

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Exploring the Map

Lesson Plan for *South America*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students practice answering questions based on a map.

Things Needed

- *South America* book
- Projector or computer screen

Before the Activity

Read *South America* out loud to students.

Activity

Use the projector to show students the map of South America on page 6. There are 12 countries in South America, along with French Guiana (which is an area controlled by the European country of France). Point out the label of each country. The countries are dark blue on the map. The other colors on the map show the continent's natural features. Use the following prompts to explore those features with students:

- The light blue area shows the Amazon Rain Forest. This is the largest jungle in the world. It is home to more kinds of plants and animals than anywhere else on Earth. Ask students to count how many countries contain parts of the Amazon Rain Forest. (Answer: 7 countries—Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Guyana, Venezuela, and Colombia)
- The pale blue line shows the Amazon River. This is the second-longest river in the world. Only the Nile River in Africa is longer. Ask students to count how many countries the Amazon River runs through. (Answer: 3 countries—Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador—though the river goes right along the border of Colombia)
- The gray area shows the Andes Mountains. They form the longest mountain range in the world. Ask students to count how many countries the Andes Mountains go through. (Answer: 7 countries—Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina)



- The tiny light-gray area shows the Atacama Desert. This is the driest desert in the world. It gets less than one inch of rain each year. Ask students to count how many countries this desert overlaps with. (Answer: Only 1 country—Chile)

Evaluation

Could students locate the appropriate colors and regions on the map? If needed, help students count countries or identify the area each natural feature covers.

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.6, 1.7).

