South America

Learning Objective:

To find out about the climate of South America.

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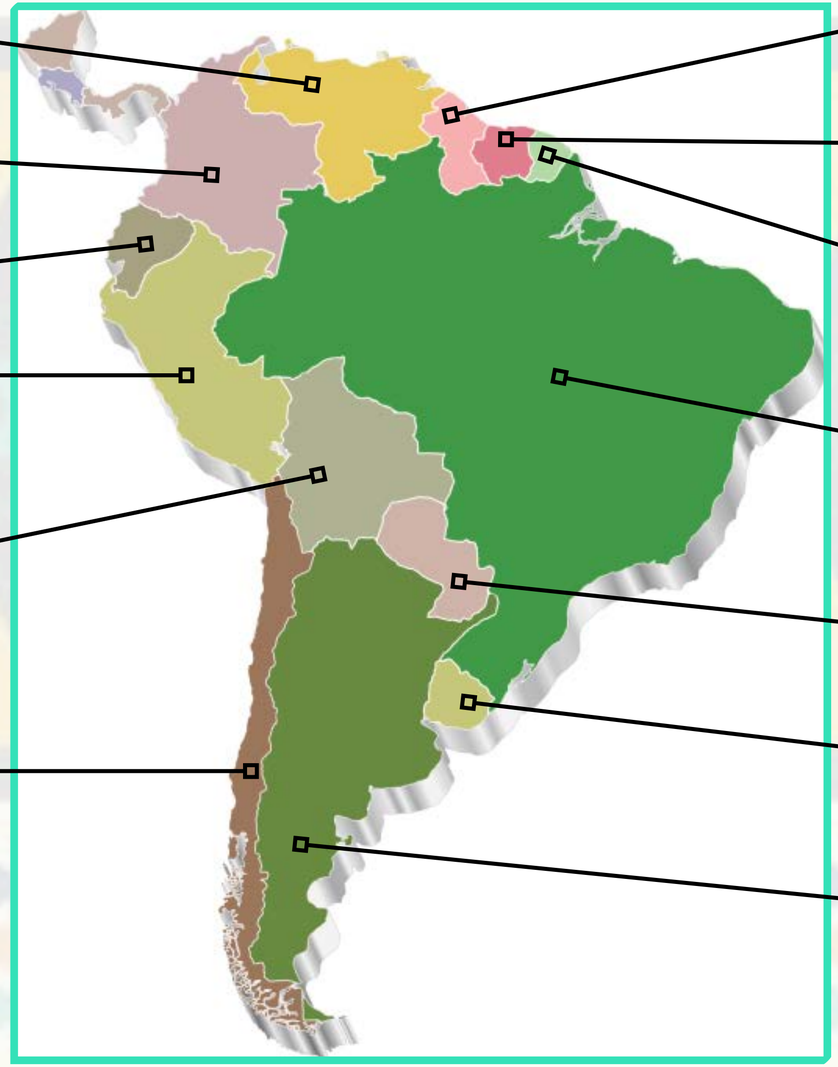
How many South America countries can you remember?



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How many did you get right?

