

## SOUTH AMERICA: LAND AND CLIMATE

Read the information below about the land and climate of South America. Then, do the crossword puzzle on the next page.



### The Land

- (1) South America is almost completely surrounded by water. The Caribbean Sea lies to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The narrow Isthmus of Panama links the continent to Central America.
- (2) The three major land regions of South America are the Andes Mountains, Central Plains, and Eastern Highlands.
- (3) The Andes are the world's longest mountain range, stretching 4,500 miles from north to south. Only the Himalaya Mountains in Asia are higher. The Andes contain such valuable minerals as copper, gold, lead, tin, and zinc. Farmers grow huge coffee crops on the wet slopes. Other crops include potatoes, wheat, barley, and rye. Livestock are raised for wool and meat.
- (4) The Central Plains cover about 60 percent of the continent. Large cattle ranches are found on the grassy plains. The vast grassland of Argentina, called the "Pampa," has fertile soil that supports many farms and ranches.
- (5) The Eastern Highlands are much lower than the Andes. They include the Guiana Highlands and Brazilian Highlands.
- (6) The major rivers of South America are the Amazon, Rio de la Plata, Magdalena, Orinoco, and San Francisco. The Amazon and its tributaries form the world's largest river basin, draining nearly 3 million square miles of land.
- (7) There are few large lakes in South America. The largest is Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela.
- (8) The continent has many spectacular waterfalls. Angel Falls in Venezuela is the highest in the world. Water plunges 3,212 feet over a cliff, reaching the ground as a heavy mist.
- (9) Tropical rain forests cover about a third of South America, including the warm and wet Amazon River Basin. Many valuable forest products come from these regions. Along the coast of Brazil, large areas have been cleared for farming and ranching.
- (10) South America has a "regular" or "smooth" coastline with few natural harbors or bays. The best harbor is at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.
- (11) Many islands are found along the coast. The largest is Tierra del Fuego, located at the southern end of the continent across the Strait of Magellan. The Falkland Islands are 300 miles farther east. The Galapagos Islands lie 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean. The Galapagos are known for their huge turtles and other unusual animals.

### Climate

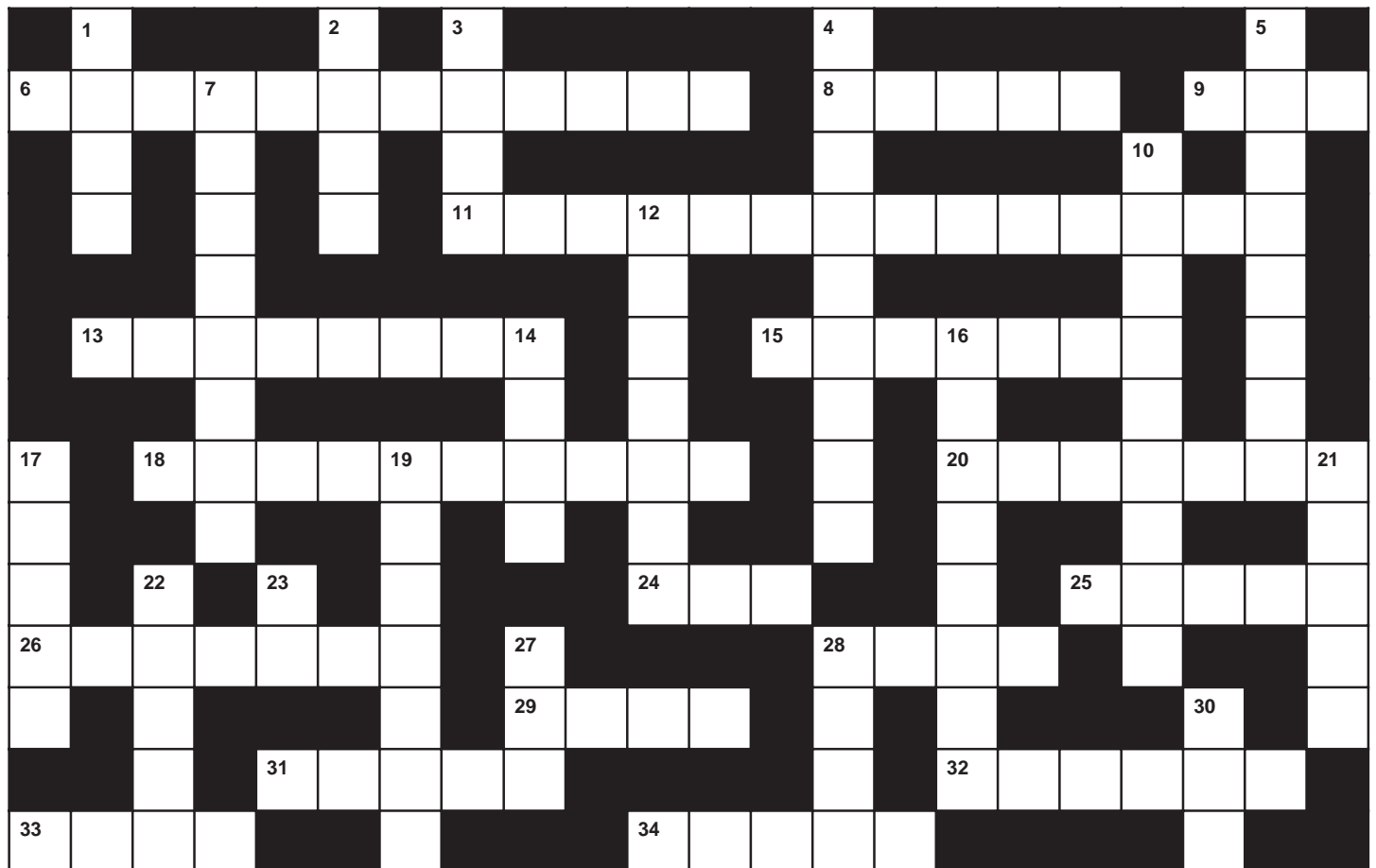
- (12) Most parts of South America are warm all year long. Below the equator, summer lasts from late December to late March, and winter from late June to late September. Most of the continent receives adequate rainfall.
- (13) Climate extremes are found in some areas. Less than one-tenth of an inch of rain falls each year in northern Chile. The coast of Colombia gets 350 inches of rain a year. Hot and humid conditions exist in the tropical rain forest of the Amazon Basin. Frigid temperatures characterize the snow-capped peaks of the Andes.

