



# TOPIC NAVIGATOR

## KEY FACTS

- The Americas are a vast part of the world that is split into two continents, North America and South America.
- North America and South America are divided into many countries, each with different geographical features and regions.
- There are many different rivers, coasts, regions of flat land and mountain ranges. There are also very hot places such as desert, tropical rainforests and vast mountain ranges, each with their own uses and their own unique environments.
- Maps use symbols to represent places, features and objects. These can help us to understand what is in an area and where we might want to visit. Looking at maps can also tell us what geographical features are in a region. We can identify rivers, coasts and areas where the land is higher such as hills and mountain ranges. This can help us to understand what a place is like.
- Different countries also have different natural resources such as oil, tin, gas and other metals. These can also be imported and exported between countries so that all countries have what they need.
- Natural resources can be transported in a variety of ways such as through underground pipes or by road, sea, river and plane. Some forms of transport are cheaper and better for the environment than others.

## ONLINE RESOURCES AND BOOKS

Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson  
The Usborne Children's Atlas by Ruth Brocklehurst



GEOGRAPHY

YEAR 5

UNDERSTANDING THE  
AMERICAS



### NATIONAL CURRICULUM AIMS

Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on North and South America concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities  
Understand geographical similarities and differences.

## TOPIC VOCABULARY

**Human Geography** – The human impact on the world's surface

**Physical Geography** – The natural features of the world

**River** – a large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another river

**Mountain** – a large steep hill.

**Coast** – the part of the land adjoining or near the sea.

**Land use** – What the land is used for, such as for farming or as a residential area.

**Geographical region** – An area that has a particular human or physical feature such as cities, mountain ranges, rainforests,

**Topographical feature** - Topography describes the physical features of an area of land. These features typically include natural formations such as mountains, rivers, lakes, and valleys. Manmade features such as roads, dams, and cities may also be included.

## OTHER USEFUL VOCABULARY

beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season, weather, city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop