

### Vocabulary

Pangaea	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.

## South America



### Key Knowledge

- The countries on the continent of South America are Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay, Suriname, Guyana.
- The Spanish and Portuguese established colonies in South America. Many South American countries speak Spanish and Portuguese languages.
- The Amazon Rainforest stretches across nine different countries in South America, including Brazil, Chile and Peru. It has the largest number of different species of plants and animals living there, of any rainforest in the world. It is also the largest tropical rainforest in the world.
- 34 million people live within the Amazon Rainforest and depend on the resources within it.
- Parts of the Amazon Rainforest have suffered from deforestation. The WWF (World Wildlife Fund) estimates that 27% of the Amazon biome will be without trees by 2030 if current rates of deforestation continue.
- The Andes are the longest mountain range in the world. There are different climates within the Andes mountains, tropical climates around the forests and cloud forests, but also dry parts such as the Atacama Desert which is 100 miles wide and 625 miles long and is very cold and dry.
- The Atacama Desert is the driest, non-polar region on earth. It has been semi-arid for the last 150 million years. The desert does not experience high temperatures, on average temperatures are around 18 degrees. The Andes Mountains block rainfall from the east of the desert, and cold water from the Pacific Ocean to the west creates atmospheric conditions that prevent seawater evaporating. This means clouds and rain cannot be formed.
- The Amazon River has a thousand tributaries and its drainage basin is the largest in the world.