

Central and South American Landforms

SOUTH AMERICA

Physical Map



Map not to Scale

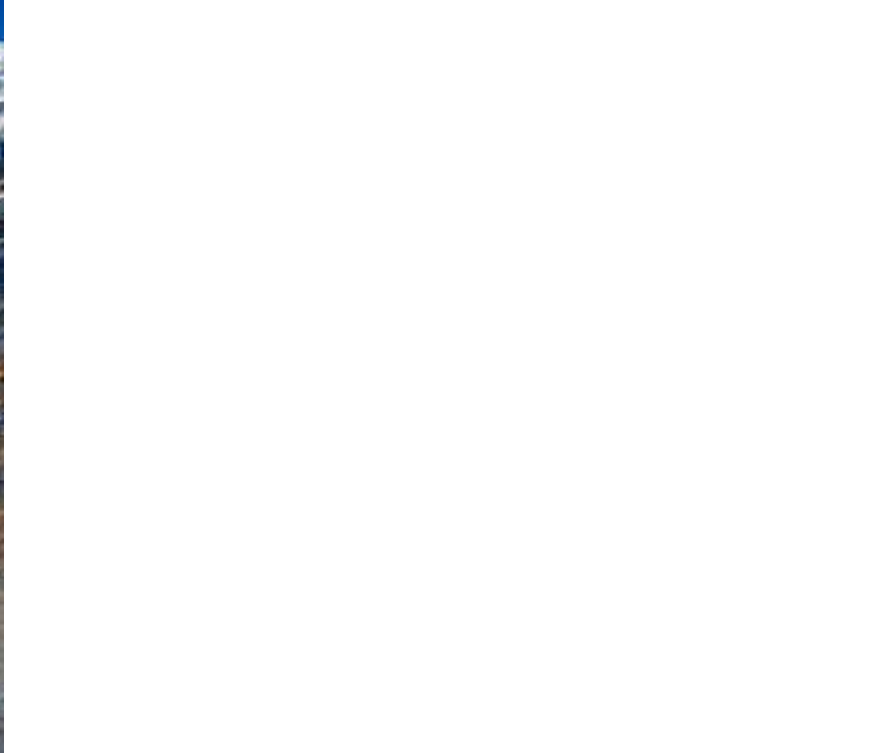
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- * Andes Mountains
 - * Highlands
 - * Plains
 - * Amazon Rainforest
 - * Atacama Desert
 - * Volcanoes

Andes Mountains

- * The Andes Mountains are located in South America and run north to south along the western coast of the continent.
- * They stretch over 5,500 miles long.
- * The Andes is the world's longest mountain chain.





Highlands

- * **Guiana Highlands:** Plateau and low-mountain region in South America.
- * **Brazilian Highlands:** Low mountains, hilly uplands, and plateaus. The highlands rise to an average elevation of 3,300 feet.
- * **Patagonia:** Located in Argentina and Chile. This area is desert or semi-desert and receives very little rainfall.



Plains

- * There are 3 major plains regions in South America: the Llanos plains, the Gran Chaco, and the Pampas.
- * **Llanos:** Located in western Venezuela and northeastern Colombia. The Llanos occupy more than 220,000 sq. miles.
- * **Gran Chaco:** Located in parts of Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia.
- * **The Pampas:** Located in central Argentina, most of Uruguay, and southern Brazil. They are flat or softly rolling plains covered mostly with grasses.



Amazon Rainforest

- * The Amazon occupies more than 40% of Brazil's area.
- * The rainforest is divided into four layers: emergent (tallest trees), canopy (very thick trees that keep over 80% of the sunlight out), understory (receives very little sunlight), and the forest floor (insects and small animals live here).
- * The Amazon covers 1/3 of the continent.
- * There are over 40,000 different kinds of plants and more than 30 million species of insects.
- * Over 20% of the Amazon has been destroyed.





Atacama Desert

- * It stretches more than 600 miles through northern Chile.
- * It is different from most deserts because the average temperature is only about 65°F but it receives very little rain.



Volcanoes

- * Central America is known for its volcanoes that are along the Pacific coast.
- * The volcanoes are located along the ring of fire.
 - * The ring of fire is an area of volcanoes encircling the Pacific Ocean.
- * Many of the volcanoes are dormant but many are still active.
- * Most of the volcanoes are located in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua. Belize has none and Panama has 1, and Honduras has 4 that are inactive.



