

Year 5

Spring

Topic: The Americas

Geography Focus: Place Knowledge/ Human and Physical Geography

What should I already know?

- To identify the continents of North and South America
- Identify some similarities and differences between the Americas and the UK
- Be able to identify the Americas on a map
- Have prior knowledge of the water cycle



Key Dates

- 1519 - The Conquest of the Aztec and Inca Empires
- 1565 - First permanent European settlement in North America.
- 1774 - Colonists form First Continental Congress as Britain closes down Boston harbour and deploys troops in Massachusetts.
- 1787 - Founding Fathers draw up new constitution for United States of America. Constitution comes into effect in 1788.
- 1806 - Independence from Spain and Portugal
- 1846 - The Mexican-American War
- 1881 - The Construction of the Panama Canal
- 1920 - Women given the right to vote under the Nineteenth Amendment.
- 1929 - 13 million people become unemployed after the Wall Street stock market crash of 1929 triggers what becomes known as the Great Depression.
- 1954 - Racial segregation in schools becomes unconstitutional; start of campaign of civil disobedience to secure civil rights for Americans of African descent.
- 1968 - Black civil rights leader Martin Luther King assassinated.
- 1969 - US astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the Moon.
- 2008 - Democratic Senator Barack Obama becomes the first black president of the United States.

Key Facts about the Americas:

North America:

There are 23 countries.
 Largest Country: Canada.
 The largest City: Mexico City (Mexico) has 21.3 million inhabitants
 Longest River of North America: Missouri River/USA (3,767 metres/2,341 miles).
 Highest Mountain: Denali in Alaska/USA. The mountain (6,190 metres/20,310 ft).
 Biggest Lake: Lake Superior

South America

There are 12 countries.
 Largest Country: Brazil
 The largest City: Sao Paulo in Brazil has 21 million inhabitants
 Longest River: Amazon River (6,437 metres/4,000 miles).
 Highest Mountain: Aconcagua in Argentina.
 Biggest Lake: Lake Titicaca.

Vocabulary

population	The number of people that live in a particular place
economy	A countries financial system
mountains	A high area of land with steep sides
states	A nation of territories under a government
climate	Weather conditions prevailing in an area
physical geography	Geography that focuses on natural features
compass	Instrument for showing directions (north, east, south and west)
fieldwork	An investigation that takes place out of class
water cycle	The continuous movement of water
environment	The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant live.

Art and Design Technology

Design Technology: Making bread (tortilla)

Art: Artist study of Georgia O'Keeffe. Children will create their own landscape paintings using her techniques as inspiration.