

Knowledge Organiser - South America

Year 5 - Geography



Key Vocabulary	Definition
Amazon Basin	The area drained by the River Amazon and all its tributaries.
Amazon River	The longest river in South America. It flows through Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil.
Compass point	Points on a magnificent compass marking the four main directions; North, South, East, West, and intermediate directions.
Continent	Very large land mass. The continents on Earth are: Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australasia, North America or South America.
Latitude	Imaginary horizontal line used to show how north or south something is on the Earth's surface.
Longitude	Imaginary vertical line used to show how east or west something is on the Earth's surface.
Mountain	Large landform, often with a peak, rising high above the surrounding area.
Mountain Range	A chain of mountains.
Physical feature	Naturally occurring e.g. rivers, mountains, lakes.
River	Natural watercourse flowing downhill towards river, ocean or lake.
Rockies	Another name for the Rocky Mountains. A mountain range that stretches north to south across Canada and the USA.
Slum	A densely populated area of a city, usually associated with poverty.
Source	The original point where a river begins.
Tributary	A river or stream that flows into a larger river.
Village	Place where people live, smaller than a town.

KEY KNOWLEDGE:

Question 1: What is the difference between a continent, country, state and city?

Answer:

A continent is one of several large land masses on earth. Ordered by size they are: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe and Australasia. Continents are made of a number of separately governed countries. Countries are regions that are identified as having a distinct nationality. States are a way that some countries are divided up politically e.g. in the USA. Cities are large, permanent human settlements. They generally have extensive housing, transport links and wider utilities and are densely populated. E.G: London, Manchester, Glasgow, Cardiff and Exeter.

Question 2: What are the differences between North and South America?

Answer: North America and South America are two continents. Both North and South America are located in the Western hemisphere. However, North America is north of the equator and South America is south of it. North America is larger than South America and has a larger population. North America has 23 countries in it whilst South America has 12. The main languages of North America are: English, Spanish and French. In South America they are: Portuguese and Spanish.

South American map.



Central American map.

