 km <sup>2</sup> of rainforest has been lost. The main causes are agriculture, illegal logging, and human encroachment into the forest.	<b>What?</b> About 20% of the total rainforest has now been cleared.	<b>Key Fact:</b> 150 acres of rainforest are destroyed every minute of the day.
<b>Machu Picchu</b> 	The Inca Empire was the largest empire in precolonial South America. Machu Picchu was a large Incan citadel (fortified central area of town). Incans abandoned it after the Spanish invaded. It remained unknown until 1911.	<b>Where?</b> On a 2,430 metre mountain ridge in southern Peru.	<b>Key Fact:</b> It was built in 1450 in classic Inca style with dry stone walls
<b>The Atacama Desert</b> 	The Atacama Desert is one of the driest places in the world. There are some places where there has been no recorded rainfall!	<b>Where?</b> The Atacama Desert is in Chile.	<b>Key Fact:</b> The desert is so dry due to its position in a 'two-way' rain shadow.
<b>The Andes</b> 	The Andes are the tallest mountains in South America (and in the world after the mountain ranges in Asia). The range is about 7,000km long, extending north to south. The world's highest volcanos are in the Andes.	<b>Where?</b> Through 7 different South American countries.	<b>Key Fact:</b> The peak of Mount Chimborazo is the furthest point from the centre of the earth.

