

THE AMAZING AMERICAS

KEY VOCABULARY

CONTINENT	Any of the world's main continuous expanses of land (Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Antarctica).
EQUATOR	An equator is an imaginary line around the middle of a planet or other celestial body. It is halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole, at 0 degrees latitude. An equator divides the planet into a Northern Hemisphere and a Southern Hemisphere. The Earth is widest at its Equator.
TROPIC OF CANCER	The Tropic of Cancer, which is also referred to as the Northern Tropic, is the most northerly circle of latitude on Earth at which the Sun can be directly overhead.
TROPIC OF CAPRICORN	The Tropic of Capricorn, which is also referred to as the Southern Tropic, is the most southerly circle of latitude on Earth at which the Sun can be directly overhead.
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY	The branch of geography dealing with how human activity affects or is influenced by the earth's surface.
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY	The branch of geography dealing with natural features.
CLIMATE	The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.

Did you Know?



The Americas (collectively called America) is a landmass comprising the totality of North and South America. The Americas make up most of the land in Earth's Western hemisphere.

Strictly speaking, the Americas consists of two continents, North America and South America. Central America and the Caribbean are considered part of North America.

The double continent is situated entirely in the Western Hemisphere bounded by the Pacific Ocean in the west, the Atlantic Ocean in the east, the Arctic Ocean in the north, and the Southern Ocean in the south. Measured from the northernmost point of Greenland to the southernmost point of South America, it is 15,600 km as the crow flies, making America the most elongated landmass in the world.

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What will we be learning about in this topic?

- To use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
- To locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.
- Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).
- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.
- Use fieldwork to observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs and digital technologies
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom [...] and a region within North or South America

How Can You Compare Different Places?

Physical Geography

The natural features of a place or environment.

- oceans and coastlines
- rivers and lakes
- mountains and volcanoes
- **flora** and **fauna**
- land-form

Human Geography

Features of an environment that have been shaped by people.

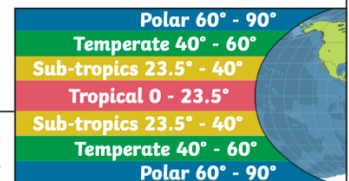
- **country**/region boundaries
- buildings, roads and land use
- changes to river courses
- language/signs
- religion, government, art and music

Climate Groups

The Köppen System is a **climate** classification system. It is split into five main groups which each consist of a range of **climate** types:

- Temperate - hot dry summers, and cooler wetter winters, Mediterranean e.g. United Kingdom
- Continental - long, cold winters and short, hot summers, inland areas e.g. parts of Turkey
- Polar - long periods of extreme cold, tundra, ice cap e.g. Antarctica
- Tropical - hot and humid, wet, rainforest e.g. Brazil
- Dry - arid, desert e.g. Saudi Arabia

The four main **climate** zones, determined by **latitude**.



The New Seven Wonders of the World



Some of the Natural Wonders of the Americas

