

North America

North America is the third largest of the seven continents. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. North America is dominated by its three largest countries: Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Central America and the Caribbean are usually considered part of North America, but they have their own section here.

Although Columbus is given much credit as having discovered America, there were plenty of people already living in North America before the Europeans arrived. This included many Native American tribes in the United States and the Aztec civilization in what is now Mexico. In the 1600's the Europeans quickly took over much of North America. The most populous country in North America, the United States, was formed in the late 1700's.



Major cities:

- Mexico City, Mexico
- New York City, USA
- Los Angeles, USA
- Chicago, USA
- Toronto, Canada
- Houston, USA
- Ecatepec de Morelos, Mexico
- Montreal, Canada
- Philadelphia, USA
- Guadalajara, Mexico

Bordering Bodies of Water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico

Major Rivers and Lakes: Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake, Lake Erie, Lake Winnipeg, Mississippi River, Missouri River, Colorado River, Rio Grande, Yukon River

Major Geographical Features: Rocky Mountains, Sierra Madres, Appalachian Mountains, Coastal Range, Great Plains, Canadian Shield, Coastal Plain

Countries of North America

- Bermuda
- Canada
- Greenland
- Mexico
- Saint Pierre and Miquelon
- United States of America

Facts about North America:

The city with the largest population in North America is Mexico City, Mexico.

The longest river in North America is the Mississippi-Missouri River.

Lake Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the world by area. It is located on the border between the United States and Canada.

The country of Greenland is the biggest island on the planet.

The North American and South American continents are thought to have been named after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci.

Canada is slightly larger than the United States in area making it the second largest country by area in the world (after Russia).

South America

South America is the fourth largest continent in size and the fifth largest in population. It is located primarily in the southern hemisphere. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The geography of South America is dominated by the Andes Mountain Range and the Amazon River (second longest river in the world).

Before the European colonization, the Incan Civilization was a dominant force in South America. In the 1500's, Spain and Portugal colonized much of South America. The colonies gained independence in the 1800's with the help of leaders such as Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin. Much of South America still speaks Spanish or Portuguese as their primary language.



Major cities:

- Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Santiago, Chile
- Brasilia, Brazil
- Lima, Peru
- Bogota, Colombia
- Caracas, Venezuela
- Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- Medellin, Colombia

Bordering Bodies of Water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea

Major Rivers and Lakes: Amazon River, Parana River, Orinoco River, Tocantins River, Strait of Magellan, Lake Titicaca, Lake Maracaibo

Major Geographical Features: Andes Mountains, Amazon Basin and Rainforest, Brazilian Highlands, Pampas plain, Patagonia, Guiana Highlands, Pantanal wetlands

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Fun Facts about South America:

The highest point in South America is Cerro Aconcagua in the Andes Mountains in the country of Argentina.

The largest South American country in both size and population is Brazil. The largest city is Sao Paulo, Brazil, which is also one of the ten largest cities in the world.

North and South America were named after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci.

The highest waterfall in the world is Santo del Angel (also called Angel Falls). It is almost 1000 meters high!

The Atacama Desert in Chile is considered to be one of the driest places on Earth.

Countries of South America

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Falkland Islands
- French Guiana
- Guyana
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Suriname
- Uruguay
- Venezuela



Pacific Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

- Bermuda
- Canada
- Greenland
- Mexico
- Saint Pierre and Miquelon
- United States of America

Gulf of Mexico



Argentina

Bolivia

Brazil

Chile

Colombia

Ecuador

**Falkland
Islands**

French Guiana

Guyana

Paraguay

Peru

Suriname