

South America

A project by:

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Introduction

At school we had been learning some facts about the continent of South America. I decided to do a project looking at each of the countries in South America, as part of my home schooling during lock-down.

Method

Firstly, I found a map of South America and my Daddy roughly sketched the outline for me. I drew the coastline in pen and properly drew and coloured in the 13 countries.

I then researched key facts about each of the countries and made notes on them. I wanted some consistent statistics to show for each country; these were: capital city, population, area, and main language.

I drew and coloured the national flag for the 13 countries and then wrote out my key facts neatly. After that, I wrote a section on the whole of South America.

Last of all, I used tracing paper to show where the main geographical features are in the amazing continent of South America. My Daddy helped with the rivers.

The continent of South America

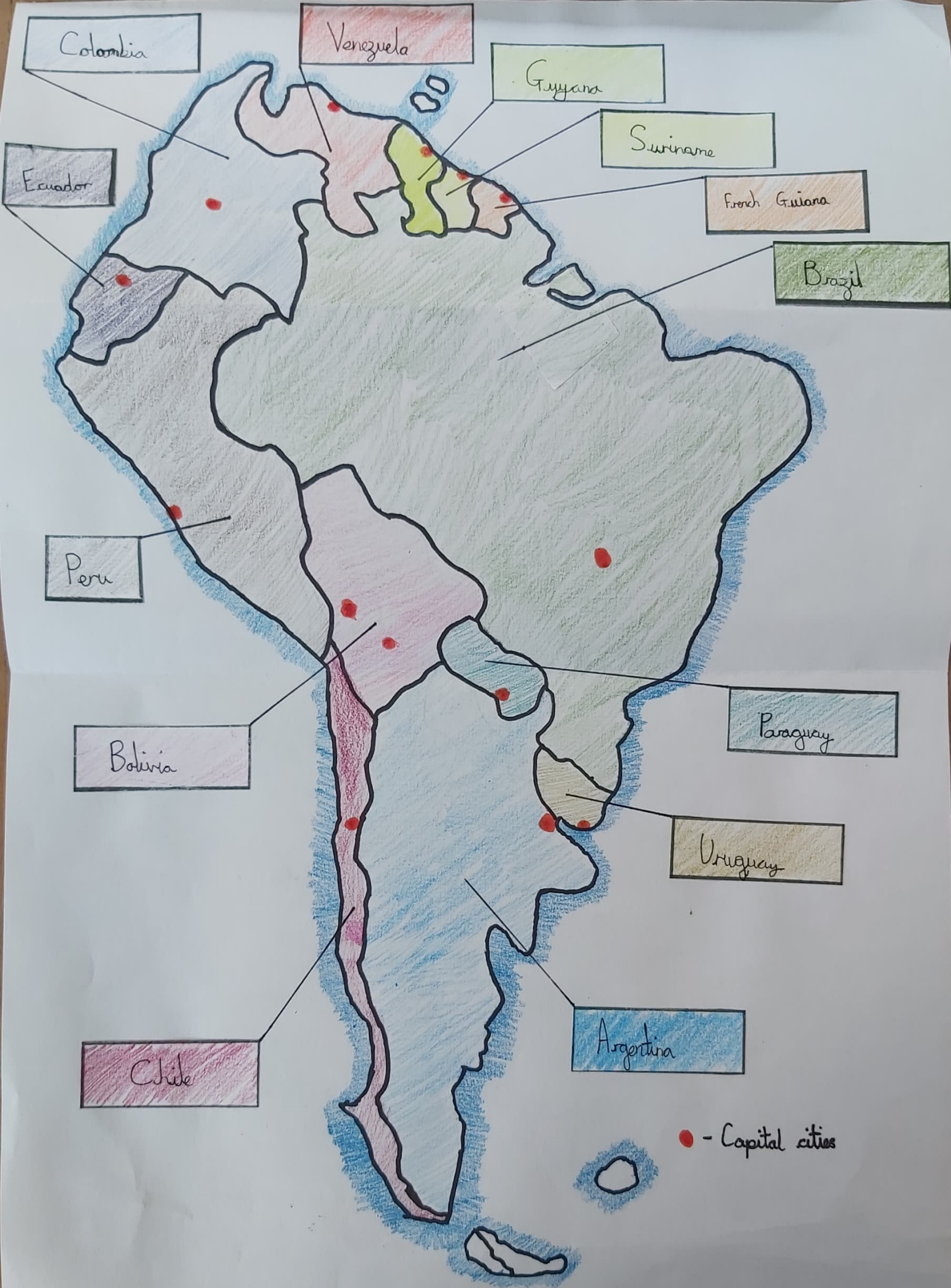
South America is a continent found mostly in the Southern Hemisphere, with only a small proportion in the Northern Hemisphere. It is sometimes considered a sub-continent of the Americas.