Venezuela

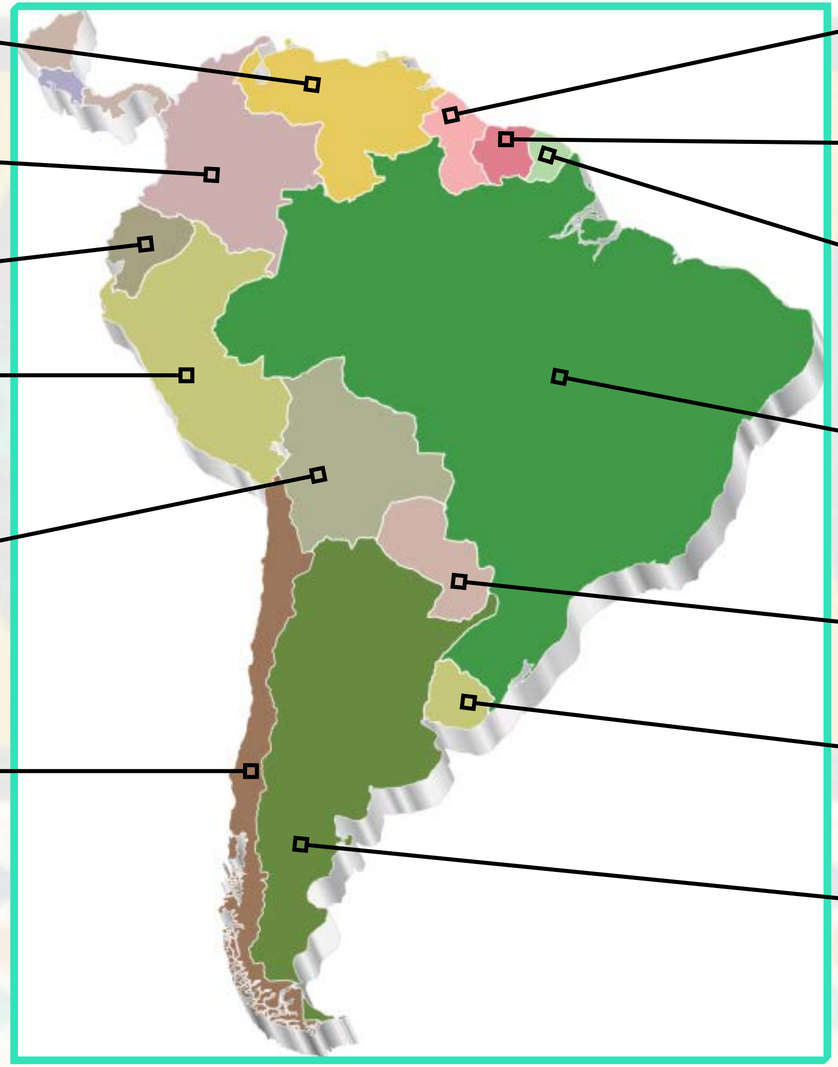
Colombia

Ecuador

Peru

Bolivia

Chile



Guyana

Suriname

French Guiana

Brazil

Paraguay

Uruguay

Argentina

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How would you describe where South America is on a world map?

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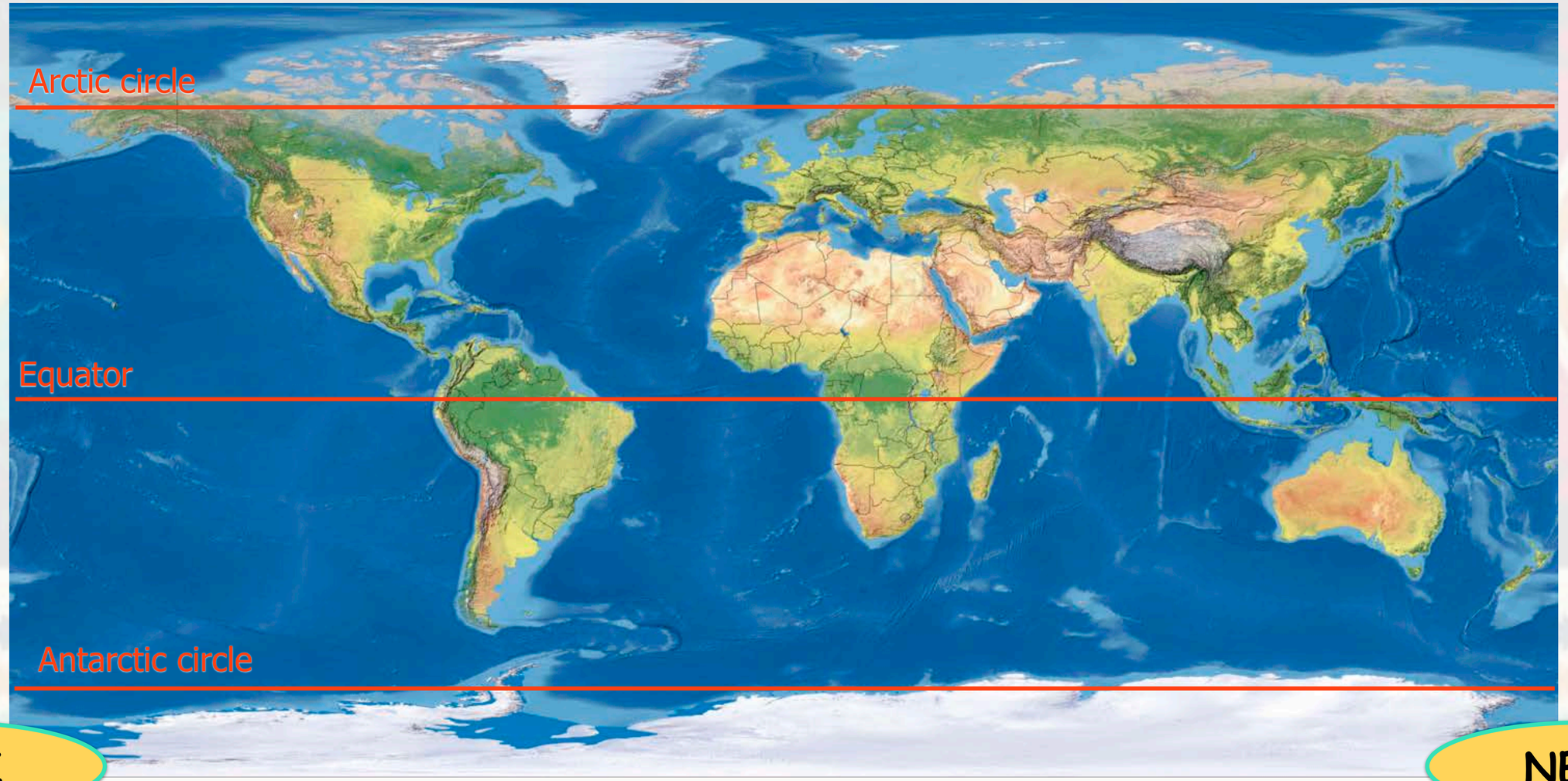
What would you expect the climate in South America to be like? Why?



