

# c. November - South America

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Trimester 1**  
Length: **4 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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Introducing South America

Exploring Land & Water

Locating Countries & Cities

Comparing Highland Regions

Comparing Plains Regions

Climate Zones and Elevation in the Tropics

The Amazon Rain Forest

The People

Comparing Cultures

## Essential Questions

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Why is November called "Native American Heritage Month"?

How did/do the lifestyle of North American Indian tribes compare to the lives of Native Americans in South America?

Why do we celebrate Veterans Day?

What physical features make South America unique compared to other continents?

What was the longest lasting influence any European country had on their South American colony?

Does South America's climate zones in the tropics affect agriculture and major industries in this region?

Do you think that deforestation of rain forests leads to global warming?

## Content

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Use info from maps, graphs, and photos to compile a vocab. list.

Describe the continent; compare size and shape to other continents.

Make South America booklets.

Identify major landforms & bodies of water and label physical features using map symbols.

Complete a chart about countries & select cities in S.A.

Divide S.A. into geographical regions.

Identify causes of deforestation of the rain forest.

## **Skills**

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Read the atlas, Act. Map, and Nat'l. Geog. pictures to gain info about a location.

Draw and write neatly with dry-erase marker on Act. Maps.

Work equally with a partner on maps and laptop assignments.

Learn what crops grow better in different climates and locations.

Cut and staple booklets.

Identify reasons for cultural, ethnic, religious and racial diversity in S.A.

Gather info from a variety of maps.

Identify places using descriptions & deductive reasoning (rural v. urban).

## **Assessments**

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Grade on teacher-made worksheets for info gathered from atlas.

Grade on students' class participation in discussing essential question and critical thinking questions.

Teacher's observations of partners working cooperatively on Activity maps.

Grade on physical and political outline maps.

Grade on completed charts about geographic regions.

Grade on essay about deforestation of the Amazon Rain Forest.

Test grade on Reviewing South America WS.

## **Lessons/Learning Scenarios**

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Draw in unique physical features of South America on an outline map.

Review elevation and contour maps.

Review Southern and Western hemisphere climate zones.

Discuss the population density of the interior vs. the coastal areas of S.A.

Learn what top exports of Brazil bring in the most revenue.

Locate sources of oil on the continent.

Discuss Spanish, Native American, and Mestizos heritage.

Practice labeling the North American map without looking at the atlas. (SGO)

Invent new symbols for charts on rainfall, growing season, & land use.

Make a tri-orama of English/Spanish/elevation of each climate region.

## **Standards**

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## **Resources**

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Nystrom World Atlas, T.M., student atlas, and Activity maps with markers; teacher-made WSs. "Pulling It Together" lesson conclusion WSs. Glencoe Our World Today Reading Essentials & Study Guide WSs. Nat'l. Geog. Atlas of the World for Intermediate Students, and "Exploring South America," Mark Twain Media Publishing Company.