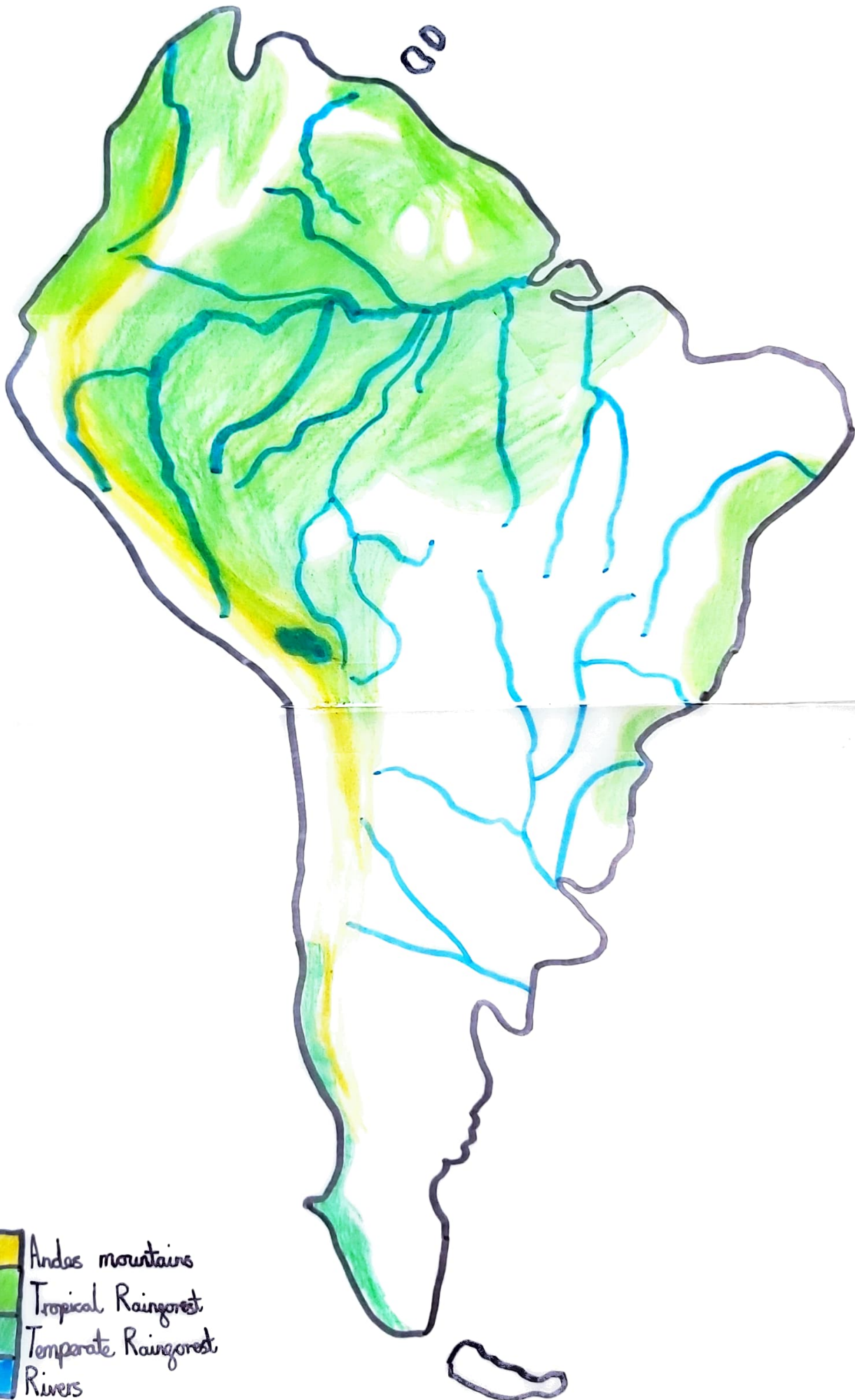
South America is the 4th largest (and 4th smallest) continent in the world. There are 13 different countries in South America, with Brazil being the largest and Suriname being the smallest.

