

DISCOVER THE
CONTINENTS



South America

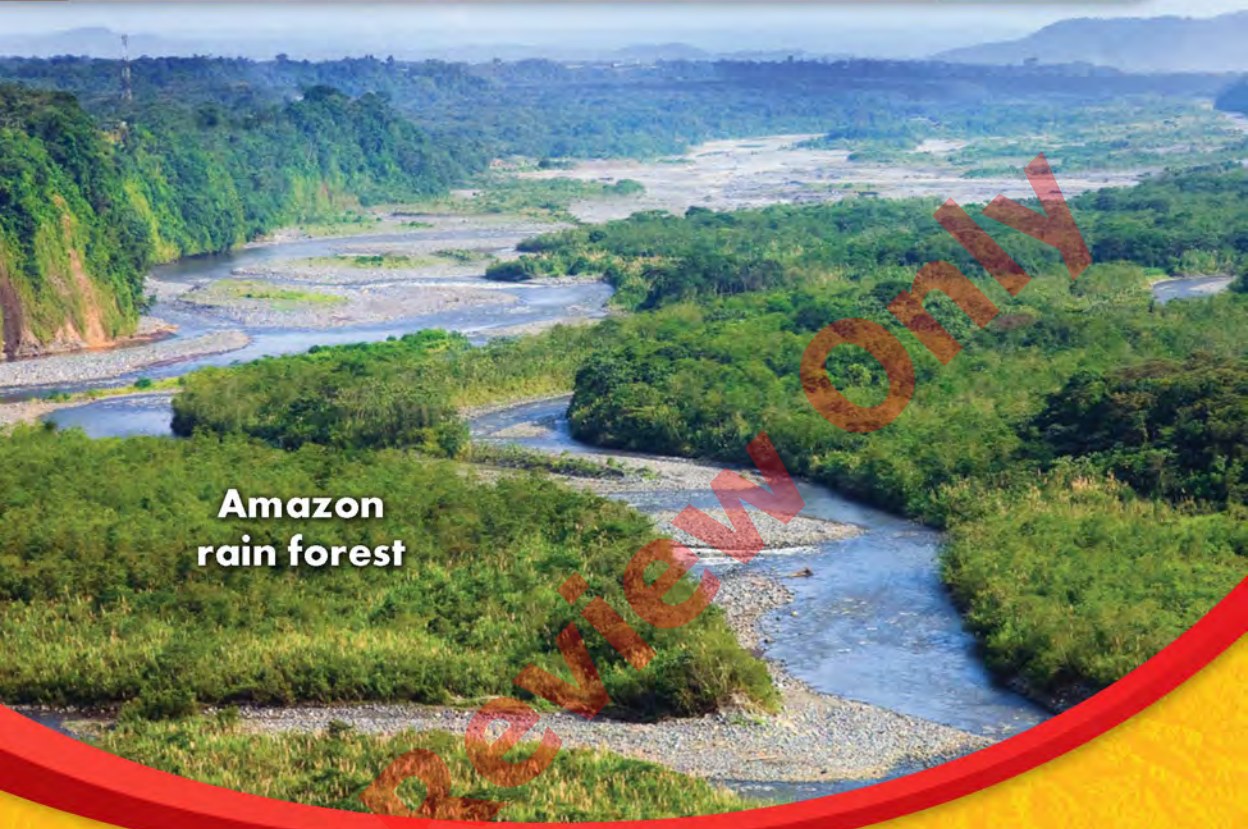




Table of Contents

Home of the Largest Rain Forest	4
Where Is South America?	6
The Land and Climate	8
The Plants and Animals	12
The People	16
Fast Facts About South America	20
Glossary	22
To Learn More	23
Index	24

Home of the Largest Rain Forest



Amazon
rain forest

South America holds the world's largest **tropical rain forest**. The Amazon spreads across eight countries. Millions of plants and animals live there.

In Peru's mountains, many people visit Machu Picchu's **ruins**. Others travel to Ecuador's Galápagos Islands.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Most people in South America speak Spanish or Portuguese.
- The Andes Mountains stretch for more than 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometers). They are the longest mountain chain on land.
- More than 3,000 types of birds call South America home. Toucans, hummingbirds, parrots, and hawks fly over the land.
- Chile's Atacama Desert is the driest place in the world. There, a city once went without rain for more than 14 years!



Where Is South America?



The **equator** passes through South America. The **continent** is in the Northern, Southern, and Western **hemispheres**.



The Pacific Ocean borders western South America. To the east is the Atlantic Ocean. A strip of land connects South America to North America.

The Land and Climate

Andes
Mountains



The Andes Mountains trail along the continent's western edge. **Volcanoes** rise between mountain peaks. Low grasslands spread across Colombia, Venezuela, and Argentina.

The Amazon River flows from the Andes to the Atlantic Ocean. Around it grows the Amazon rain forest.

