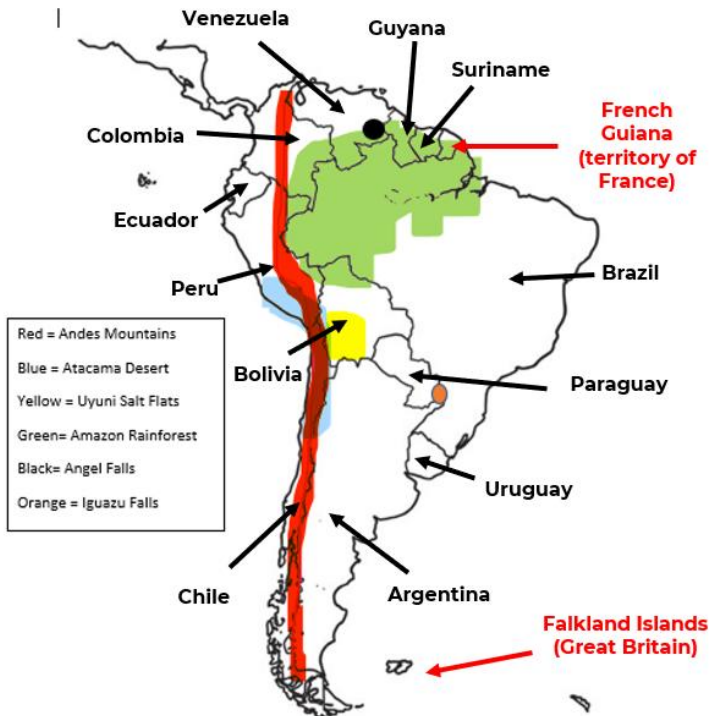


Knowledge Organiser Geography: South America

Key diagrams:



Key words

hemisphere - one of the halves of the earth as divided by the equator

equator - an imaginary circle around the earth everywhere equally distant from the north pole and the south pole

continent - one of the great divisions of land (as North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, or Antarctica) on the globe

population - the whole number of people living in a country or region

human feature - something that is built by humans and would not have existed in nature without humans

physical feature - naturally occurring features on the planet including bodies of water and landforms, for example: oceans, mountains, lakes, rivers, plateaus, plains, streams, hills, bays, gulfs, volcanoes, canyons, valleys and peninsulas

rainforest - an often tropical woodland with a high annual rainfall and very tall evergreen trees with tops forming a continuous layer called a canopy

agriculture - the science or occupation of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock (synonym of farming)

Key facts

South America is the fourth largest continent and is found (mostly) in the southern hemisphere. It contains the world's largest river (the Amazon River - by water discharge, not length), the world's largest rainforest (the Amazon rainforest) and the longest mountain range (the Andes), which runs along the western length of the continent.

The Amazon rainforest covers 30% of South America and is home to 10% of all the world's animal species. South America covers an area of 18 million km² and a population of 422 million (as of 2020). Its biggest city is Sao Paulo (in Brazil) with a population of approximately 21.7 million people.