From Brazil to Chile, rainforest to mountains, South America has many awesome creatures, many of which aren't found (in the wild) anywhere else on Earth. Unfortunately, the animals are becoming more and more vulnerable as humans continue to destroy their habitats.

The climate in South America varies a lot. There are hot, dry desert areas, freezing cold mountain ranges and vast areas of humid rainforest.

South America is a really diverse and amazing continent.





- Andes mountains
- Tropical Rainforest
- Temperate Rainforest
- Rivers

Argentina



Capital	- Buenos Aires
Population	- 44.3 m
Area	- 1.07 m sq. m
Main Language	- Spanish

Argentina is a vast country located in southern South America.

To the east of the Andes, the interior of the country is flat, fertile grassland. This area, called the Pampas, is the heartland of Argentina.

To the west, the towering Andes Mountains create a natural 5,142 km high border with Chile, while the Atlantic Ocean is the eastern border of Argentina.

More red meat is eaten per person in Argentina than anywhere else in the world and Argentine ~~beef~~ is famous all around the world.

In 2001, Argentina had five presidents in ten days.

Bolivia



Capital	- La Paz / Sucre
Population	- 11.8m
Area	- 424,000 sq. m
Main Language	- Spanish

Bolivia is a country in central South America, with a varied terrain, spanning the Andes Mountains, the Atacama Desert and Amazon Basin rainforest.

Bolivia has two capital cities, La Paz and Sucre. La Paz is where the president lives and, sitting at 3,500m on the Andes Altiplano plateau, is the highest capital city in the world. Sucre was the initial capital and is the place where the government is located.

All men between eighteen and twenty-two must serve in the military.

Bolivia has the world's largest salt flat and shares territory with Peru for Lake Titicaca, the continent's largest lake.

Brazil



Capital	- Brasilia
Population	- 211 m
Area	- 3.29 m sq. m
Main Language	- Portuguese

Brazil is the largest country in South America and the only country in South America that speaks Portuguese. Portugal claimed the land in the year 1500. Independence was declared in 1822.

The capital is Brasilia, while the largest city is Sao Paulo. Other major cities include Rio De Janeiro, Salvador and Fortaleza.

Brazil is so big it covers three time zones and, amazingly, there are around 2,500 airports in this massive country.

About 60% of the Amazon rainforest is located in Brazil - that's a lot of rainforest!

Chile



Capital	- Santiago
Population	- 17.8m
Area	- 292,000 sq. m
Main Language	- Spanish

Chile is a long, narrow country stretching along South America's western edge, with more than 6,000 km of Pacific coastline.

In Chile there are some of the world's largest active volcanoes in the Andes Mountains.

You can find the driest place on earth in Chile - the Atacama Desert - but you can also find the world's biggest swimming pool. This would be great for a dip after a walk in the desert.

Chile is one of the only places where you can find penguins outside the zoo or Antarctica.

Colombia



Capital	- Bogotá
Population	- 47.4 m
Area	- 441,000 sq.m
Main Language	- Spanish

The official name of Colombia is the Republic of Colombia. 99% of the population speak Spanish, the official language of Colombia. However, there are many indigenous languages spoken throughout the country.

Colombia is classed as a megadiverse country, ranking as the 2nd most biodiverse country in the world.

It is the law to play the national anthem on the radio and TV at 6 am and 6 pm.

Also, Colombia is the leading source of emeralds in the world.

Ecuador



Capital	- Quito
Population	- 16.3 m
Area	- 99,000 sq. m
Main Language	- Spanish

Ecuador is a country straddling on the equator on South America's west coast. Its diverse landscape encompasses Amazon jungle, Andean highlands and the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands.

In the Andean foothills at an elevation of 2,850m, Quito, the capital, is known for its largely intact Spanish colonial centre.

Ecuador is the world's largest exporter of bananas and, amazingly, is the world's closest country to space - look up if you don't believe me!

Ecuador is the only country named after a geographical feature - the Equator. Because of where it is, the sun rises and sets at exactly 6 o'clock am and pm each day, every day in Ecuador.

The 'Panama' hat is actually from Ecuador.

French Guiana



Capital	- Cayenne
Population	- 283,000
Area	- 32,253 sq.m
Main Language	- French

French Guiana is an overseas department of France on the northeast coast of South America, composed mainly of tropical rainforest.

The French settled on the land, calling it Guiana, the French form of an American Indian word that means 'land of waters'.

Although it's in South America, the official currency is actually the Euro because the country is really a part of France, in Europe. In fact, many European countries launch space rockets from a launchpad in French Guiana.

