

LO: To understand the climate of different parts of South America.

### **Terminology:**

Climate: The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.

Biomes: A large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat, e.g. forest or tundra.

### **Climate of South America**

The climate of South America can be broadly divided into seven different climate types:

1. Desert – Warm to high temperatures with very little rainfall.
2. Grassland – Hot summers and cold winters with above average rainfall.
3. Deciduous forest – Four distinct seasons with warm summers and cold, wet winters. The trees shed their leaves in autumn.
4. Rainforest – High temperatures and high rainfall throughout the year.
5. Savanna – This region has very high temperatures all year and rain during the summer season only.
6. Mediterranean – Warm to high temperatures with rainfall in the autumn and winter months.
7. Alpine/mountain – Cold, windy and snowy. It is winter from October to May with temperatures below freezing, while summer is from June to September where the temperature can reach 15C.

Along the Equator, running from the Pacific Ocean eastward to the Atlantic Ocean is a wide climate zone of the continent that is tropical, humid and wet. As the land moves north and south of the equator the amount of rainfall diminishes. Rainfall in the wettest part of the region, Colombia into Brazil's northwestern section of the Amazon Basin, also South America's northeastern South America Climate Map coastline, with the countries of Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana can see more than 350 inches a year. Yet tropical, the region will have periods of dry weather. Several major areas of South America will see rainfall well above 80 inches a year. A more Tropical wet and dry climate, the countries of Venezuela, the savannahs of Guyana and Suriname as well as the southeastern portion of Brazil fall into this climate zone

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South America climate has a zone of humid ocean air that lies on the southwestern portion of Chile. Humid winds blowing off the Pacific Ocean give the southern coastal portions of Chile large amounts of rain before hitting the Andes Mountains. On the other side of the Andes, Patagonia Argentina is robbed of this moisture and will only see around 10 inches of rainfall a year.

The Atacama Desert, extending from southern Peru into northern Chile is the world's driest desert. Continuing north along the Peru Coast, this South America climate zone is void of moisture due to the Peru Current flowing north and unable to hold moisture in the cool dry air. Argentina's Gran Chaco region has the hottest temperatures in South America.

### **Task**

1. Create a bar chart (using data below) and plot the average monthly rainfall (mm) in Brazil. Explain the results of your findings.

BRAZIL Rio De Janerio (19 mtrs)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
R	125	122	130	107	79	53	41	43	66	79	104	137

2. Create a climate graph for the climate of Andagoya, Columbia with the given data. Explain your findings.

**Af - Andagoya, Columbia 5° N , Elevation: 65 m**

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
Temp. ° C	27	27	28	28	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
Precip. mm	554	519	557	620	655	655	572	574	561	563	563	512	6905

3. Research the climate of UK. Thereafter, explain the similarities between the climate of the UK and South America.