

North and South America

Year 4 – Autumn Term 2



What is a continent?

A continent is a very large landmass, usually separated by water or other natural features, like mountains. There are seven continents in the world.

North America is the 3rd largest continent and South America is the 4th largest continent.

Climate Zones

Climate zones are big areas of the world that have similar weather over a long time. Each zone has its own kind of plants, animals, and typical temperatures and rainfall patterns.

Types of Climate Zones:

Polar – Very cold and dry all year round.

Temperate – Cold winters and mild summers.

Arid – Dry and hot all year round.

Tropical – Hot and wet all year round.

Mediterranean – Dry, hot summers and mild winters.

Mountainous – Very cold, sometimes wet, all year.



Vocabulary

Human features	Are things that have been built by people (man-made) like roads, houses and monuments.
Physical features	Are natural landmarks like seas, mountains and rivers.
Landmark	A special or famous place or feature that helps people know where they are, like a building, statue or natural feature.
Political Map	A political map shows human-made boundaries like countries, states, and cities, while a physical map displays natural features such as mountains, rivers, and lakes.
Digital Mapping	The process by which a collection of data is compiled and formatted into a virtual image.
Aerial photographs	Pictures taken from above the ground, usually from an airplane or drone, that show what an area looks like from high up in the sky.
Ground level photographs	Photos taken from the ground where people stand, showing what a place looks like around you at eye level.
Satellite photographs	Images taken by satellites in space that show large areas of the Earth, like countries, cities, or oceans.

Biomes

A biome is a natural area of plants and animals. The world is divided into lots of different biomes and they are all different depending on their climate. The five major biomes are aquatic, grassland, forest and rainforest, desert, tundra.