Guyana



Capital	- Georgetown
Population	- 738,000
Area	- 83,000 sq. m
Main Language	- English

Guyana is one of only a few Caribbean countries that isn't an island in the West Indies. It's also the only English-speaking country in South America.

St. George's Anglican Cathedral, which is located in the capital Georgetown is one of the tallest wooden structures in the world.

70% of Guyana is uninhabited and it has the Omai Gold Mine, one of the largest in the world.

The Kaieteur Falls are one of the most powerful waterfalls in the world and 5 times the height of Niagara Falls.

Paraguay



Capital	- Asunción
Population	- 6.94 m
Area	- 157,000 sq. m
Main Language	- Spanish

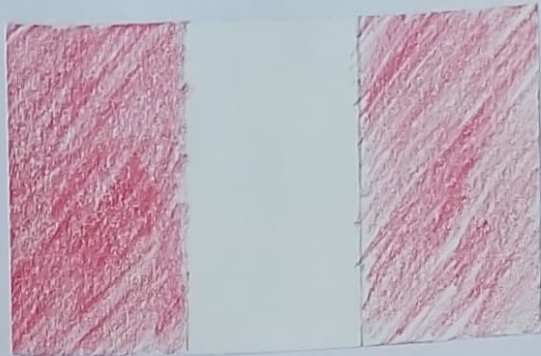
Paraguay is a landlocked country home to large swaths of swampland, subtropical forest and chaco, wilderness comprising savanna and scrubland.

Paraguay's nickname is 'Corazón de América' (the Heart of America), however, the name "Paraguay" is said to mean "Crowned River".

People in Paraguay can expect to live for at least 75 years and most of the population are Roman Catholic.

Surprisingly, Paraguay has the largest navy of any landlocked country in the world. However, 99% of the country's energy is produced from hydroelectric power, so there must be a lot of water to float their boats on, somewhere.

Peru



Capital	- Lima
Population	- 31 m
Area	- 496,000 sq. m
Main Language	- Spanish

The capital city of Peru is Lima which is home to more than a quarter of Peru's population.

The potato is originally from Peru and there are over 3,000 varieties.

There are also 55 varieties of corn - all of which might taste great with the traditional dish of crispy Guinea Pig!

Peru has amazing "highs" and "lows": the highest sand-dune in the world is in the Sechura Desert and its 3,860 ft tall; and Lake Titicaca is the world's highest navigable lake, sitting at 11,436 ft above sea level. The world's deepest canyon is also in Peru and it is twice as deep as the Grand Canyon in the USA.

Machu Picchu (the 'lost city') is in Peru and is visited by lots of people each year.

National chicken day is celebrated on the 21st July every year!

Suriname



Capital	- Paramaribo
Population	- 592,000
Area	- 63,300 sq. m
Main Language	- Dutch

Suriname is a small country on the northeast coast of South America. It's defined by vast swaths of tropical rainforest, Dutch colonial architecture and a melting-pot culture.

Suriname is the smallest independent country in the continent, yet its population is one of the most ethnically diverse in the region.

Half of the population live in the capital city and there is only one cinema in the whole country.

Suriname is one of only two countries in South America where they drive on the left.

Uruguay



Capital	- Montevideo
Population	- 3.36 m
Area	- 68,000 sq. m
Main Language	- Spanish

Uruguay is a South American country known for its rich forest interior and beach-lined coast.

Uruguay is one of the many Spanish speaking countries in South America. Also, Uruguay is the second smallest country on the continent.

The capital, Montevideo, revolves around Plaza Independence, once home to a Spanish citadel.

Uruguay is the first country in the world to give all schoolchildren a laptop computer.

Uruguay has the world's longest national anthem (6 minutes). There is also a shorter version!

Almost 95% of electricity is produced by renewable energy sources.

Venezuela



Capital	- Caracas
Population	- 31.3m
Area	- 352,000 sq. m
Main Language	- Spanish

The northern fringe of the Amazon Basin is in southern Venezuela and the world's tallest waterfall, called Angel Falls, is located in Venezuela.

Venezuela is considered one of the seven megadiverse countries that contain most of the world's animal species. Some of the coolest and oddest animals in the world live in Venezuela, like the Giant Anteater, the manatee (or "sea cow"), the three-toed sloth and the world's biggest rodent, the capybara.

Venezuela also has an everlasting lightning storm over the mouth of the Catatumbo river. No joke - on some nights there are as many as 100,000 lightning strikes!