

College Guild
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Travel

~ South America & Africa ~

Unit 5 of 5

PERU

South America has a range of different climates. Whether you want the dry heat of a desert or the lushness of a rainforest, everyone can find somewhere they like when visiting this southern continent. South America is a place of extremes. It has the world's driest place (the Atacama desert), highest waterfalls (Angel Falls), largest river basin (Amazon River Basin), and longest mountain range (Andes).

1. Write a real or fictional story about a visit to a waterfall, desert, or mountain.

Peru is a country in South America, located below Ecuador and Columbia, above Bolivia and Chile, to the west of Brazil, and to the east of the Pacific Ocean. Peru has some very interesting eating habits compared to the United States. You may think that Guinea Pigs are just cute pets, but they are used in a traditional dish eaten in Peru. On the southern coast of Peru, in Chincha, it's also quite normal to eat CAT!

2. What's the strangest food you've ever eaten? Is there an exotic food you would like to try?

You may have heard of the Amazon Rain Forest -- 2/3 of Peru is covered by it! The Amazon is an incredibly diverse environment because of its warm climate, abundance of food, and different ecosystems. In fact, it contains the most biodiversity in a tropical rainforest in the world, and has over 390 billion trees among 16,000 species. Because of this, the Amazon Rain Forest is sometimes referred to as the "Lungs of our Planet."

3. Why do you think the Amazon has this name?

Some more facts about the extraordinary diversity in the Amazon are below:

- * 2.5 million insect species
- * 40,000 plants species
- * 1,294 bird species
- * 427 mammal species
- * 428 amphibian species
- * 378 reptile species

4. Imagine you are an explorer and researcher in the Amazon. Draw a picture of a fictional species you've found.

5. Write an entry in your research journal about the species' behavior, eating habits, etc.

Being in the rainforest isn't all fun and games. The rivers contain electric eels that can stun or even kill animals with their shock. A vicious species of fish called Piranhas, who are drawn to blood, have been known to bite and injure people. There are also many different poison dart frog species and large predatory mammals, such as jaguars and cougars. And don't forget about the snakes!

Some plants have minds of their own as well. One of a plant's greatest desires in life is to be tasteless; that way it won't be eaten! Plants have developed a variety of strategies to avoid detection and consumption. For example, some plants have outer coats that make it difficult for animals to eat them, and others have adapted to being nutritionally poor so that insects won't waste their energy eating them.

6. What is another technique a plant might use to appear inedible?



Peru



Piranhas



Amazon

The first humans in South America were part of the Inca civilization. They developed their empire in the central Andes region during the 15th century, adding roads and aqueducts -- some of which still exist today.

7. If you were in charge of moving your people to a new land and creating a new civilization, what would be your top priorities?

The Incas had the largest empire in pre-Columbian America, and had their political and military center in Peru. Religion was a big part of their lives, and they worshipped their gods quite regularly. The Incas also believed in reincarnation, and thought of death as simply a path the deceased must walk (with a black guide dog at their side to help them see) until they entered the next world. They made many human sacrifices as well, and their sun god "Inti" was the center of much worship. Some other Gods the Incas worshipped were:

Qochamama -- Goddess of the sea

Kuychi -- Rainbow God, connected with fertility

Ayar Cachi -- Hot-tempered God, causes earthquakes

Mama Occlo -- Goddess of Wisdom who civilized the people, and taught cloth weaving and house building

Manco Cápac -- God of Courage (he taught the people how to grow plants, make weapons, work together, and share resources)

8. Make up a new God and his/her role in society for the Incas.

They also believed strongly in their own moral code "ama suwa, ama llulla, ama quella" which means, "do not steal, do not lie, do not be lazy."

9. Would you put these same three things at the top of a civilization's moral code?

Peru also has the Andes Mountains extending from the north to the southeast of the country. The Andes is divided into three ranges: the Tropical, Dry, and Wet.

The Tropical region is rich with biodiversity, containing 45,000 plant species. The landscape in this area ranges from mountains to valleys, and there's even a lake! There are many ecological hotspots here. A "hotspot" is an area of great

biological diversity where many of the species are threatened with extinction. Interestingly, in modern times a "hotspot" is also a place where you can get Internet access on your cell phone!

10. Is there any connection between the two kinds of hotspots? Explain why or why not.

The Dry Andes is the region that is covered with glaciers and ice. Because of the high altitude, this area has many "penitentes", which are hardened snow formations that look like blades reaching out towards the sun. The name came from the similarity between these ice formations and a field of people kneeling for *penance*. The Wet Andes is very similar to the Dry Andes in terms of the glaciers and ice, but one difference is this region has NO penitentes.

11. What name would you give these ice features?

The highest point in the Andes is the Aconcagua. It has been argued that Aconcagua could be called the "highest *non-technical* mountain in the world," meaning the common northern route does not require ropes, axes, pins, or supplemental oxygen. Despite this, there are still casualties every year.

In 1942, the mountain appeared in a Disney cartoon called *Pedro*. In the show, a small airplane named "Pedro" is carrying mail over the Andes, and runs into trouble with the huge Aconcagua Mountain.



Pedro

12. Finish the story about *Pedro* and the Aconcagua Mountain. How does it end?

TIMBUKTU

When some people think of the jungles in Africa, they think of the way Hollywood used to portray it, ("Me Tarzan, you Jane.") There are a series of Tarzan books and movies, complete with chimps, elephants, and savages. Tarzan is a manly, Caucasian jungle-man who had been raised by apes, while Jane is the beautiful, American woman on safari who is repeatedly rescued by Tarzan.



