

## Year 5 Knowledge Organiser- In which part of the Americas would you prefer to live and why?

### What will I learn?

In this topic we will learn:

- About the art of Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo.
- Which countries are in North and South America.
- Which climate zones and biomes are found there.
- How the climates of different North American regions compare.
- About the human and physical features of North and South America.
- How the geography of Chile compares with the UK.
- How humans are impacting global warming and climate change.

### The Americas

The Americas are two separate continents consisting of North America and South America.

The characteristics of different countries and regions vary significantly including the biomes which exist, the climate and the types of trade and industry found there.



### Previous learning

Y1- What's it like to live in a cold country?

Y2 Brazil/ Forests

Y3 – Would you rather live in the city or the countryside?

Y4- Which area of France would you like to live in?

### You should already know:

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans
- learn about Brazil and life near the rainforest
- name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics
- similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom
- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (France) concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities

### Vocabulary Dozen

|                    |                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| agriculture        | the practice of farming, including the growing of crops and the rearing of animals for food, wool and other products.          |
| biome              | a large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna (plants and animals) occupying a major habitat, e.g. forest or tundra |
| climate            | the weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period                                                  |
| continent          | any of the world's main continuous expanses of land (Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Antarctica)     |
| country            | a nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory.                                                            |
| deforestation      | the action of clearing an area of trees                                                                                        |
| equator            | a line notionally drawn on the Earth dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres                                 |
| global warming     | The long-term heating of the Earth due to human activities                                                                     |
| industry           | activity involving the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods                                                    |
| region             | an area, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries.           |
| renewable (energy) | energy made from naturally replenished resources such as: sunlight, wind and water                                             |
| weather            | the state of the atmosphere at a particular place and time as regards heat, cloudiness, dryness, sunshine, wind, rain, etc.    |



My name is Thema.  
I was born in Africa  
but I love to explore  
the world.

## Climate Zones

There are 3 main climate zones covering the Americas. These are:

**Polar** – these regions are found beyond the Arctic and Antarctic Circles, around the north and south poles. They have temperatures below freezing (0°C), are icy and are covered in snow.

**Temperate** – these regions do not experience extremes of weather (hot or cold). They have moderate rainfall spread across the year, with mild to warm summers and cool to cold winters.

**Tropical** – these regions are warm or hot throughout the year. They experience wet and dry seasons. Areas closest to the Equator are the wettest.

## Key Knowledge

|                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Which countries are in North and South America?                                                    | To locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on North and South America, concentrating on its environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Which climate zones do they cross?                                                                 | North and South America cross a number of climate zones – from the polar region in North America, to the tropical region near the equator.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| What are the features of the biomes?                                                               | A biome is a large region of Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things. The taiga is a major biome in North America and the rainforest is a significant biome in South America. Plants and animals are adapted to suit the biome in which they live.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| What are the human and physical characteristics of the Americas?                                   | We will study: Human geography of the Americas focusing on where people live, what they do, and how they use the land. Physical geography of the Americas focusing on climate and the landscape (including mountains, rivers and deserts).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| What is the geography of Chile?<br>What are the similarities and differences between Chile and UK? | Chile is a country in South America. It is a long and narrow country which crosses more than one biome and has a desert (the Atacama Desert) and volcanoes. Its climate varies significantly. The UK is different – it has a more stable climate and does not have deserts or volcanoes. However, there are similarities between the natural resources in the two countries. Chile has a significant copper mining industry, whereas the UK has oil and gas. Both countries have agricultural lands and produce crops. |
| How does human activity impact global warming and what can we do about it?                         | Farming and industry, together with modern lifestyles, use more energy and industry to support the growing world's population. These practices produce more greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane) which in turn contribute to an increase in the world's temperature. This is called <b>global warming</b> and affects climate and all living things on Earth.                                                                                                                                                 |

## Useful Weblinks



[San Diego Zoo- South America](#)

[San Diego Zoo -North America](#)

[Geography Games](#)

[Chile](#)

