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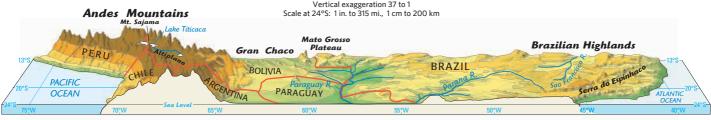
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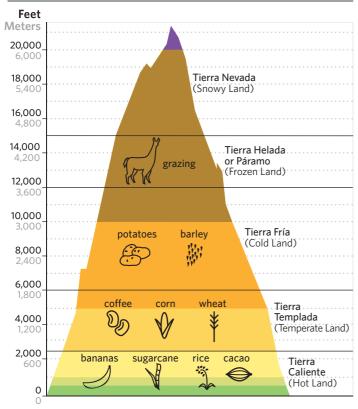
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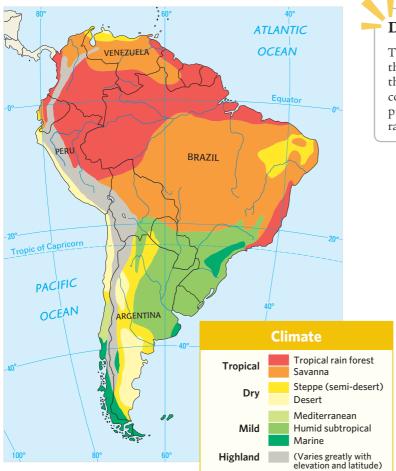




### **Altitude Zones in the Andes**



As altitude in the Andes increases, the climate gets colder and drier. For centuries, indigenous people in the region have cultivated crops that grow well at each elevation zone and climate.

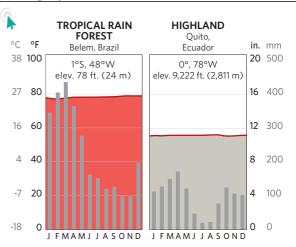




### Desert by the Sea

The Atacama Desert along coastal Peru and Chile is among the driest places on Earth. Its dry conditions are caused by the cold Peru Current, which flows north along the western coast of the continent. This surface current cools the air, preventing it from holding much moisture, so very little rain falls in this region.

### Climographs

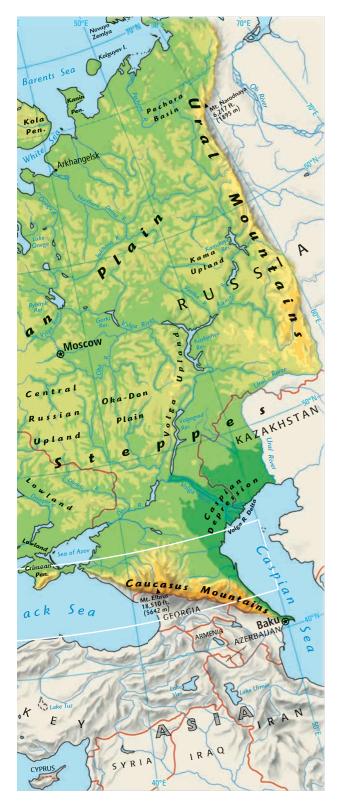


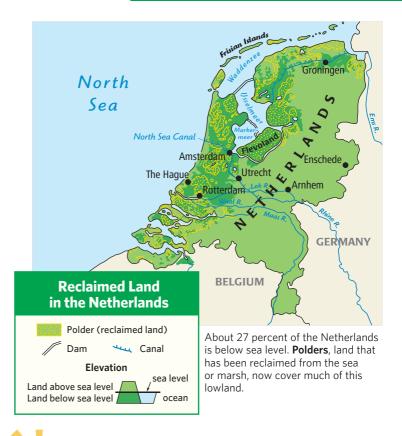
Both Quito and Belem are near the Equator. The difference in their elevations explains why Quito is colder and drier. Air temperature drops about 3.5°F for each rise of 1,000 feet (6.5°C for each 1,000 meters).











#### Life Beneath the Sea

For centuries, the Dutch have reclaimed land from the North Sea. Dikes hold the sea back, while canals and pumps drain the water. Windmills once powered the pumps, but today they run on diesel and electricity. In 1986, the most recent Dutch province, Flevoland, was created entirely from reclaimed land.

In the central Swiss Alps, green Lauterbrunnen Valley sits 11,000 feet (3,353 meters) below the mountain Jungfrau. Jungfrau has an elevation of 13,641 feet (4,158 meters) and is snowcapped year-round.



