

South America Location

South America is the fourth largest continent in size and the fifth largest in population. It is located primarily in the **southern hemisphere**. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west



Year 8- Spring 2- Geography

Rocinha Favela

Rocinha (little farm) is the largest favela in Brazil and is located in Rio de Janeiro's South Zone between the districts of São Conrado and Gávea.

Rocinha is built on a steep hillside overlooking Rio de Janeiro and is located about one kilometre from a nearby beach. The population of Rocinha is around 69,000 people (2010 data)

Why have favelas grown?

Most of today's favelas appeared in the 1970s when many people started to arrive from rural areas in search for better jobs and standards of living. Not being able to find jobs and therefore not able to afford places to live many ended up in the growing favelas. In 2011 it was estimated that 6% of Brazil's population lived in slums.



Problems in favelas

The challenges of living in favelas include having a badly constructed house, awful sanitation, and lots of crime. In the favelas homes are constructed poorly and not built in the most ideal of places this means that they are not at all sturdy and can be prone to flooding and landslides.

Improving Favelas

Two government-assisted schemes in Brazil aimed at improving the quality of life in the favelas are:

- Low-cost Improvements**
 - Existing housing are improved using cheap, quick and easy to use breezeblocks. A tank of water on the roof collects rainwater. Electricity and sewerage may be added.
- Self-help schemes**
 - Groups of people are encouraged to help build their new homes.
 - The Government puts in basic services such as clean water and sewerage and provides building materials, such as breezeblocks
 - The group provides the labour, some being trained as plumbers, some electricians. The advantages of this is that it can be done in stages, it is relatively cheap, hygienic and creates a community spirit.



The Favela Bairro Project

In the 1990s, the Favela Bairro Project was set up to help improve life in the favelas and upgrade them rather than demolish them, as had happened in other locations.

This work was carried out with Government funding and City Authorities, who set aside £200 million to improve 60 of the 600 favelas.

The plans worked on the following-

- Replacing wood buildings and those built on dangerous slopes with larger (5x4m) brick houses
- Widening streets
- Laying pavements
- Laying water pipes and electricity cables
- Improving sanitation (sewage systems)
- Providing health and sports facilities
- Providing more access to education
- Introducing a rubbish collection
- Providing public transport
- Using local residents as the labour force



Positives of the Project

Wider roads and pavements means that it is safer for people to move around the favela
The literacy rate is improving due to more access to schools
Roads being paved have given people formal addresses

Negatives of the Project

High risk favelas have not been improved
There is still illegal activity going on in the favelas
Rents have increased and have pushed some of the poorest out of the favela
The budget only covered some favelas, some are still left in poverty
The infrastructure is not maintained by the residents or Government

The Government receives taxes from people living in the favela
The infant mortality rate has decreased as there is better access to healthcare

The Galapagos Islands

The Galápagos Islands is a volcanic archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. It's considered one of the world's foremost destinations for wildlife-viewing. A province of Ecuador, it lies about 1,000km off its coast. Its isolated terrain shelters a diversity of plant and animal species, many found nowhere else.



History of the islands

The first-recorded visitor to the Galápagos was Tomás de Berlanga, a Spanish noble and the bishop of Panama, whose ship was blown off course in 1535 while sailing from Panama to Peru. The Galápagos was adopted by Ecuador in 1832, which led to a trickle of settlements and colonies. It wasn't until the 1960s that an increasing number of Ecuadorians began migrating to the islands, drawn by opportunities in fishing and tourism.

Key terms for this topic

- Urbanisation
- Megacities
- Favela
- Shanty town
- Squatter settlement
- Sanitation
- Construction
- Self help scheme
- Adaptation
- Archipelago
- Diversity
- Species
- Tourism
- Landscape
- Wildlife

Animals of the Galapagos

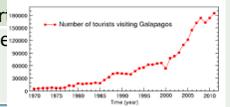


Woodpecker Finch- When a woodpecker finch finds insects in the bark of a tree that it can't get at with its relatively long, pointy beak, it may fly off and retrieve a cactus spine, which it uses to drive the insects out or even impale them.

If a particular tool doesn't get the job done, the woodpecker finch will actually modify the tool (e.g., removing leaves from a twig) to make it work



Marine Iguana- It is the world's only sea-going lizard. It has adapted so it can shorten its body length during lean times (when there is not enough food). It has adaptations that allow it to dive up to 40 feet beneath the ocean's surface in order to feed upon algae and eat seaweed. These adaptations include a short, blunt stout, a long, flat, incredibly strong tail that propels it through the water, and a special gland that allows it to expel excess salt from its body.



The Galapagos Islands- Tourism

Many visitors to the Galapagos Islands are attracted to the archipelago by its unique wildlife and stunning landscapes.

Positives of tourism

- The Islands now generate approximately US\$143 million a year through tourism.
- Over two thousand people are employed in the tourism industry.

Negatives of tourism

- So many tourists visit the islands that local farmers and fishermen cannot keep up with the requirements. This means that food has to be imported from the mainland
- Tourists are also bad for the natural environment and can disturb the animals



Rio, Brazil

4 zones- North Zone:

- Main industrial area and port
- International airport
- Maracana Stadium
- Low quality housing and favelas



4 zones- West Zone:

- Barra de Tijuca has changed from lower class area to wealthy coastal suburb with luxury apartments, hotels, recreation and shopping facilities
- The Olympic stadium was built here

4 zones- South Zone:

- Developed after tunnels cut through mountains
- Main tourist area- beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema
- Wealthiest district in whole of South America
- Overlooked by Rocinha, the largest favela in South America

