

Let the Adventure Begin! — Geography

Year 4



Core Knowledge



- South America is a continent that is home to nearly 400 million people. It consists of 12 countries: Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, and Suriname, plus French Guiana which is a territory of France.
- Chile is the longest country in the world that stretches from North to South in a narrow strip. The South American country stretches over a length of 4,300 km and has a maximum width of 350 km at its widest point. Chile borders three countries: Peru, Bolivia and Argentina. More than 19 million people live in Chile. The capital city is called Santiago and it has a population of almost 7 million people.

- The Andes mountain range is the longest mountain range on Earth and much of it is in Chile. There are many volcanoes in the Andes mountain range, one of which is the Osorno volcano. This is one of the most active volcanoes. Similarly, there are mountain ranges in the UK called the Cambrian Mountains, the Pennines and the Grampian Mountains. However, there are no volcanoes in the UK mountain ranges. There are many rivers in both countries.
- The Earth's crust is made up of a series of pieces called tectonic plates. A volcano is an opening between two or more of these plates, which allows hot magma, ash and gases to escape from below the surface. When plates are forced down to great depths, they can melt to form magma. Volcanoes erupt when this magma is forced upwards to the surface. There are 36 active volcanos in Chile. Eyjafjallajökull is an active volcano in southern Iceland.
- Mountains can also be created by the movement of tectonic plates. The highest mountain ranges are created by tectonic plates pushing together and forcing the ground up where they meet. The Andes mountain range was created by a collision of tectonic plates. There are many mountains in Iceland and the Kerlingarfjoll mountain range is one of the tallest.



The Osorno volcano is in the Andes mountain range.

Key Vocabulary

continent—a continuous expanse of land. There are seven continents in the world: Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Antarctica



country—land that is controlled by a single government. Countries can be large or small.



city—a place where many people live closely together



mountain range—long chains or groups of mountains



tectonic plates—Earth's outer layer is made up of large, moving pieces called plates. All of Earth's land and water sit on these plates. The plates are made of solid rock.



magma—molten, or hot liquefied, rock located deep below the Earth's surface



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Core Knowledge

- The North and South poles are at the top and bottom of the Earth. The Arctic is a polar region around the North Pole and the Antarctic is a polar region around the South Pole. Both poles have similar climates, with long, cold winters and short, cool summers. Penguins are only found at the Antarctic and polar bears are only found in the Arctic.
- Temperature and climate in the world vary depending on where a place is. Locations that are closer to the Equator are hotter, while locations that are further from the Equator (and closer to the poles) are colder. Eismitte is a location in Greenland which is very close to the North Pole. Here, the temperature can get as low as -45°C in February.
- There is a population of just 57,713 in Greenland and the capital city is called Nuuk. Nine out of 10 Greenlanders are of Inuit descent, and the remainder of the population are Danish or European. The official language is Greenlandic, but Danish and English are also commonly spoken. By contrast, the population of the UK is much bigger at 67,000,000! The capital city of the UK is London. Many people from the UK are descendants of Celtic migrants from central Europe who arrived there around 1000 B.C. The official language is English.
- In polar regions it is cold all year round, so people who live there have to dress warmly. Children go to school and play just like children in the UK do. Houses are built on stilts to make sure the snow and ice underneath them doesn't melt and cause the house to sink into the ground. People get around using sleds pulled by husky dogs and they eat animals which live in that environment, like fish, seals, polar bears, muskox or narwhales.
- Greenland and the UK are both in the Northern hemisphere, which means that they have summer and winter at the same times of year. Temperatures in Greenland range from -12°C in July to -45°C in February. In contrast to this, temperatures in the UK are much warmer as they range from 4°C in January to 18°C in July. The UK is much wetter than Greenland—the total annual rainfall is 593mm, while in Greenland it is only 5mm.
- We can use maps to show where things are and how far apart they are. Maps show which direction is north and in the locality of our school, the sea is to the south. A compass can help you find the right direction. Maps often show grid references, which can help find a place. You can show what symbols mean on a map by using a key.
- Fieldwork is when you go outside the classroom and find things out for yourself. We can use an anemometer to measure wind speed. We can use a rain gauge to measure rainfall.



Nuuk is the capital city of Greenland.

Key Vocabulary

North pole—the northernmost point of the Earth



South pole—the southernmost point of the Earth



arctic—the region around the North Pole



Antarctic—one of the Earth's seven continents. The icy region around the South Pole.



Equator—an imaginary line around the Earth that goes exactly midway between the North Pole and the South Pole



population—the number of people living in a certain place



Northern hemisphere—the section of the Earth that is north of the Equator

