

# South America



## STICKY KNOWLEDGE


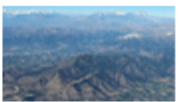

There are 12 countries in the continent of South America.	Time zones don't divide up along simple vertical lines like lines of longitude.	Brazil is South America's largest country and the only Portuguese-speaking nation on the continent.
The statue of Christ the Redeemer is in Rio de Janeiro.	Brazil is the world's leading exporter of coffee, beef, sugar and orange juice.	Women do not have the same opportunities as men in Brazil.

## KEY VOCABULARY


Atacama Desert	West of the Andes and one of the driest places on Earth
biodiversity	the variety of plant and animal life
canopy	uppermost branches of trees in a rainforest
temperate	non-extreme temperatures, neither too hot or cold
tropical	wet and dry seasons, frost-free with high temperatures

## Soulful South America

### Physical Features

<b>Amazon Rainforest</b> 	This is the world's largest rainforest, taking up 5.5million km <sup>2</sup> and most of north-western Brazil, extending into Colombia, Peru and other countries. It is famous for its biodiversity.
<b>The Andes</b> 	The Andes are the longest mountain range in the world forming a continuous highland in the west, passing through 7 countries from Venezuela in the north to Chile and Argentine in the south.
<b>Galapagos Islands</b> 	Part of the Republic of Ecuador, this volcanic archipelago are known for their many species of plants and animals studied by Charles Darwin which contributed to his theory of evolution.
<b>Lake Titicaca</b> 	A large, deep lake in the Andes on the border of Peru and Bolivia. Once inhabited by the Incas between 1200A.D. and 1400A.D., they have even found an underwater temple here.

### Human Features

<b>Deforestation</b> 	Industrial-scale cattle ranching, soybean production and logging for wood (e.g. mahogany) for the world market means the Amazon has lost 20% off its trees in the last 40 years at a rate of 20,000km <sup>2</sup> per year.
<b>Machu Picchu</b> 	Located in southern Peru, on a 2430m high mountain ridge, archaeologists believe it was constructed as an estate for an Inca emperor. Built around 1450A.D., it could home up to 750 people, mostly working as servants to the emperor and keeping llamas and alpacas.
<b>Colonisation</b> 	In 1498 Christopher Columbus, on his third voyage to the Americas, landed in Venezuela. Portuguese and Spanish ships arrived, began to claim the land as their own, introducing western diseases, and contributed to the rapid decline of the native populations.



### Fact Box

Spanish is the main language in South American countries, only in Brazil people speak Portuguese. 90% are Catholic.

### Longest Rivers

Amazon (Brazil) – 6400km

Paraná (Brazil/Paraguay) – 4880km

Madeira (Brazil) – 3380km



### Tallest Mountains



### Largest Populations

Brazil  
(204 million people)

Colombia  
(48 million people)

Argentina  
(43 million people)

### Fauna (animals)



### Flora (plants)

Examples: sloths, jaguars, caiman, tapirs, llamas, parrots and capuchins (also – toucans, giant anteaters and capybaras).