**Across**

- 6. It is nearly surrounded by water.
- 8. World's largest mountain range.
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ and humid conditions exist in the tropical rain forest.
- 11. Island at the southern end of the continent.
- 13. Most of South America receives an adequate amount of it.
- 15. The continent has many \_\_\_\_\_ extremes — cold, hot, wet, and dry.
- 18. A number of spectacular ones are found along rivers.
- 20. There are few \_\_\_\_\_ harbors.
- 24. Crop grown in the Andes region.
- 25. A large \_\_\_\_\_ covers 60 percent of the continent.
- 26. Ocean along the west coast.
- 28. Product from livestock.
- 29. In northern Chile, less than one inch of rain falls \_\_\_\_\_ year.
- 31. Crop grown in the Andes region.
- 32. It lasts from late December to late March in places below the equator.
- 33. South America has three major \_\_\_\_\_ regions.
- 34. The Caribbean Sea is located \_\_\_\_\_ of South America.

**Down**

- 1. Valuable mineral.
- 2. The Atlantic Ocean is along the \_\_\_\_\_ coast.
- 3. The Pacific Ocean lies to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. The Amazon, Rio de la Plata, Orinoco, and \_\_\_\_\_ are major rivers.
- 5. Country receiving 350 inches of rain along the Pacific coast.
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_ rain forests cover one-third of the continent.
- 10. Angel Falls is located in this country.
- 12. Term that describes South America's coastline.
- 14. Mineral found in the Andes Mountains.
- 16. Copper, tin, and zinc are three of them.
- 17. Fertile grassland area in Argentina.
- 19. Found on the Pampa.
- 21. The Isthmus of Panama \_\_\_\_\_ Central America and South America.
- 22. Term for the body of water east and west of South America.
- 23. The Strait \_\_\_\_\_ Magellan is at the southern end of the continent.
- 27. Coffee is grown on the \_\_\_\_\_ slopes of the Andes.
- 30. Caribbean \_\_\_\_\_.



## South America: Land and Climate

### Multiple-Choice

- (1) \_\_\_\_ South America is: (a) the largest continent in the world (b) the most densely populated continent (c) almost completely surrounded by water
- (2) \_\_\_\_ Valuable minerals are found in the: (a) Central Plains region (b) Andes Mountains (c) Galapagos Islands
- (3) \_\_\_\_ South America has few natural harbors because it has: (a) an irregular coastline (b) a smooth coastline (c) too many bays and gulfs
- (4) \_\_\_\_ Hot and humid conditions are typical: (a) in the tropical rain forest (b) in highland regions (c) at the southern end of the continent
- (5) \_\_\_\_ Most of South America: (a) is covered by mountains and plateaus (b) has warm temperatures all year long (c) is located above the equator

### Matching

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| (6) ____ Isthmus of Panama | (a) largest land region in South America                  |
| (7) ____ Andes             | (b) connects South America and Central America            |
| (8) ____ Central Plains    | (c) grassland located in Argentina                        |
| (9) ____ Eastern Highlands | (d) world's largest mountain range                        |
| (10) ____ Pampa            | (e) includes the Guiana Highlands and Brazilian Highlands |

### Completion

- (11) The Rio de la Plata, Magdalena, Orinoco, and San Francisco are \_\_\_\_\_ of South America.
- (12) The largest lake on the continent is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (13) \_\_\_\_\_, the highest waterfall, is located in Venezuela.
- (14) The \_\_\_\_\_ and its tributaries make up the world's largest drainage basin.
- (15) Below the equator, \_\_\_\_\_ lasts from late June to late September.

### True-False

- (16) \_\_\_\_\_ In Brazil, parts of the tropical rain forest have been cut down.
- (17) \_\_\_\_\_ Tierra del Fuego and the Falklands are names of islands.
- (18) \_\_\_\_\_ On the wet slopes of the Andes Mountains, farmers raise huge amounts of coffee.
- (19) \_\_\_\_\_ Most of the continent lacks sufficient rainfall to grow crops.
- (20) \_\_\_\_\_ Snow is never seen anywhere in South America.