

NORTH AMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA | YEAR 5 | Spring 2022



BIG QUESTIONS

How do North America and South America differ?

What influences the physical features of a region?

How does Niagara Falls support industries in Canada?

Why do people choose to live in places with a high frequency chance of earthquakes? How do they prepare for them?

Timeline

1540	Guides lead an expedition with the first Europeans, to visit the Grand Canyon.
1885	The Niagara Reservation State Park opens, attracting 750,000 visitors. It is the first state park established in the United States.
2004	On September 28, 2004, at 10:15 a.m. a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck the Parkfield area. It was felt across the state, including the San Francisco Bay Area.

Important Places

Tornado Alley	Tornado Alley is a defined area of the central United States where tornadoes are most frequent.
Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls is a group of three waterfalls at the southern end of Niagara Gorge, spanning the border between the province of Ontario in Canada and the state of New York in the United States.
Grand Canyon	The Grand Canyon is one of the 7 wonders of the world. The canyon has a winding path of 277 miles.
Kansas	The mid-western state of Kansas is the 15 th largest state in the nation, and it's located right in the middle of the United States. The state's landscape includes grassland hills, sand dunes, woodlands, fields of wheat, and more.
Louisiana	Louisiana is a south eastern state that's famous for its unique Creole and Cajun culture, food, jazz music, and Mardi Gras festival.
Yellowstone National Park	Yellowstone is an American national park located in the western United States. Yellowstone National Park is famous for its geysers and hot springs. Many tourists visit the park each year to see the geysers and animals there.

Vocabulary

fieldwork	Practical work conducted by a researcher in the natural environment, rather than in a laboratory, office or classroom.
geysers	A natural pool of hot water that sometimes erupts, sending steam and hot water gushing into the air.
canyon	A deep gorge, typically one with a river flowing through it.
country	A nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory. 12 countries in South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.
tourism	The activities of people traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for leisure, business or other purposes.
human geography	A man-made feature of a place. Christ the Redeemer (statue in Rio), Machu Picchu (Inca citadel in Peru), Salt Cathedral (Colombia), Reed Islands (Peru), Merida cable car (Venezuela).
physical geography	A natural feature of a place. River: Amazon (river with greatest volume of water in world), Mountain range: Andes (longest in world), Largest lake: Titicaca, Rainforests, Volcanoes, Desert: Atacama (driest in world).
environmental regions	Areas of land with similar environments or physical features. Pampas –fertile lowland, Atacama desert –driest desert in world, Amazon basin –rainforest, Patagonia –windy, bare, has southernmost city in the world.
population	The people that live in a place.
hydroelectricity	Hydroelectricity is electricity that is made by the movement of water. It is usually made with dams that block a river to make a reservoir or collect water that is pumped there.



National Curriculum Links

Geography	I can use maps to locate the countries of North and South America.
	I can locate the countries in North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions.
	I can locate the countries in North and South America, concentrating on their key physical and human characteristics.
	I can locate the major cities in North and South America.
	I can study Niagara Falls, where it is and how it supports two industries in Canada: hydroelectricity and tourism.
	I can describe different climates and which animals and plants live there.
	I can use digital and computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
	I can discuss the San Andreas fault line, why people still choose to live there and how they prepare for earthquakes.
	I can study the Grand Canyon including research on how it is formed.
Art	In my paintings, I can include texture gained through paint mix or brush technique.
DT	I can experiment with a range of materials, selecting those which are most appropriate to the task.
Computing	I can 'test', amend / edit a simple computer 'game' or model or simulation to solve a problem.
	I can use logical reasoning to deconstruct programs, evaluate their effectiveness and make them more challenging.