Knowsley Junior School

South America

Subject	Word	Definition
G	Rainforest Basin	The large area of land drained by the River Amazon and its tributaries, supporting dense tropical ecosystems.
G	Biodiversity	The variety of different animal and plant species living within a specific natural habitat or biome.
G	Deforestation	The permanent clearing and removal of natural forest land by humans for logging, agriculture, or mining.
G	Sustainability	Meeting current human economic needs without destroying natural resources or harming future generations.
G	Arid	Severe land dryness caused by an extreme lack of regular rain.
G	Rain Shadow	A dry region on the leeward side of a mountain range where prevailing winds lose moisture before crossing.
G	Megacity	A very large urban metropolitan area with a total population exceeding ten million residents, such as São Paulo.
G	Rural-to-Urban Migration	The movement of populations away from rural farming communities to settle in major industrial cities.
G	Economic Activity	The different ways people and businesses make money, trade goods, extract resources, and provide services.
G	Digital Fieldwork	Gathering observable data outdoors and analysing spatial patterns using digital mapping software and spreadsheets.

By the end of this topic I should be able to:

- Locate and label all 12 sovereign countries of South America and their capital cities on a continental political map.
- Use physical and thematic maps to contrast three distinct geographical regions: the Amazon Basin, the Andes Mountains, and the Atacama Desert.
- Analyse satellite imagery and time-series data to track rates of deforestation across the Amazon rainforest.
- Evaluate the conflicting economic arguments of loggers, cattle ranchers, indigenous groups, and conservationists using a decision-making framework.
- Compare the human and physical geography of a chosen region in Brazil with Greater Manchester, examining population, land use, and economy.
- Carry out an urban fieldwork study using digital tools to tally, graph, and map local traffic patterns and land-use variations.

By the end of this topic I should know:

Geography:

- South America is the fourth-largest continent by area, stretching across the Southern Hemisphere from the Caribbean Sea down to Cape Horn.
- The Andes form the world's longest continental mountain range along South America's western coastline, acting as a dramatic physical barrier that shapes regional climates.
- The Amazon rainforest is the most biodiverse tropical habitat on Earth, storing carbon, generating oxygen, and housing millions of plant and animal species.
- The Atacama Desert in Chile is one of the driest places on Earth due to the rain-shadow effect created by the Andes blocking moist Atlantic air.
- Deforestation in the Amazon Basin is primarily driven by industrial agriculture, including commercial cattle ranching, soy cultivation, timber logging, and mineral mining.
- Large-scale forest clearance accelerates global climate change, disrupts hydrological cycles, and threatens the ancestral territories of indigenous tribes.
- South America has experienced rapid rural-to-urban migration, leading to densely populated megacities like São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro with significant socio-economic divides.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and digital mapping tools enable modern geographers to record, track, and visualise environmental changes over time.