Mali



Timbuktu



Tarzan

13. Is there anything demeaning about the Tarzan stories? Explain.

14. How would you change the characters and/or plot?

In 1933 author Ernest Hemingway travelled to Africa to hunt big game. His experiences inspired his later works *Green Hills of Africa* and his famous short story, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*. Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, is a dormant volcano. Not nearly as hard to climb as Mt. Everest or Aconcagua Mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro has been climbed by many people of varying abilities. The fastest climb was done by Karl Egloff, who ran to the top and back in under seven hours on August 13, 2014. Karl also has the record for the fastest climb of Aconcagua, taking him just under twelve hours. The youngest person to climb Mount Kilimanjaro was Keats Boyd, a seven year old from Los Angeles, California. The oldest couple to summit was Martin (85) and Esther Kafer (84). There have even been several climbers with disabilities. Bernard Goosen, who was wheelchair-bound, scaled the mountain in six days. Kyle Maynard, who lacked forearms and lower legs, managed to crawl unassisted to the summit in 2012.



Kyle Maynard

15. Would you let your seven year old climb the highest mountain in Africa?

16. Name another circumstance where someone might overcome his/her disabilities.

We will be visiting the city of Timbuktu in Mali. What many Americans knew about this African city was its name, and that was from a popular song from the 1950's called "Kalamazoo and Timbukto". Mali is a very poor country in the Sahara Desert of northwest Africa. Its economy is based primarily on farming, making it highly dependent on adequate rainfall. Social ills, including a literacy rate of only 23% and a high population growth rate, also contribute to Mali's poverty. Life in the desert is hard. There is a constant search for water, the 120 degree heat is searing, and sand storms lash the eyes.

17. In this environment, what would you do for work, for food, and for entertainment?

The desert is all around Timbukutu. Its sands sweep through the city center. The nearest encampment with camels and tents is only twenty minutes away by foot. There are over 17,000 people living in Timbuktu, and its inhabitants include Arabs, Berbers, Songhai, Mossi, Toucouleur, Bambara, Bela, Malinke, Fulani, Moors, and Tuaregs.

18. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a city with inhabitants from so many different cultures?

In Timbuktu's market, you can find anything from a favorite drink of sour milk, to crushed millet and honey, or maybe fricassee of crocodile. The streets are bare and dusty, but if you peer into the courtyards of the richer houses you might see obese women lying on the ground or on low couches. In Mali, obesity in women is admired and seen as a symbol of wealth. To maintain such girth in a desert climate requires mountains of food. Only the very rich can afford the luxury of a wife so large that she has be carried by servant girls.

19. How do we view obesity in America?

20. Size is clearly a symbol of wealth for some African cultures. What are 10 symbols of wealth in America?

In Timbuktu, there are two bookshops: the Evangelical Library and the Librairie Populaire du Mali. They're located in the principal square, but sales cannot be very high. Newspaper is at a premium, and is very useful for wrapping fish, meat, or vegetables in the market. More serious and substantial ideological books may eventually have their pages passed on to the market. They are then used for wrapping little packages of dye, chili pepper, snuff, chewing tobacco, the crushed leaves of the baobab tree, or charms.

Timbuktu is also famous for its natural salt supply. The salt was traded for gold of equal weight, which seems unfair, but you can't live without salt. Bodies require salt to function, and in the days before refrigeration, salt was used to preserve meat. Are you wondering why so much salt wound up in the Sahara Desert? Here's a hint -- the fossil of the shell of a very ancient sea creature called a Trilobite was found in the bone-dry Sahara.

21. Pretend a young boy discovers a Trilobite fossil in the desert and runs home to tell his father about it. How might the father respond?

The trade of salt was in the hands of the Tuareg, *kel tadalete* or "Blue Men", for their robes of indigo, sapphire, and cobalt, which stand out brilliantly in the yellow desert. Both sexes wear flowing blue robes and elaborate jewelry, and the women decorate the soles of their feet with henna and their eyes with kohl.

Henna tattoos are making their way into Western culture as well. The brown dye can be placed in a design on the body, and will wear off in a few weeks.



Tuareg people still live in the desert, though today many drive Land Rovers instead of camels. Here's a warning about camels -- they spit. They are trained to kneel down for you to get on their backs. You lock one leg around the saddle and brace yourself. A camel gets up front legs first and if you are not holding on for dear life, you will not stay on for very long. To get a camel to walk, you kick it on the shoulder with your free leg and say "Hut-hut!" If the camel feels like it, she will start. If she doesn't she will spit.



22. What are three advantages and three disadvantages of a camel vs. a Land Rover? Which one would you want and why?

To exchange gold and salt, Arab traders would first meet with the villagers from Timbuktu who would lead them to a specific trading spot. They would beat drums to signal opening of the market, and pile their salt in rows, each trader using his own special marks. Then the traders would pull back from the trading site, (up to a half-day's journey away), and the miners would arrive in their boats with gold. They would heap gold beside each pile of salt. Then they would beat their drums and leave.

The traders would come back and, if satisfied, collect the gold and leave, again beating on drums to signal that the business was concluded. If the traders were not satisfied with the gold left by their salt piles, they would retreat once more, hoping the miners would add to the amount of gold. Such action would continue until a bargain was struck. When the traders took the gold, the miners would then leave with the salt. It was known as "The Silent Trade."

23. Why do you suppose that the trade took place like that? Why wouldn't it be easier to sit down together and make a deal?

24. After what you've learned about Mali, Timbuktu, and the Sahara, design and draw a postcard to send to a friend back home.



On this map, find Maine, Arizona, England, France, China, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, and Mali.

25. Which place do you want to learn more about and why?

Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes

Appendix Travel: Unit 5 of 5

Citations

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