

## Key Vocabulary

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| South America                     | The world's fourth largest continent.   |
| Northern and Southern Hemispheres | The parts of Planet Earth that are north and south of the Equator.  |
| Equator                           | An imaginary line around the middle of Planet Earth, which divides it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. |
| Deforestation                     | The action of clearing a large and wide area of trees.  |
| Climate                           | Weather conditions over a long period of time.  |
| Christ the Redeemer               | A famous landmark in Rio de Janeiro (A Brazilian City), which displays the statue of Jesus Christ.                |
| Amazon River                      | The second longest river in the world but is the largest river.   |
| Ecosystem                         | A group of living things that live in a specific environment.   |

## Rainforests

Brazil is home to the world's largest rainforest, the Amazon Rainforest, which covers 60% of the country! There are five layers of rainforests:

1. **Emergent Layers** - It's sunny here because it's the highest point. Only the tallest trees reach this level. Butterflies, bats, insects, monkeys and many birds are found here.
2. **Main Canopy** - Most trees of the forest grow to this height. Here, toucans, snakes, orangutans, sloths, parrots, lizards and many insects are found.
3. **Under Canopy** - Vegetation and vines can be found here and it's very dark. You would also find bugs, jaguars and poison dart frogs.
4. **Shrub Layer** - It is very dark, resulting in little vegetation besides the appearance of shrubs.
5. **Forest Floor** - A damp and dark part of the forest. Wild boar and tapirs are found here.



## Human Features

Human features are defined as man-made. After the Portuguese settled in Brazil post-1500 CE, they made a great impact on Brazilian life.

|                   |  |   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Population        |  | The population of Brazil is around 212 million people. This is around half of all people in South America. This also makes Brazil the fourth most densely populated country in South America.   |
| Settlements       |  | The capital city of Brazil is Brasilia. It was specially designed to be the capital of Brazil and currently has a population of around 2.4 million. However, Sao Paulo (12 million) and Rio de Janeiro (6.3 million) are larger and more populous cities. |
| Economic Activity |  | The Brazilian Real is the national currency of Brazil. There has always been huge inequalities of wealth in Brazil. Between 2004 and 2013, the economy rapidly developed, lifting 29 million people out of poverty.                                       |
| Resources/Trade   |  | The top exports of Brazil are soybeans, iron ore, crude petroleum, raw sugar and cars. Portuguese is the first language of Brazil, which has helped to build strong trade with European countries.  |

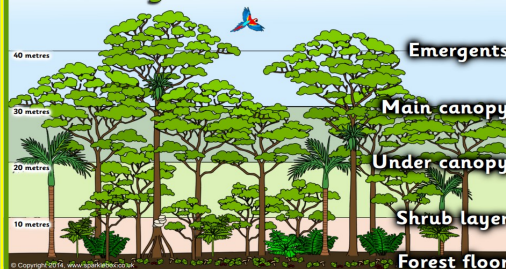


## Physical Features

Physical features are defined as natural. Examples in Brazil, in addition to its capital city, Brasilia, are:

- Rainforests (e.g Amazon - Largest jungle in world)
- Rivers (e.g Amazon, Rio Parana and Negro River)
- Grasslands (e.g Diamantina - National Park)
- Mountains (e.g Pico da Neblina - Tallest Mountain)
- Deserts (e.g Caatinga - Dry area)

## The Layers of the Rainforest



## Brazil Weather and Climate



Due to Brazil being situated in the Southern Hemisphere, it has a tropical climate, close to the Equator. This is where the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn are located, which are the areas that receive the most sunlight. Therefore, the weather in countries close to the Equator is warmer than those near the North and South Poles.

**Did you know?**

During UK's summer, it is Brazil's winter and vice versa!

## Comparison with UK

**Location:** The UK is in Europe, in the Northern Hemisphere, whilst Brazil is in South America and lies mostly in the Southern Hemisphere. Brazil is also situated on its continent, whereas the United Kingdom is an island country.

**Climate:** Due to its position over the Equator, most parts of Brazil are warmer than the UK. The UK has a temperate climate.

**Size and Population:** Brazil is much larger than the UK. Furthermore, 200+ million people live in Brazil compared to 66 million in the UK. However, Brasilia has a smaller population than London.

## Ecosystems



Brazil is divided into six ecosystems, which have their own weather, habitat and wildlife:

1. **Tropical Rainforest** - Amazon Rainforest covers 60% of Brazil.

2. **Pantanal Wetlands** - World's largest tropical swampland.

3. **The Pampas** - Heavily-farmed, huge grassy plains in Southern Brazil.

4. **The Caatinga** - Desert area of Brazil, containing cacti and scorpions.

5. **The Cerrado** - A vast savannah region which covers 1/5 of Brazil.

6. **Atlantic Forest** - Once a thick forest; although, most of it has been cut down.

**Before 1500 CE**

Local tribes live in peace for thousands of years.

**1500 CE**

Portuguese explorer Cabral discovers Brazil.

**1532 CE**

Sao Vicente established as first permanent settlement.

**1565 CE**

The city of Rio de Janeiro is established.

**1789 CE**

A Brazilian independence movement is stopped by the Portuguese.

**1822 CE**

Pedro I declares Brazil an independent country.

**1889 CE**

The monarchy is overthrown.

**1917 CE**

Brazil fights in WWII on the side of the Allies.

**1960 CE**

The title of capital city is moved to Brasilia.