



Year 5 Knowledge Organiser

Geography

The Americas



Project Question:

What are 'The Americas'; how much of the globe do they occupy; how does an understanding of longitude and latitude impact our understanding?

Exciting Books and Useful Links:

Books:

- CGP Books: KS2 Discover & Learn: Geography - North and South America
- Many Biomes, One Earth: Exploring Terrestrial Biomes of North and South America

Links:

- Importance of longitude and latitude song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ab-gE8ov4o>
- Time Zone Converters:
- <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>

What I should already know:

- Where the continents of the world are on a map.
- Time zones exist which means different people are doing things in the day time whilst we have night time etc.
- Different types of weathers occur all over the world and I know some of the reasons why.

What I need to know:

- The world's time zones are measured from a starting point of 0° Longitude, centred at the Greenwich Observatory in London (since 1675).
- That longitude and latitudes are distances measured and how they impact our understanding of the world and North and South America.
- The key physical and human differences between home and different areas of the Americas.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Arctic Circle** - The Arctic Circle is one of the two polar circles and the most northerly of the five major circles of latitude as shown on maps of Earth.
- **Antarctic Circle** - The Antarctic Circle is a special line of latitude that circles the Earth near the South Pole.
- **Climate** - Climate is like the weather, but over a long time.
- **Continent** - A continent is a large solid area of land. Earth has seven continents.
- **Equator** - An equator is an imaginary line around the middle of a planet (at 0 degrees latitude).
- **Hemisphere** - A hemisphere is half of a sphere, or ball. People use the word to describe one half of Earth.
- **Latitude** - the distance north or south of the equator measured in degrees.
- **Longitude** - distance measured in degrees east or west of an imaginary line that runs from the north pole to the south pole and passes through Greenwich, England.
- **Meridian** - A meridian is an imaginary line of longitude drawn along the surface of the earth from the North Pole to the South Pole.
- **Polar region** – polar habitats that are located at the very top and bottom of the earth.
- **Scale** - the size of a picture, plan, or model of a thing compared to the size of the thing itself.
- **Temperate** - having neither extremely hot nor extremely cold temperatures and mild weather.
- **Tropic of Cancer** - The Tropic of Cancer is an imaginary latitude line located above the equator that runs across the globe at about 23 degrees north. This is the exact location where the sun is overhead on June 21st.
- **Tropic of Capricorn** - The Tropic of Capricorn is an imaginary latitude line located below the equator that runs across the globe at about 23 degrees south. This is the exact location where the sun is overhead on December 21st.
- **Tropical** – places near the equator.