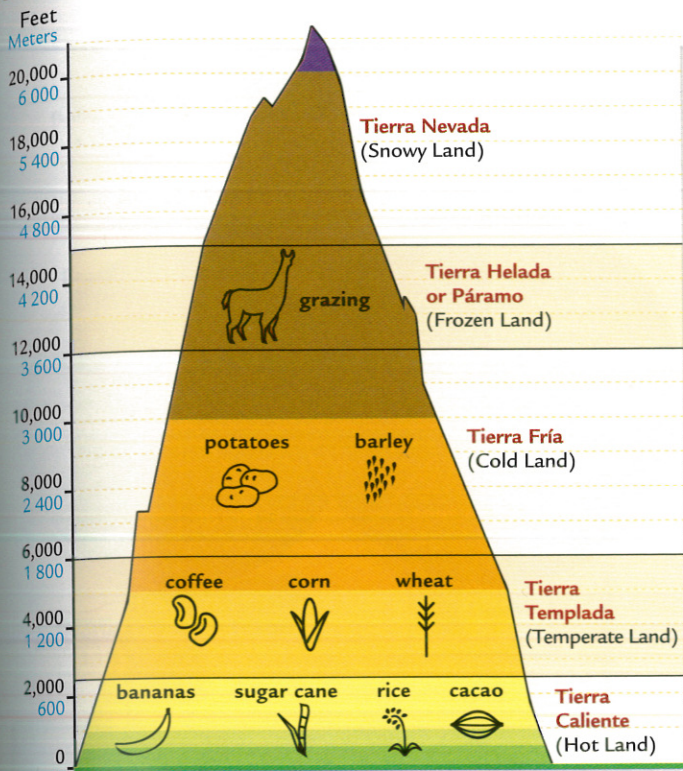
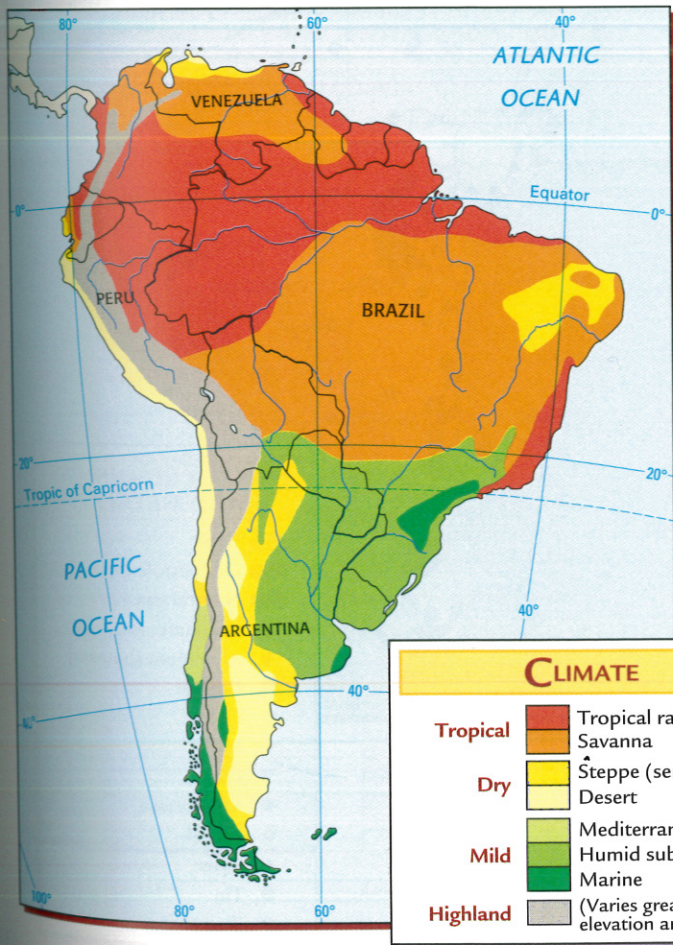


ALTITUDE ZONES IN THE ANDES



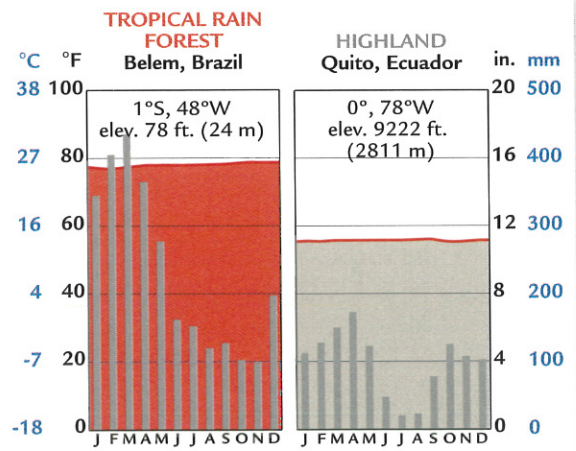
As altitude in the Andes increases, the climate gets colder and drier. For centuries, indigenous people in the region have cultivated crops that grow well at each elevation zone and climate.



Desert by the sea

The Atacama Desert along coastal Peru and Chile is among the driest places on Earth. Its dry conditions are caused by the cold Peru Current, which flows north along the western coast of the continent. This surface current cools the air, preventing it from holding much moisture, so very little rain falls in this region.

CLIMOGRAPHS



Both Quito and Belem are near the Equator. The difference in their elevations explains why Quito is colder and drier. Air temperature drops about 3.5°F for each rise of 1000 feet (6.5°C for each 1000 meters). [more at NDAAtlas.com](http://moreatNDAAtlas.com)