

 RAND McNALLY

Classroom

# Atlas





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## 8 Geographical Terms

### Geographical Terms

The large illustration to the right is a view of an imaginary place. It shows many of Earth's different types of landforms, bodies of water, and political features. The following vocabulary list defines many of the features on the map.\*

See if you can find an example of each feature on the maps in the atlas.

---

**Archipelago:**

A group of islands.

---

**Canyon:**

A deep, narrow valley with high, steep sides.

---

**Coast:**

Land along a large lake, a sea, or an ocean.



---

**Desert:**

A large land area that receives very little rainfall.



---

**Forest:**

A large area covered with trees.

---

**Gulf:**

A large part of an ocean or a sea that lies within a curved coastline. A gulf is larger than a bay.

---

**Harbor:**

A sheltered body of water where ships can safely anchor.



---

**Hill:**

A small area of land that is higher than the land around it.

---

**Island:**

A piece of land that is surrounded by water.



---

**Isthmus:**

A narrow piece of land that joins two larger areas of land.

---

**Lake:**

A body of water completely surrounded by land.

---

**Mountain:**

Land that rises much higher than the land around it.





\* The Rand McNally Geographical Terms Desk Map (order number 005-13156-1) includes definitions for all of the terms that appear on the map illustration.

---

**Mountain range:**

A row of mountains that are joined together.

---

**Ocean:**

One of Earth's largest bodies of water.

---

**Plain:**

A large, flat land area.

---

**Plateau:**

A large area of land where the highest elevation is generally the same. A plateau may have deep valleys.

---

**River:**

A body of fresh water that flows from higher to lower land. A river usually flows into another river, a lake, a sea, or an ocean.

---

**Sea:**

A large body of salt water nearly or partly surrounded by land. A sea is much smaller than an ocean.

---

**Valley:**

Lower land between hills or mountains.

## World Population Density Map

This map shows which parts of the world have many people and which have few people. The largest areas of dense population are in East Asia, South Asia, and Europe. Vast areas of the world are too cold, too dry, or too mountainous for dense population.



