



## The Americas

- The Americas are **two separate** continents consisting of North America and South America.
- North** America contains **23** different countries, whilst **South** America consists of **12** countries.
- The Americas cover a huge area of the globe, extending over several lines of latitude and longitude, crossing many climate zones, so the characteristics of different countries and regions vary significantly.

## Passport to the World



Chile,  
South America



UK,  
Europe

## How can we compare different places?

### Physical Geography

The natural features of a place or environment.

- Oceans, coastlines, rivers and lakes
- Mountains and volcanoes
- Climate
- Biomes
- Landscapes

### Human Geography

Features of an environment that have been shaped by people.

- Country borders and capital cities
- Buildings, roads and land use
- Languages and religion
- Landmarks
- Population and settlements



## Latitude and Longitude

Lines of Latitude

Lines of Longitude

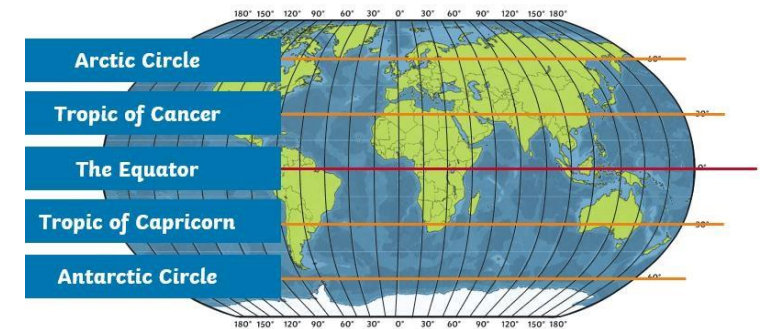
These lines are used to give the specific location of anywhere in the world, using co-ordinates.



northern hemisphere

equator

southern hemisphere



The Americas span across many lines of latitude and longitude, with **North America** being in the **Northern hemisphere** and **South America** being within **both hemispheres**. The **Equator** runs through the middle of 3 South American countries – **Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia**.

Key Vocabulary	
<b>Continent</b>	A large landmass made up of many countries – 7 in total.
<b>Region</b>	An area of land that has common features and similarities.
<b>Equator</b>	An imaginary line around the Earth, exactly halfway between the North and South Poles, that divides Earth into two equal halves.
<b>Weather</b>	The day to day condition of the atmosphere, e.g. sunny, snowing, warm, etc.
<b>Climate</b>	The usual or average weather conditions over a long period of time.
<b>Biome</b>	Areas of the world with places that have similar climates, vegetation and animals that have adapted to living there.
<b>Landscape</b>	An area and its landforms and features that can be seen when viewed from another place, e.g. rivers, lakes, mountains, volcanoes, valleys.
<b>Settlement</b>	A place where groups of people live and work.
<b>Population</b>	Total number of people living in a particular area.
<b>Landmark</b>	A feature in the landscape which has a particular meaning attached to it, e.g. Statue of Liberty in New York.
<b>Economic activity</b>	The production and selling of products or services so that a country can make money.

Physical Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glacier Bay National Park - Alaska</li> <li>Grand Canyon - Arizona, USA</li> <li>Everglades - Florida, USA</li> <li>Andes Mountains</li> <li>Angel Falls - Venezuela</li> <li>Amazon Rainforest - Brazil</li> <li>Atacama Desert - Chile</li> </ul>

Human Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statue of Liberty, The White House – USA</li> <li>Disney World – Florida, USA</li> <li>CN Tower – Canada</li> <li>Statue of Christ the Redeemer – Brazil</li> <li>Machu Picchu – Peru</li> </ul>

Capital Cities
Canada – Ottawa
USA – Washington DC
Mexico – Mexico City
Brazil – Brasilia
Chile – Santiago de Chile
Argentina – Buenos Aires



Natural Resources
<u>North America</u> : Agriculture, forestry, coal, oil and gas.
<u>South America</u> : Agriculture, forestry, fishing, oil/gas, iron and copper.

Climate Zones
<p>These are geographical areas that share similar weather conditions over long periods of time, which influences vegetation, wildlife and human life. Regions are often placed into categories based on temperature, precipitation and other climatic factors. The 5 main climate zones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Polar</u></b> - long periods of extreme cold, areas covered by ice and snow, e.g. Alaska, USA.</li> <li><b><u>Temperate</u></b> - hot dry summers, and cooler wetter winters, e.g. United Kingdom.</li> <li><b><u>Arid</u></b> – Dry, hot desert conditions with little rainfall all year. all year, e.g. Atacama Desert, Chile.</li> <li><b><u>Tropical</u></b> - hot and humid, wet, rainforest e.g. Brazil.</li> <li><b><u>Mountainous</u></b> – areas that have different climates to their surrounding areas, often wetter, windier and colder e.g. Rocky Mountains, North America.</li> </ul>

