

South America Knowledge Organiser



Brazil is the **largest country in South America** and the 5th largest in the world. It covers nearly half the entire continent. **Over half the population** of South America live in Brazil. Brazil shares a **border** with every country in South America apart from Chile and Ecuador. The **capital city is Brasilia**, but Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are more famous cities.

Human Geography: The Christ the Redeemer statue overlooks Rio de Janeiro. This city is also home to the world's largest Carnival, celebrated at the beginning of Lent. Favelas are the housing areas where poor people live. The main religion is Christianity.

Physical Geography: Northern Brazil is dominated by the Amazon River and the jungles that surround it. The Amazon is not one river but a network of many hundreds of waterways. Its total length stretches **6,840km**. Thousands of species live in the river, including the infamous piranha and the boto, or pink river dolphin.

Brazil was **colonised by the Portuguese** in 1530. It regained **independence** in 1822.

General information:

South America is a **continent**. It has **12 countries** plus 2 regions that belong to European countries: (1) The Falkland Islands which is a British territory, and (2) French Guiana which is owned by France.

The **equator** runs through the the north of the continent. The country Ecuador literally means equator in Spanish.

Most of the continent is in the **southern hemisphere**.

All countries in South America speak **Spanish** apart from Brazil, where they speak **Portuguese**.



Peru is the **3rd largest country in South America**. The capital city is **Lima**. The official languages are **Spanish and Quechua** (a native language).

Human Geography: Mainly Cristian. Almost 70% of people live in cities. **Machu Picchu** is a famous ancient city which is now a popular tourist attraction. It was built by the **Incas** who lived in Peru about 600 years ago before the Spanish invaded in 1532.

Physical Geography: Nearly ½ the country is covered by the **Amazon rainforest**. Peru is also home to the **Andes mountains** – the world's 2nd highest mountain range.



Argentina is the **2nd largest country in South America** and 8th largest in the world. The capital city is **Buenos Aires** and the majority of the population speak **Spanish**.

Human Geography: Nearly ½ the population live in and around the capital city. Tourism is important to the country, but the country gets most of its money from farming (agriculture).

Physical Geography: The Andes sit on the west of the country on the border with Chile. The eastern border is the Atlantic Ocean. Iguazu Falls is a famous waterfall in the north.

