

### Key Vocabulary

**Climate:** the usual weather conditions of a place.

**Continent:** a large area of land that consists of several countries.

**Country:** an area of land that is controlled by its own government.

**Mountain:** a very high area of land with steep sides.

**Mountain range:** a group of connected mountains.

**Earthquake:** a shaking of the ground caused by movement in the Earth's crust.

**Tectonic:** relating to the earth's surface or crust.

**Rainforest:** a forest that receives a large amount of rain each year.

**Deforestation:** if an area is deforested, all the trees are cut down.

**Equator:** an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth at an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole.

**Northern hemisphere:** the half of the earth that is north of the equator.

**Southern hemisphere:** the half of the earth that is south of the equator.

**Human geography:** features of the land that have been impacted by human activity.

**Physical geography:** natural features of the land.

# NORTH AMERICA SOUTH AMERICA



### Websites to explore

The Maya <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw>

Rainforests

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/physical-geography/15-cool-things-about-rainforests/>

Earthquakes

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/articles/zj89t39>

### Books to Read

**The Chocolate Tree** by Linda Lowery

**The Explorer** by Katherine Rundell

**Wild Animals of the South** by Dieter Braun

**Journey to the River Sea** by Eva Ibbotson

**The Great Kapok Tree** by Lynne Cherry

**The History Detectives Investigates: Mayan Civilisation** by Clare Hibbert

**The Hero Twins: Against the Lords of Death (A Mayan Myth)** by Dan Jolley and David Witt.

**The Mystery at the Mayan Ruins: Mexico** by C. Marsh

**Her right foot** by Dave Eggers

**Stories from Native North America** by Linda Raczek

**Stories from the Amazon** by Saviour Pirotta

**Cosmic** by Frank Cottrell-Boyce

### Knowledge

**American Flag:** The 50 stars on the **flag** represent the 50 states of the United States of **America**, and the 13 stripes represent the thirteen British colonies that declared independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

**Mountains and Earthquakes:** Movement of the plates have caused the San Andreas Fault, showing what happens when the plates collide together. Key mountain ranges within North and South America include the Andes and Rockies, two of the largest and most interesting mountain ranges.

**The Maya:** The Maya civilisation began long ago in a place called '**Mesoamerica**'. This huge area is made up of Mexico and part of Central America. The Maya built amazing cities like **Tikal** (which they called 'Yax Mutal') and **Palenque**.

**Rainforest:** The **Amazon rainforest** is the largest tropical **rainforest** in the world, covering over five and a half a million square kilometres (1.4 billion acres). It is also home to the Amazon River.

### Places to Visit

**Yorkshire Wildlife Park:** this fantastic park includes some animals which you may find in a rainforest habitat.

**National History Museum London:** Museum of the Moon featuring detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface.

**Rainmaker Gallery, Manchester:** exclusive ranges of Native American jewellery and showcases Pendleton blankets.

**Tropical Butterfly House:** an insight into the insects and animals that are native to the Americas.

**Magna and Science Adventure Centre:** an exploration through all the key elements of the world including Earth, fire and water.

### Countries of North America

There are 23 countries in North America and a further 9 states that are listed as dependencies of other nations.

#### Most populous North American countries

1. USA: 328 million people
2. Mexico: 132 million people
3. Canada: 37 million people
4. Guatemala: 18 million people

#### Largest North American countries

1. Canada: 9.98 million km<sup>2</sup>
2. USA: 9.83 million km<sup>2</sup>
3. Greenland: 2.16 million km<sup>2</sup>
4. Mexico: 1.96 million km<sup>2</sup>

### Countries of South America

There are 12 countries in South America and a further 4 states that are listed as dependencies of other nations.

#### Most populous South American countries

1. Brazil: 210 million people
2. Colombia: 49 million people
3. Argentina: 44 million people
4. Peru: 32 million people

#### Largest South American countries

1. Brazil: 8.5 million km<sup>2</sup>
2. Argentina: 2.8 million km<sup>2</sup>
3. Peru: 1.3 million km<sup>2</sup>
4. Colombia: 1.15 million km<sup>2</sup>