Investigating places	Investigating patterns	To Communicate Geographically

Class: 5/6	Title: South America

Topic summary: South America is a continent made up of 12 countries, with an estimated population of 432 million – about 5.6 % of the total world population. Its largest country is Brazil, which covers more than half the continent's landmass. Brazil is only slightly smaller than the USA. The smallest country is Suriname, one of the ten most sparsely populated countries in the world. The biggest island is Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire), at the southern tip of Argentina and Chile. Bolivia and Paraguay are both landlocked countries. South America is home to the largest river basin in the world – the Amazon. It is also home to the Angel Falls waterfall, which is the highest in the world at over 900 m (2,950 ft).Lake Titicaca (shared by Bolivia and Peru) is the continent's biggest lake.

Geography Objectives

• Collect and analyse statistics and other information in order to draw clear conclusions about locations.
• Identify and describe how the physical features affect the human activity within a location.
• Use a range of geographical resources to give detailed descriptions and opinions of the characteristic features of a location.
• Name and locate some of the countries and cities of the world and their identifying human and physical characteristics, including hills, mountains, rivers, key topographical features and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.
• Name and locate the countries of North and South America and identify their main physical and human characteristics.
• Understand some of the reasons for geographical similarities and differences between countries.
• Describe how locations around the world are changing and explain some of the reasons for change.
• Describe geographical diversity across the world.
• Describe and understand key aspects of:
• physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and the water cycle.
• human geography, including: settlements, land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals, and water supplies.
• Create maps of locations identifying patterns (such as: land use, climate zones, population densities, height of land).

Key vocabulary

Landmass	A large continuous area of land
Landlocked	With no access to the sea
Sparsely	With only a small number of people
Indigenous	Native to a country
Colony	A country occupied by another country
Populous	With a large population
River basin	The portion of land drained by a river
Tributary	A river that flows into another river
Subduction	The movement of one tectonic plate below another
Seismic	Relating to earthquakes

Unit of work end points

- **Describe** the geographical location of South America (e.g. In the western/ southern hemisphere), **compare and contrast** with Europe.
- **Locate and mark** on a map the countries of South America
- To **know** what landlocked means, naming the landlocked countries in South America
- **Locate and mark** on a map the UK Overseas Territory of the Falkland Islands – **discuss** the significance of these islands
- **Define** the word 'indigenous', giving examples of some indigenous cultures around today
- **Define** the word colony, describing when and why it was colonised
- **Explain** the link between colonisation and the diversity of languages spoken in a geographical region

Population
- To **know** what the approximate population of South America is
- **Locate and mark** on a map the five most populous cities in South America.
- **Define** the term 'population density', with examples of Rio de Janeiro
- **Compare and contrast** populations across South America using population data
- **Describe** why areas are becoming more densely populated and the problems countries are facing with this (e.g. traffic problems, housing and water shortages)
- **Define** the term 'sparsely populated' and give some examples in South America
- **Compare and contrast** population information for Santiago and Isla Negra in Chile.

Rivers
Recap (3/4D)
- **Define the word 'tributary'**
- **Name the physical features of a river**

- Describe what a river basin is
- Locate and mark on a map the location of South America's three main river basins
- Describe the geographical location of South America's three main river basins
- List information and compare and contrast the physical features of South America's three main river basins
- Locate and mark on a map the location of the highest waterfall in the world

Mountains
Recap (4/5H)
- **To know how mountains are formed (e.g. subduction)**

- Using a topographic map, **locate and mark** on a map the geographical location of South America's major mountain ranges.
- To **locate** which countries the Andes mountain range passes through
- **Locate and mark** on a map the highest peak in the Andes and the world's highest capital city
- **Locate** the tectonic plate boundary in South America, **describing** why there is seismic activity

Deeper learning:
- Propose reasons why areas within the Amazon basin are less populated than coastal areas at the mouth of the Amazon River.
- Investigate the physical features of some of the significant aspects of the Orinoco River basin.