## Children Around the World

North America



North America



Middle America



South America

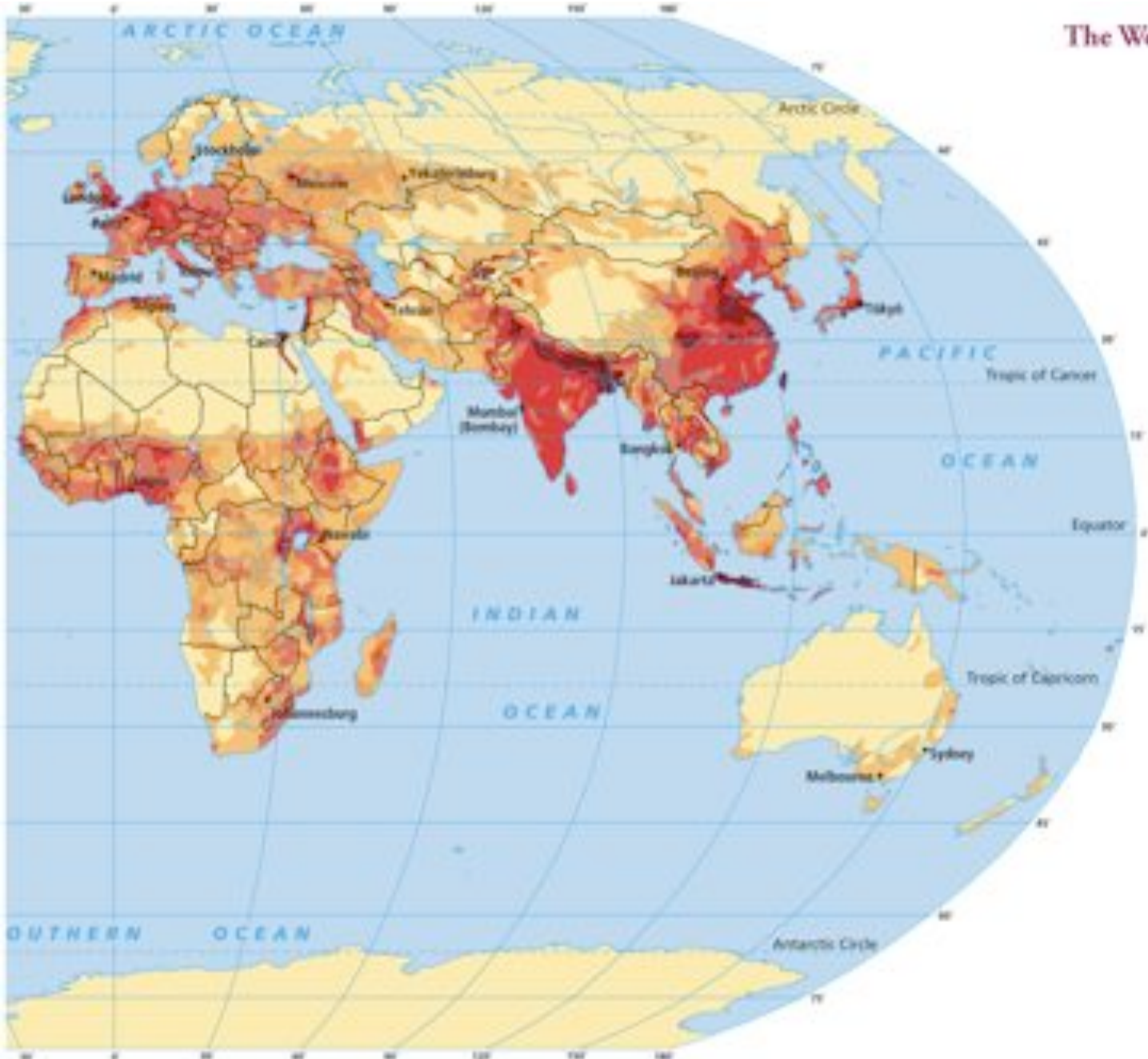


Europe



## World Population Growth

For most of human history, the world's population grew very slowly. About 250 years ago, it began to grow faster as people learned to control illnesses. Now people in many parts of the world are having smaller families, and the rate of growth may be slowing down.



Africa



Middle East



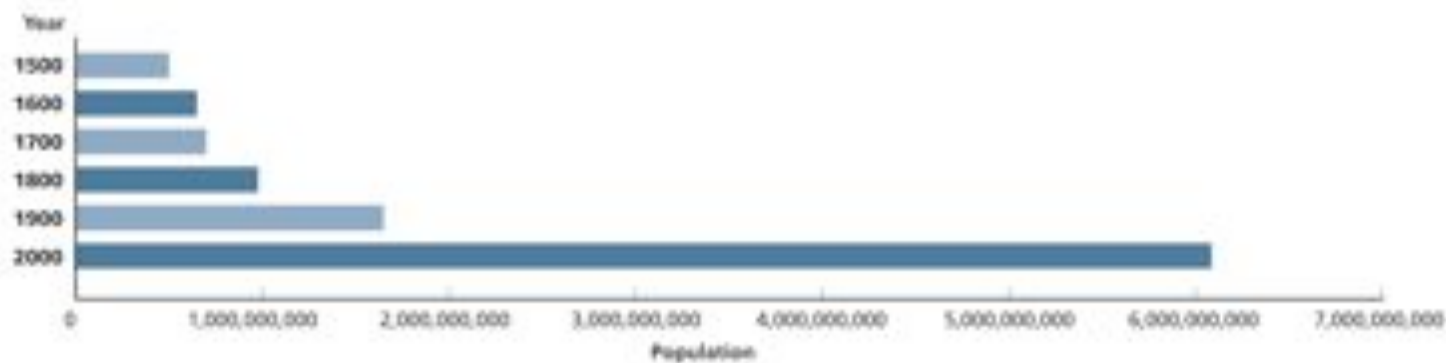
Asia



Asia



Australia



# North America



Mt. McKinley, Alaska, United States

North America is the third-largest continent. About 506,000,000 people live there.

It stretches 5,400 miles (8,700 kilometers) from northern Canada to the Panama-Colombia border.

Three countries—Canada, the United States, and Mexico—make up most of North America. The Caribbean island countries, the countries of Central America, and the island of Greenland make up the rest of the continent.

Central America is a region within North America. It is made up of the countries of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

Central America is part of a larger region of North America called Middle America. This region consists of Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean countries.