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There are several different climates in South America depending on where they are. They vary from hot, tropical climates to cold, snowy climates.

Some parts of South America are on the equator. Places by the equator are the warmest places on Earth but they can be wet or dry depending on where they are. Other parts of South America are nearer the Antarctic so they are colder.

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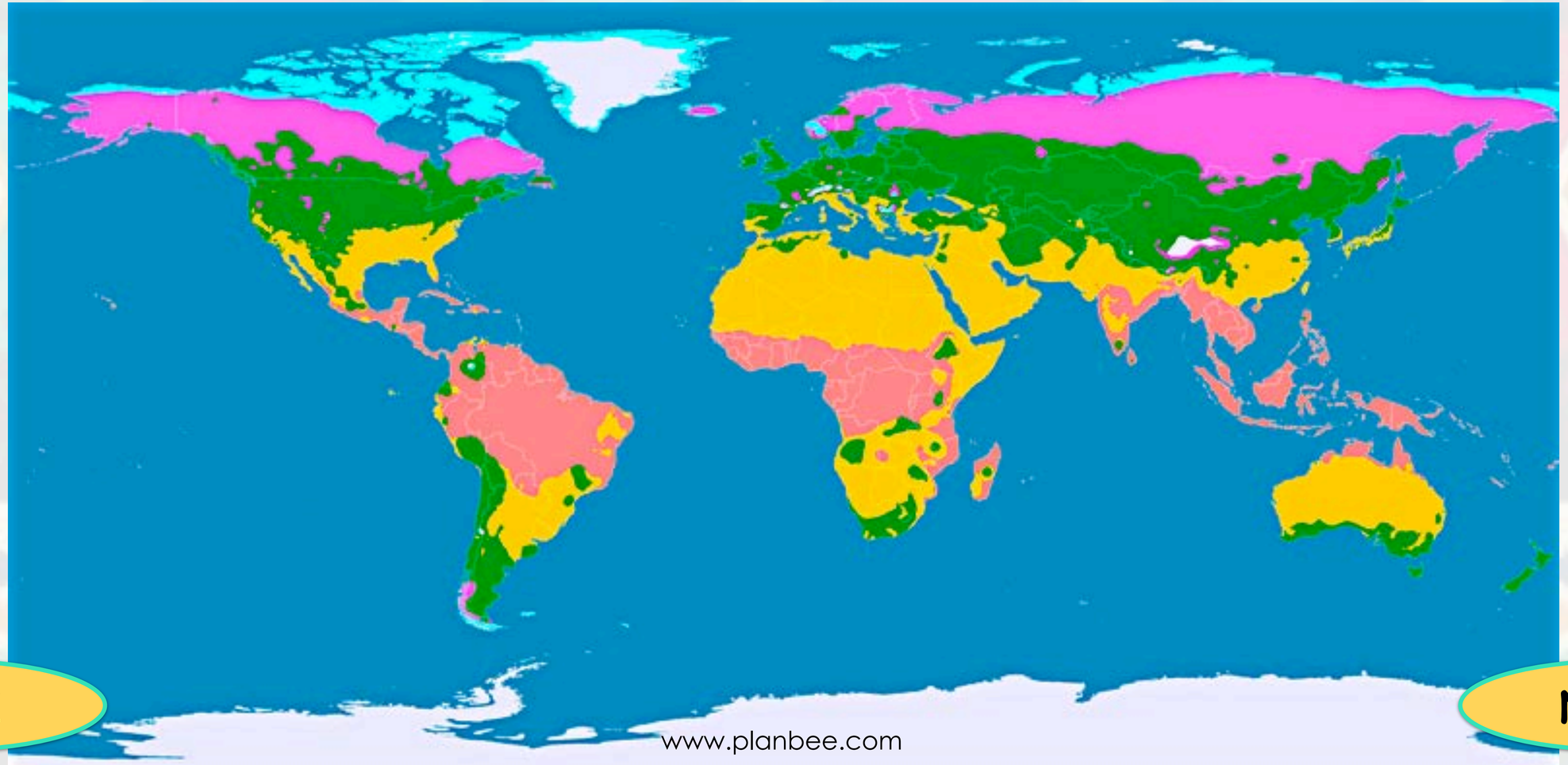
	Ice cap climate
	Tundra climate
	Subarctic climate
	Warm temperate climate
	Subtropical climate
	Tropical climate

