

# The Americas

## Big Question: What are the similarities and difference between our local area and a region of the Americas?

Key Vocabulary (Tier 2 and Tier 3)	Definition
<b>Climate</b>	The usual or average weather conditions over a long period of time.
<b>Weather</b>	The specific atmospheric conditions on a given day including temperature and rainfall.
<b>Temperature</b>	The degree of hotness or coldness of the atmosphere on some chosen scale.
<b>Resources</b>	Resources are described as something that humans deem as useful in life and therefore has a purpose.
<b>Human features</b>	Features of an environment that have been shaped by people.
<b>Physical features</b>	The natural features of a place or environment.
<b>Population</b>	The number of people living in a certain place.
<b>Biomes</b>	Large geographical area which is home to certain plants and animals, specifically adapted to suit the environment.
<b>Continent</b>	A large landmass made of many countries
<b>Country</b>	An area that is controlled by its own government.
<b>Equator</b>	An imaginary line around the globe at latitude 0° north dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres.
<b>Flora/Fauna</b>	Plant and animal life.
<b>Latitude</b>	Imaginary parallel lines which circle the globe from east to west.
<b>Longitude</b>	Imaginary lines which run north to south across the globe from pole to pole.

### The Americas

- The Americas are two separate continents consisting of North America and South America.
- North America contains 23 different countries.
- The Americas cover a huge area of the globe, extending over several lines of latitude and longitude.
- The characteristics of different countries and regions vary significantly, including weather, land use and flora and fauna.



### How Can You Compare Different Places?

#### Physical Geography

The natural features of a place or environment.

- oceans and coastlines
- rivers and lakes
- mountains and volcanoes
- flora and fauna
- Land-form

#### Human Geography

Features of an environment that have been shaped by people.

- country/region boundaries
- buildings, roads and land use
- changes to river courses
- languages/signs
- religion, government, art and music

### Climate Groups

The Köppen System is a climate classification system. It is split into five main groups which each consist of a range of climate types:

- Temperate - hot dry summers, and cooler wetter winters, Mediterranean e.g. United Kingdom
- Continental - long, cold winters and short, hot summers, inland areas e.g parts of Turkey
- Polar - long periods of extreme cold, tundra, ice cap e.g. Antarctica
- Tropical - hot and humid, wet, rainforest e.g. Brazil
- Dry - arid, desert e.g. Saudi Arabia

The four main **climate** zones, determined by **latitude**.