Generally, the people of North America have used its rich natural resources to great advantage. But not everyone has benefited. There are people throughout the continent who struggle with poverty, particularly in Central America and some Caribbean countries.



Parliament Hill,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
Canada



San Francisco,  
California, United  
States



Pyramid of the  
Sun, Mexico

## Did You Know?



Greenland, which is part of North America, is the largest island in the world.

## A Historical Look At North America

About 20,000 years ago



First inhabitants of North America may have arrived from Asia across a land bridge that has since disappeared.

About 1200–1500 A.D.



Aztec civilization is dominant in Mexico.



Corn (maize) is first cultivated in Middle America.

About 5000 B.C.



Europeans explore North America.

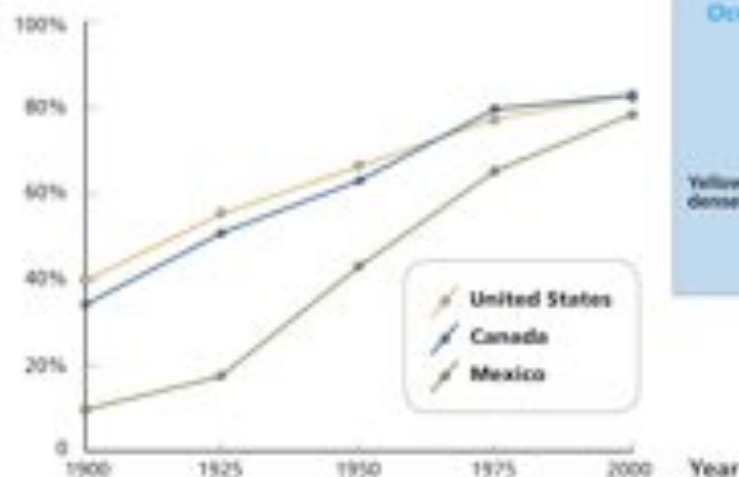
About 1500

## Urbanization in North America

In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, many new factories were built in the United States and Canada. People moved from farms to cities to take jobs in factories and offices. They were joined by immigrants from many countries. After World War II, many people in cities moved to suburbs, and urbanized areas began to grow together, especially along the East Coast between Boston and Washington, D.C. Now people in Mexico are moving to cities and to suburbs. Some of them cannot find steady jobs, and the cities have trouble providing water, sewers, and schools for the rapidly growing populations.

### Rising Urban Population

Urban population as a percentage of total population, 1900-2000



New York City, the largest city in the United States



An abandoned farm on the Great Plains



A village scene in Mexico



Suburban sprawl in Colorado



Toronto, the largest city in Canada





# South America



Iguazu Falls on the Brazil-Argentina border is among the most spectacular sights in South America.

South America is a continent of extremes. The Andes Mountains stretch 4,500 miles (7,200 kilometers) from north to south. They form the longest mountain chain in the world. Lake Titicaca, on the Peru-Bolivia border, is the highest lake in the world used for transportation. Arica, Chile, experienced the longest dry period ever recorded: No rain fell there for more than 14 years!

The Amazon River has the greatest volume of water of any river in the world. The Amazon discharges so much water into the Atlantic that it changes the color of the ocean's water for more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) off the shore.

Most South Americans live in cities that are major ports or are near major ports. São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, are among the world's largest cities. Altogether, almost 367 million people live in South America.



Colorful buildings in Buenos Aires, Argentina



Giant tortoises on Ecuador's Galapagos Islands

## A Historical Look At South America

Circa A.D. 600



Tiahuanaco civilization prospers along the shore of Lake Titicaca.

1498



Christopher Columbus reaches the Orinoco River.



The Incan Empire controls the Andes and the Pacific Coast.

1438-1535



The Portuguese establish sugar plantations in Brazil.

1530s

## Rain Forests

A rain forest is a dense forest that receives at least 100 inches (250 centimeters) of rain a year. The Amazon rain forest is rich in plant and animal life, and new species are discovered almost daily. Scientists have learned that many of the plants can be used to produce life-saving drugs.

However, the rain forest is disappearing. It once covered more than 2.7 million square miles (7 million square kilometers).

Through a process called deforestation, more than 12% of the rain forest has been cleared for farming, mining, and grazing.



