

Lesson Sequence

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1. Which climate zones and biomes are located in South America?
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2. What would a geographer say about Brazil?
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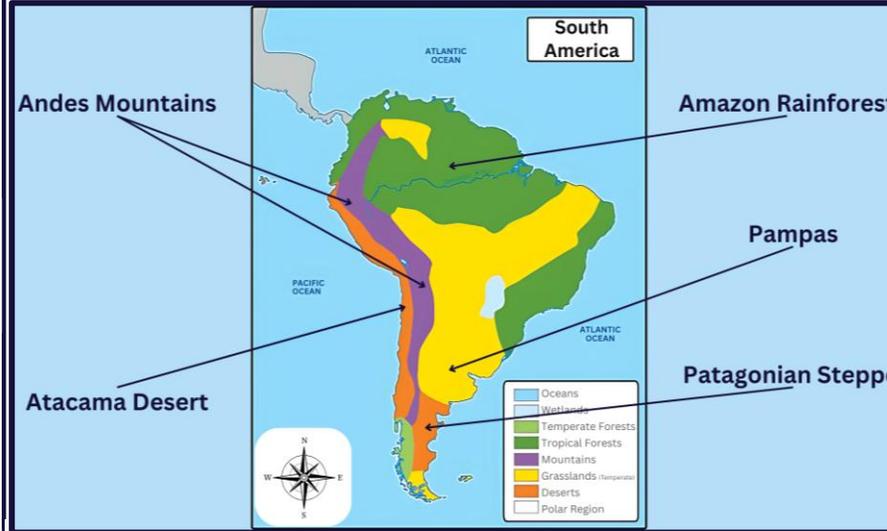
3. What are the features of the Amazon rainforest?
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4. Why is the Amazon rainforest important?
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5. What challenges does the Amazon rainforest face?
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6. Assessment: Why is the future of the Amazon rainforest uncertain?

Climate Zones and Biomes



A climate zone is a region that has a particular pattern of weather over a long time. South America is known for its diverse climate zones.

A biome is an area where specific plants and wildlife live in a certain type of climate. South America is home to several unique biomes, all depending on a particular climate for plants and animals to thrive.



Tropical: an area that is very hot and humid; usually near the equator.

Temperate: a place with mild temperatures and seasons.



Arid/semi-arid: to have little or no rain, usually very dry.

Mountainous: A rocky and high place, usually very cold and without much vegetation.



Challenges faced by the Amazon



Deforestation: trees are being cut down for farming, animal grazing and logging.



Climate change: rising temperatures and less rain are harming plants and animals.



Fires: many parts of the forest are being burned, often on purpose to clear land.



Pollution: many animals and plants are losing their homes and could disappear forever.



Rocket Words

biome	an area where specific plants and wildlife live in a certain type of climate
climate zone	an area of the world with distinct weather patterns
ecosystem	a particular area of living organisms
equatorial	a place near the equator
deforestation	clearing a wide area of trees
temperate	a place with mild temperatures
tropical	an area that is very hot and humid; usually near the equator
arid/semi-arid	to have little or no rain/to have periods with little or no rain, usually very dry