This map shows the general climate zones around the world. **Which climates can you see in South America?**



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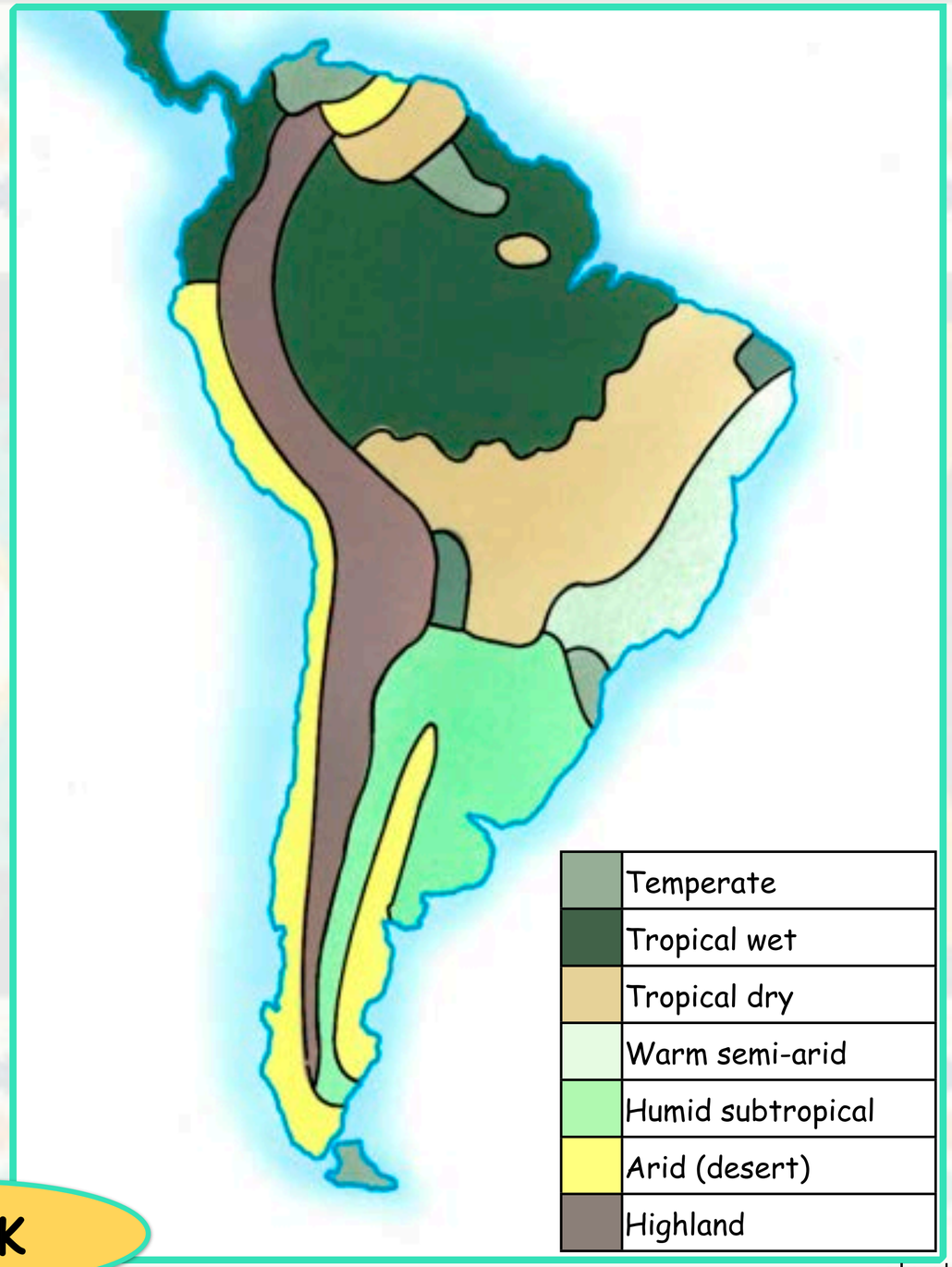

This map gives some more detail about the varying climates in South America. What do you think each of these climates would be like?

