THE GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AMERICA THROUGH ELA, MATHEMATICAL AND SCIENTIFIC LITERACY

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

Grade 6 | Five Day Reading and Reasoning RST

Essential Question

How do physical geography, climate processes, and quantitative evidence explain settlement, movement, and human activity across South America?

Learning Targets

Interpret physical, political, and climate maps; explain geographic cause and effect; calculate scale, rainfall, density, and trade quantities; evaluate evidence; and write a supported RACE response.

Five Themes of Geography

Location identifies where a place is. Place describes physical and human characteristics. Human environment interaction examines adaptation and change. Movement follows people, goods, and ideas. Region groups places by shared features.

Reading and Annotation Protocol

Underline the central idea. Circle unfamiliar vocabulary. Box quantities and units. Note cause and effect in the margin. Cite Source One, Two, or Three and Map A, B, or C when using evidence.

Map and Data Guidance

Maps have legends, compass directions, and a distance bar calibrated at 20° south. Distortion increases away from that latitude. River paths and climate focus areas are generalized. All classroom numerical datasets are fictional models, not measured regional statistics.

© Ma'at Cultural Curriculum Consultants LLC Est. 2017 | All rights reserved

Source One Physical Geography, Regions, and Settlement

South America extends from Caribbean facing northern coasts to far southern lands near Antarctica. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the east and the Pacific to the west. The Equator crosses the northern part of the continent, while much of its land lies in the Southern Hemisphere. Its environments include mountains, rainforests, grasslands, deserts, and cooler southern regions. A continental label cannot describe every community or landscape within it.

The Andes form a long mountain system along the western side of South America. High elevations influence temperature, water supplies, and travel. Steep slopes can complicate road building, but valleys and passes provide routes between communities. Indigenous Andean societies developed terraces and water management systems that made farming possible in difficult terrain. These innovations show that people actively shape environments rather than simply accept natural limits.

The Amazon Basin includes a vast river system and extensive tropical forest. The Amazon and its tributaries connect inland communities with larger waterways. Rivers can support transportation where roads are limited and can supply water and floodplain resources. Floods and changing river levels can also disrupt settlements. The basin crosses national borders, so decisions about forests and waterways can have effects beyond one country.

Other environments reveal the continent's diversity. The Atacama lies along parts of the Pacific side and is exceptionally dry. The Pampas include grassland areas important to agriculture in the southeast. Patagonia occupies southern Argentina and Chile and includes varied environments. These are geographic regions, not interchangeable country labels. Brazil, for example, contains more than the Amazon, and Chile contains more than desert.

Indigenous peoples remain part of South America's present as well as its history. Distinct nations and communities have their own languages, knowledge, and political concerns. Map B shows modern countries but not every Indigenous territory or historical boundary. The Five Themes of Geography connect location, place, human environment interaction, movement, and region. Studying a named place through multiple themes produces a stronger explanation than applying one stereotype to the whole continent.

© Ma'at Cultural Curriculum Consultants LLC Est. 2017 | All rights reserved