

Geography - The American Continent

Geography is the study of **human** and **physical features** of the earth. A human feature is man made (our school) and a physical feature is naturally created (the sea).



North America

Below are a couple of features in North America:

Mountains - The Rocky Mountains are in the west of North America. The Appalachian Mountains are in the east of North America.

Rivers - The Mississippi River is in the middle of the USA and flows south. The Colorado River is in the southwest of the USA and flows through the Grand Canyon.

Lakes - The Great Lakes are five huge freshwater lakes between Canada and the USA. They are found in the northeast of North America.

Desert - The Mojave Desert is a hot, dry desert in the southwest of North America.

South America

Below are a couple of features in South America:

Mountains - The Andes Mountains are a long mountain range on the west side of South America, next to the Pacific Ocean.

Rivers - The Amazon River is in the north of South America and flows through the Amazon Rainforest. The Orinoco River is in the north of South America, mainly in Venezuela and Colombia.

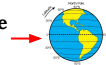
Rainforests - The Amazon Rainforest is a huge rainforest in the north of South America. It is full of plants, trees and wildlife.

Desert - The Atacama Desert is a very dry desert on the west side of South America, mainly in Chile.

Grasslands - The Pampas are large grasslands in the southeast of South America. They are important for farming.

Key Vocabulary

Latitude



Imaginary lines that run around the Earth from east to west. They show how far north or south a place is.

Longitude



Imaginary lines that run from the North Pole to the South Pole. They show how far east or west a place is.

Equator



An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth that divides it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

Northern Hemisphere



The half of the Earth north of the Equator.

Southern Hemisphere



The half of the Earth south of the Equator.

Tropic of Cancer



An imaginary line north of the Equator. It marks the northern edge of the tropics.

Tropic of Capricorn



An imaginary line south of the Equator. It marks the southern edge of the tropics.

Arctic Circle



An imaginary line around the Earth near the North Pole.

Antarctic Circle



An imaginary line around the Earth near the South Pole.

The Prime/Greenwich Meridian



An imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole. It divides the Earth into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres and passes through Greenwich in London, England.

Time Zones



A time zone is an area of the Earth that has the same time. Different parts of the world have different time zones because the Earth rotates and different places face the Sun at different times.