

Name _____

Physical Features

Plains of South America

Lowlands are level areas of land that are low in elevation. Plains are one type of South American lowlands. A plain is a large, mostly flat area that usually has few or no trees. There are three major plains regions in South America: the Llanos plains in the northern part of the continent, the Gran Chaco in the south-central part, and the Pampas farther south.

The chart below shows the three plains regions, their locations, and facts about the lands.



Plains Region	Approximate Area	Location	Interesting Facts
Llanos	220,000 sq. miles (570,000 sq. km)	western Venezuela and northeastern Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mostly rolling grassland with scattered trees used for cattle grazing warm temperatures year-round, at about 75°F (24°C) one of the least developed regions of South America
Gran Chaco	280,000 sq. miles (725,000 sq. km)	parts of Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an arid grassland rivers overrun banks and flood much of the area during rainy season much of the land unused by people name comes from the Quechua Indian word meaning "hunting land"
The Pampas	295,000 sq. miles (764,000 sq. km)	Central Argentina, most of Uruguay, and southern Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fertile grasslands heavily populated; used for farming and grazing prone to frequent wildfires; keeps many trees from growing, even in fertile areas home of the giant anteater, which grows to 7 feet (2.1 m) in length

Name _____

Plains of South America

A. Write the name of the correct plains region to answer each question. Use the information on the other page to help you.

- Which plains region is the largest? _____
- Which plains are located in Venezuela? _____
- Which plains have frequent wildfires? _____
- Which plains flood during the rainy season? _____
- Which plains region has a temperature of about 75°F all year long? _____
- Which plains region is about 280,000 square miles? _____
- Which region's name means "hunting land" in the Quechua language? _____
- In which plains do giant anteaters live? _____
- Which plains are in one of the least developed regions of South America? _____

B. Answer the questions. Use the information on the other page to help you.

- What is a plain? _____
- What is a lowland? _____

Name _____



South America's Bodies of Water

The continent of South America is almost completely surrounded by water. The Pacific Ocean borders South America to the west, and the Atlantic Ocean runs along the east. The Caribbean Sea is north of the continent. To the south, the Strait of Magellan separates Tierra del Fuego from the mainland. A *strait* is a narrow band of water that connects two larger bodies of water—in this case, the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Inland, several important river systems flow throughout South America. A river system is made up of all the rivers and *tributaries*, or streams that feed into larger rivers, that drain an area of land. The largest by far is the Amazon River system. The second-largest river system is made up of the Paraguay, Paraná, and Uruguay rivers, all of which empty into the Atlantic Ocean at an area called Río de la Plata. The Orinoco River and its tributaries form the third-largest river system on the continent. Another important river is the São Francisco, which is located entirely within Brazil.

South America has very few lakes. The two largest lakes are Lake Titicaca in the west-central part of the continent, and Lake Maracaibo on the coast of Venezuela in the north.

A. Circle the correct word to complete each sentence. Use the information above and the map on the other page to help you.

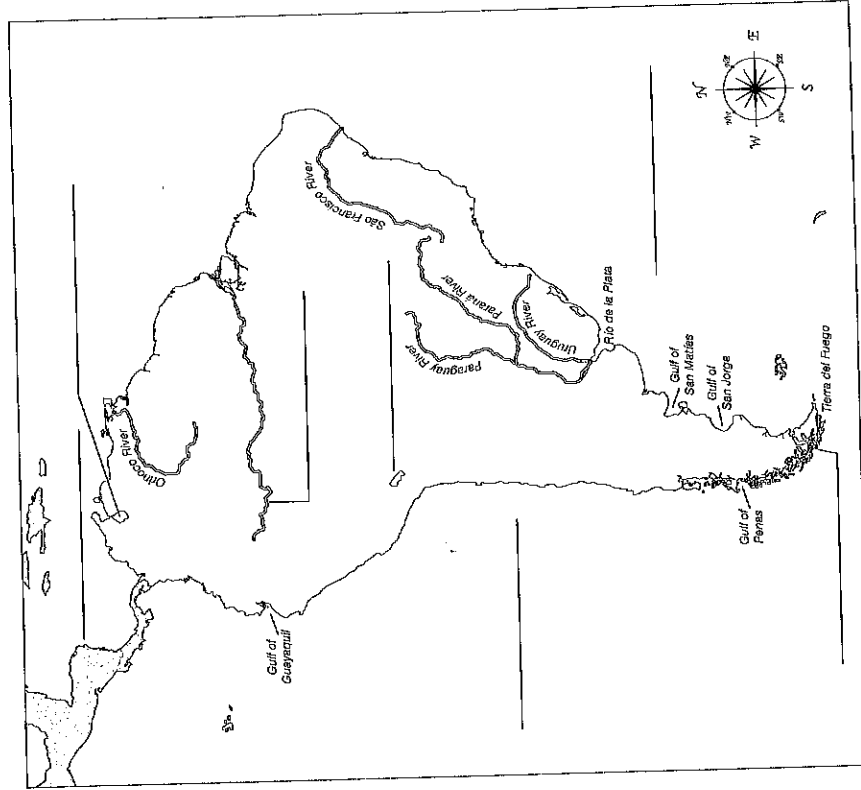
1. The Pacific Ocean is _____ of South America.
east west north
2. The Strait of _____ connects the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.
Titicaca del Fuego Magellan
3. The largest river system in South America is the _____.
Amazon Orinoco Paraguay
4. The _____ River is located entirely within Brazil.
Paraná São Francisco Río de la Plata
5. Lake _____ is located in the Andes Mountains.
Maracaibo Titicaca Orinoco
6. Lake Maracaibo is located in _____.
The Andes Mountains Brazil Venezuela

Name _____



South America's Bodies of Water

B. Label the bodies of water on the map. Use the word box below and the information on the other page to help you.



- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Atlantic Ocean | Caribbean Sea | Lake Titicaca | Amazon River |
| Pacific Ocean | Strait of Magellan | Lake Maracaibo | |