## Did You Know?



The Amazon River in South America is longer than any other river in the world except the Nile River in Africa.

## Sights of the Andes Mountains

More than 40 peaks in the Andes rise 20,000 feet (6,000 meters) or higher. Mining is important in the Andes, and tourism is a growing industry.



The ancient Incan city of Machu Picchu, Peru



Lake Titicaca on the Peru-Bolivia border



A jagged peak along the Argentina-Chile border



The South American llama, a relative of the camel



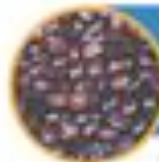
1580

Spaniards found the city of Buenos Aires in Argentina.



1997

Brazil establishes the world's largest rain forest reserve.



1770s

The first coffee plantations are established in Brazil.



2004

South America's population reaches 350 million.





## SOUTH AMERICA

## Physical and Political Maps

## ACTIVITY 19

**Geography Standards**

4. The physical and human characteristics of places
9. Characteristics and distribution of human populations on Earth's surface

**Critical Thinking Skills**

Predicting and checking, comparing and contrasting, drawing conclusions

**Student Products**

- Bar graph showing populations of South American cities
- “Save the Rain Forest” tee shirt designs

**Answers**

1. Brazil; Brasília
2. Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina
3. Paraguay and Bolivia
4. Santiago; São Paulo, because you wouldn't have to cross the Andes
5. Lima, Peru
6. Ecuador
7. Possible answers: South America extends farther south than any other continent, excluding Antarctica; the world is round.

**For Fun!** This activity tests students' knowledge of location and characteristics of cities. Have students disprove the statements by comparing the locations of the cities on the South America physical and political maps. The traveler has La Paz confused with Rio de Janeiro. Montevideo is not located in a rain forest.

**Introducing the Activity**

Have students read the South America Introduction on pages 68–69. Ask them to relate each photograph and time line entry to a location on the physical or political maps on pages 70–71.

Discuss the causes and effects of the disappearance of the Amazon rain forest (causes: deforestation due to mining, farming, and building; effects: loss of habitat for animals, destruction of plants that provide life-saving drugs) Have students work in groups to design tee shirts urging people to save the rain forest. You might have a contest to choose the best design.

**Cross-Curricular Connection: Math**

Have students consult an almanac or other reference to find current population figures for major cities in South America. Then have them create a bar graph comparing the populations.

**Extension**

Have students find out how many South American cities rank among the world's 50 largest cities.

**Assessment**

Divide students into groups of three. In each group, two of the students should prepare erroneous statements about South American geography. The other should prepare a true statement. Then have each group challenge the rest of the class to find out which member is telling the truth.

**Optional Materials Activity: Rand McNally M.A.P. World Desk Map**

Have students trace the Amazon River and all its tributaries on the World Desk Map. Ask them to compare the area drained by this system with the area drained by the Mississippi River system in the United States.

# SOUTH AMERICA

## Physical and Political Maps

# ACTIVITY 19

*Use the maps on pages 70–71 to answer these questions.*

1. What is South America's largest country in land area? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is the capital of that country? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name the countries you would visit if you traveled along the entire length of the Andes Mountains.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which two countries in South America are landlocked, or surrounded by other countries instead of having a coastline?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which city is closer to Buenos Aires, Argentina (G-5) — Santiago, Chile (G-3) or São Paulo, Brazil (F-6)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
If you were traveling by car from Buenos Aires, which city would be easier to reach? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Look at the World Time Zone Map on pages 26–27. Which of the following cities in South America is in the same time zone as Montreal, Quebec, in Canada — Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Lima, Peru; or Caracas, Venezuela?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Locate the Galapagos Islands (D-1) on the physical map on page 70. To what country do they belong?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Look at the World Physical Map on pages 10–11. Locate Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America. What could you discover about the Earth by sailing straight west from Cape Horn?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# For! Fun!

You and your aunt are chatting with another traveler while waiting for your flight at the airport. The traveler says, "I just returned from South America. La Paz is fabulous. It has some of the world's best beaches! I love Rio de Janeiro. It's high in the Andes and only a short distance from Lake Titicaca. Montevideo is my favorite city. I really like the rain forest environment." Your aunt seems impressed, but you doubt that the traveler ever went to South America. Why?