



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 605 SIX SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

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# SIX SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

South America is in the southern part of the Western Hemisphere between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. South America is the fourth largest continent in the world. This continent is a rich and beautiful portion of God's earth.

In this LIFE PAC® you will learn about six countries of this great continent: Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.

## OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC.

When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Discuss the geography of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
2. Tell about the wildlife in Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela.
3. Discuss the people of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
4. State the major events of history in Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
5. Name major cities of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
6. Name major industries of Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.
7. Describe present-day Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the three Guianas.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFE PAC.

**ascend** (ä send'). To go up; to rise

**banish** (ban' ish). To drive away; to dismiss.

**bisect** (bī' sekt). To cut in two.

**buccaneer** (buk' u nir'). A pirate.

**candidate** (kan' du dāt'). One who seeks office.

**cannibal** (kan' u bul). A person who eats human flesh.

**classify** (klas' u fi). To arrange in groups or classes.

**communication** (ku myü nu kā' shun). Giving information or news by speaking, signing, or writing.

**conqueror** (kong' kur ur). One who subdues by force.

**cruelly** (krü ul ē´). Pitilessly; readily giving pain to others.  
**descendant** (di sen´ dunt). Offspring; born into a family.  
**dictator** (dik´ tā tur). One who exercises absolute authority.  
**emerge** (i merj). To come up, to rise out, to come forth.  
**enable** (en a´ bul). To make able; to give ability.  
**encourage** (en kër´ ij). To inspire with confidence; to give hope.  
**exception** (ek sep´ shun). Leaving out; not a part of the general rule.  
**fortify** (for´ tu fī). Strengthen for military defense.  
**hydroelectric** (hī´ drō i lek´ trik). Generating electricity by water power.  
**hydroplane** (hī drō plan´). A type of sea plane.  
**industry** (in´ du strē). A branch of business, manufacture, or trade.  
**interior** (in tir´ ē ur). Inside; something inland.  
**isolated** (ī´ su lāt ud). Apart; separated.  
**junta** (hün´ tu). A council, usually of citizens.  
**llano** (yä´ nō). A wide plain.  
**manioc** (man´ ē ok). A staple South American food from the cassava plant.  
**mythology** (mi thol´ u jē). Study of myths or legends.  
**plantains** (plan´ tuns). A banana-like fruit.  
**political** (pu lit´ u kul). Pertaining to government affairs.  
**savanna** (su van´ a). A grass land.  
**smuggler** (smug´ lur). One who deals in goods secretly; against the law.  
**torrid** (tôr´ id). Very hot.  
**traffic** (traf´ ik). Coming and going of persons or vehicles.  
**vendor** (ven´ dur). A seller; a peddler.  
**vicerealty** (vīs roi´ ul tē). Just below the top royalty (king).

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFE PAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fär; let, ēqual, tērm; it, ĩce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

# I. BRAZIL

Brazil, located on the eastern coast of South America, covers almost half the continent. Its boundaries touch every other country of South America except those of Chile and Ecuador. Although people of the other countries have Spanish as their major language, most of the people of Brazil speak Portuguese.

Brazil is an important country not only because of its size, but also because of its future as an economic and **political** power in the modern world.

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Discuss the geography of Brazil.
2. Tell about the wildlife in Brazil.
3. Discuss the people of Brazil.
4. State the major events of history in Brazil.
5. Name major cities of Brazil.
6. Name major industries of Brazil.
7. Describe present-day Brazil.

**Restudy these words.**

ascend	exception	manioc
bisect	hydroelectric	mythology
conqueror	industry	political
descendant	interior	savanna
dictator	llano	torrid

## GEOGRAPHY

The geography of Brazil can be studied by looking at the regions, the major rivers, and the resources.

**Regions.** The major regions of Brazil are the Amazon Lowlands, the Central Highlands, the Sertão Region, the Southern Region, and the Coastal Plain.

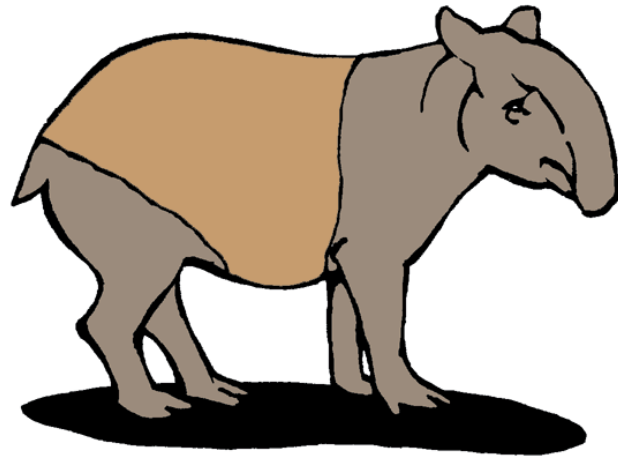
The Amazon Lowlands cover the northern and western half of Brazil. They lie in the **Torrid** Zone near the equator

where the air is hot and humid. Dense rain forests where the trees grow tall to reach the sunlight are found here. The Amazon River flows through this region. Small Indian villages are built near its banks in many places. Rubber trees and other forest products grow here in abundance.

The rain forests, the **savannas**, the rivers, and the plains (or **llanos**) of the Amazon River Basin abound in wildlife. In the forests live South America's largest

wild animal, the tapir, and its enemy, the jaguar. One-fourth of all the known kinds of animals in the world live in South America. Among some of the most unusual are the giant anteaters, the armadillos, and the sloths.

Among the many birds found here are parrots, macaws, and flamingos. Insects, such as butterflies, fiery bees, and fire ants, also abound.



**Mountain Tapir**



**Do this activity.**

1.1

Select one of the animals, birds, or insects mentioned. Look up additional information about it and write a paragraph, using complete sentences. Show your writing to a classmate.

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Teacher check \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Central Highlands spread across Brazil from east to west except for the coastal mountains and the Coastal Plain. They make up most of the central part of the country. The climate of the Central Highlands is humid but cool. This cool climate is good for growing coffee.

The Sertão Region is a smaller area in the far northeast of Brazil. It extends out into the Atlantic “hump.” It is a desert

place where a drought occurs every ten years. Many people, however, live there and are loyal to their territory.

The Southern Region is **bisected** by the Tropic of Capricorn, and has the most favorable climate in Brazil. This region has many rich mines and large **industries**.

The Coastal Plain is a narrow strip of land along the east coast. Mountains **ascend** sharply and divide the coast from