



ST. ALBAN'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
LEAD THE WAY

# Yr 6 Geography: South America



- South America is the fourth-largest continent in the world. It covers about 17.8 million km<sup>2</sup>
- It lies completely in the western hemisphere
- South America is the fifth-most populous continent in the world – it has a population of around 420 million people (over half of these people live in Brazil)
- There are 12 countries in South America and a further 4 states that are listed as dependencies of other nations.



**Languages spoken in South America**

## Human Geography features

**Deforestation** The Amazon Rainforest has been rapidly destroyed over the past 50 years – since 1970, nearly 800,000 km<sup>2</sup> of rainforest has been lost.



**Machu Picchu** The Inca Empire was the largest empire in precolonial South America. Machu Picchu was a large Incan citadel (fortified central area of town). Incans abandoned it after the Spanish invaded. It remained unknown until 1911.



**The Rio Carnival** The Rio Carnival is a festival held every year before Lent. It is considered the largest carnival in the world, with over 2 million people attending daily. It is filled with parades of revellers, dancers, floats and displays.

**Coffee Trade** The coffee plant is grown in abundance in South America, and many countries from the continent are the biggest producers of coffee in the world. Coffee is a huge regional export.

## Physical Geography features



**The Amazon River** The Amazon River is the longest river in South America, and by some definitions, the world. It has a huge volume, discharging 20% of all river discharge into the ocean in the world!



**The Amazon Rainforest** The Amazon Rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world. The rainforest is about 5.5 million km<sup>2</sup> across nine different nations.



**The Atacama Desert** The Atacama Desert is one of the driest places in the world. There are some places where there has been no recorded rainfall ever!



**The Andes** The Andes are the tallest mountains in South America (and in the world after the mountain ranges in Asia). The range is about 7,000km long, extending north to south. The world's highest volcanos are in the Andes.