

# Knowledge Organiser – Geography – South America

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Pangea	A supercontinent that broke apart 175 million years ago forming the continents we recognise today.
Rainforest	A dense forest, rich in biodiversity, that is often found in tropical areas that receive high levels of rainfall.
Subduction Zone	An area where one tectonic plate is being forced under another, often creating mountain ranges.
Plateau	A flat area of land with high altitude.
Altitude	The height of a location, often relative to sea level.
Deforestation	The process of removing forest.
Biodiversity	The variety of plants and animals within a habitat.

## Did you know?

1. There are **12 countries in South America** with a total of **more than 433 million people** living on the continent.
2. **Largest Country**: Brazil. The country is covering more than half the continent's landmass. Did you know that Brazil is only slightly smaller than the USA?
3. **Largest City**: Sao Paulo in Brazil. With more than 22 million inhabitants (2021) Sao Paulo is also one of the ten biggest cities in the world.
4. **Smallest Country**: Suriname. The country is one of the 10 most sparsely populated countries in the world.
5. **Biggest Island**: *Tierra del Fuego* (Spanish meaning: Land of Fire), at the southern tip of Argentina and Chile
6. **Longest River**: Amazon River (6,437 km/ 4,000 miles). The Amazon is not only the second longest river in the world after the Nile, but also the Amazon carries more water than the world's other 10 biggest rivers combined!
7. **Highest Mountain**: Aconcagua in Argentina. The mountain (6,961 m/ 22,837 ft) is located in the Andes mountain range.
8. **Biggest Lake**: Lake Titicaca (shared by Bolivia and Peru)
9. **Driest Place**: While South America's rain forests also are some of the wettest places on the earth, the Atacama Desert in Chile is considered the driest place on earth.
10. There are two **landlocked countries** in South America: Paraguay and Bolivia are located in the interior of the continent and have neither access to the Atlantic Ocean nor to the Pacific Ocean.