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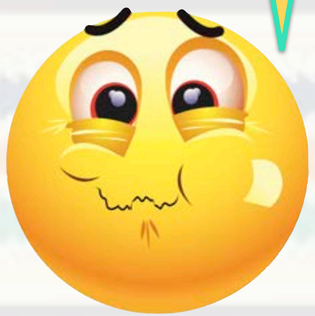
A large part of South America has a tropical wet climate. The rainforests of Brazil have this type of climate (which only occurs near the equator). Rainforests have rain every day and are very hot and humid.

This type of climate is ideal for plant growth which is why the rainforests are teeming with plant life.



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The Atacama Desert (which is located in parts of Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Argentina) is the hottest and driest desert in the world. In parts of the Atacama Desert in Chile, rain is an extremely rare occurrence. In 1971, for example, it rained here for the first time in 400 years!

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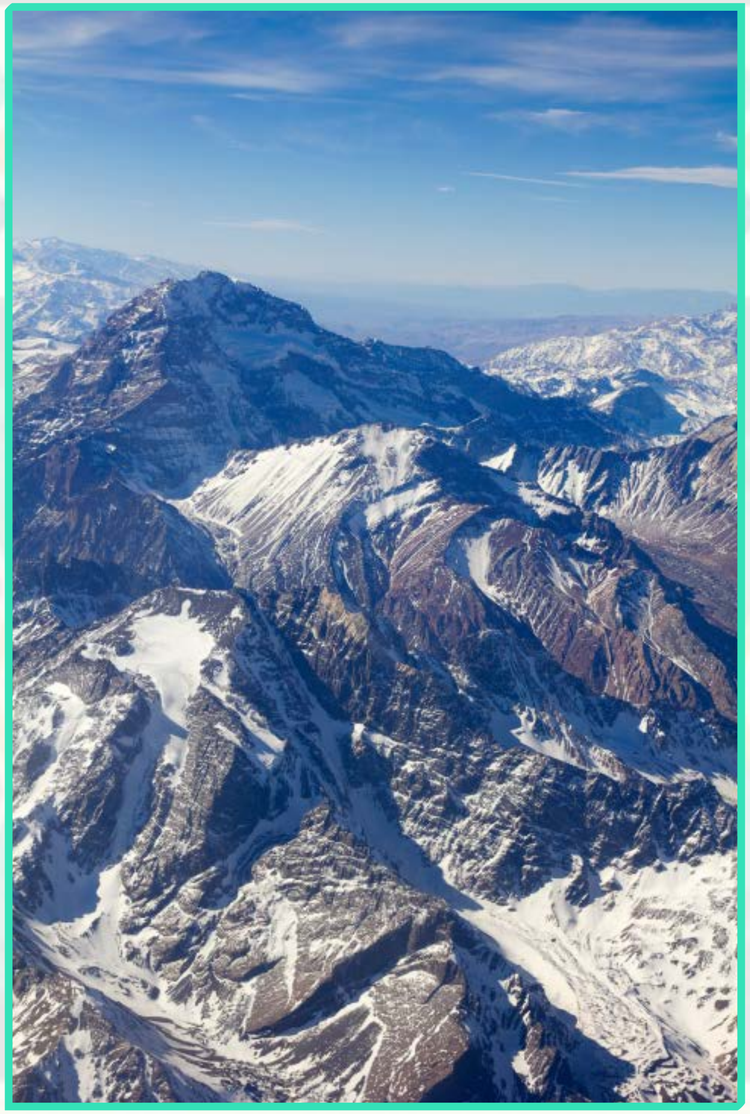

Mount Aconcagua, the highest mountain in South America

The Andes mountain range runs nearly the whole length of South America. The climate along the Andes changes depending on the location as some places are nearer the equator than others. However, it is not uncommon to have a hot, humid climate very near to a snowy peak in the Andes.

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Some countries of South America, such as Argentina, have areas with a more temperate climate. However, because they are in the southern hemisphere, their summer months are from December to February and their winter lasts from May to September.

The climate in Argentina ranges from subtropical areas in the north to icy glaciers in the south.

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