

Physical Geography of South America

SLIDE ONE

The Amazon

- Begins in the Andes of Peru and flows east across Brazil to the Atlantic
- Longest river in the western hemisphere
- 4100 miles long
- 25% of water emptied into the ocean from rivers comes from the Amazon.
- More water than next 7 rivers combined

Orinoco River

- continent's 3rd longest river
- crosses through Venezuela in a giant arc through the highlands and the Llanos.
- One of its tributaries flows over **Angel Falls** the world's highest waterfall
 - 20 x higher than Niagara
 - half mile drop

Parana, Paraguay, Uruguay River System – pg 301

- Third largest river system in South America
- Important to Paraguay because it is landlocked.

SLIDE TWO

The Amazon Basin

- Made up of 1000 tributaries.
- **Tributaries** are smaller rivers or streams that flow into larger rivers or lakes.
- **Basin** is the area that a river and its tributaries drain
- Covered by the world's largest rainforest which is home to several million kinds of plants, insects, birds, and other animals
- Only 6% of Brazil's population live here.

SLIDE THREE

Galapagos Islands – pg 276

- 600 miles west of Ecuador
- 13 major islands and 6 smaller ones
- Formed by underwater volcanoes
- Owned by Ecuador
- Home to unique species
- Charles Darwin came in in the 1800s and developed his theory of evolution

SLIDE FOUR

Andes Mountains – pg 298

- World's longest continental mountain range
- Highest Mountains outside of Asia
- Extends from Northern to Southern South America
- Variety of climates
 - Dry, desert
 - Snow-caps near rainforest

SLIDE FIVE

Brazilian Highlands

- South and east of the Amazon basin
- Area of rolling hills and plateaus
- Western part is grasslands which are good for farming and ranching
- Eastern part has low mountain ranges and can form **escarpments**, or steep slopes that hinder inland development.
- Location of Brasilia and Sao Paulo

SLIDE SIX

Pampas – pg 300

- **Pampa** are grassy treeless plains
- A plain that lies east of the Andes in Uruguay and Argentina.
- Fertile thick soil for farming wheat and corn (like Americas Great Plains)

SLIDE 7

Llanos – Pg 275 :

- Tropical grassy plains
- Northwest South America - cover most of Venezuela and parts Columbia.
- Rainy season flooding makes it like a wetland

SLIDE 8

Atacama Desert – pg 300 – 301

- “Driest place on Earth”, some places in the desert it has never rained
- More than a million people live here

Patagonia Desert – pg 300

- In **rain shadow** of Andes, an area that receives reduced rainfall because it is on the side of a mountain facing away from the ocean
- Southern tip of South America
- Tierra del Fuego