

South America mini-ATLAS

Double click to open the .pdf file.

At the edge of the screen is a vertical line of tiny icons; click on the one that looks like a short stack of pages.



This will open a list of data layers. Small checkmarks in the boxes mark the layers that are visible.

- ◆ Clicking on an empty box will make that data layer **visible**.
- ◆ Clicking on a checked box will make that layer **invisible**.
- ◆ Clicking on the word "options" will give you more choices, including a way to reset the map to the way it was when you opened the file.



1. The Amazon River is the largest river in the world. Click to make the Equator visible. Where does the Amazon River flow into the Atlantic Ocean? Circle:
about 300 miles north of the equator close to the equator about 300 miles south of the equator
2. Placenames can be clues about history. In South America, Spanish and Portuguese explorers named many towns after Catholic saints. Click to make the "saint-names" visible. Do you think the explorers who started these towns traveled along the rivers or on the high ground between rivers? _____
Why do you think they did that?
3. Describe the geographic pattern of the port towns.
4. Click to turn both "names" layers off (to minimize clutter for the next investigation). South America produces many important metals. Click to make that layer visible. Are most of the metal mines located in mountainous or lowland areas? _____
Why do you think so? (What metal is the exception to that rule? _____)
5. What country has the most cattle ranches? _____
What country seems to raise cattle in every part of its area? _____
Why don't people raise cattle in the lowlands near the Amazon River and its tributaries?

South America mini-ATLAS Investigation

Turn individual layers of the mini-Atlas on and off in order to investigate the relationships between mountains, hills, forests, cattle, placenames, and country capitals in South America. Write five generalizations to summarize your investigation. Each of your generalizations should describe the map pattern of one thing and/or note possible causal relationships between two or more things (which often are on different data layers in the mini-Atlas).

Example: "Capitals tend to be located in the cooler parts of countries near the equator, either high in the mountains or right next to the ocean."