

TROPICAL SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA



AREA 1,138,914 sq km
POPULATION 44,726,000
MONEY Colombian peso

ECUADOR



AREA 283,561 sq km
POPULATION 15,007,000
MONEY US dollar

BRAZIL



AREA 8,514,215 sq km
POPULATION 203,430,000
MONEY Real

BRAZIL is by far the biggest country in South America, and has more people (over 203 million) than the rest of South America put together.

Most people still live near the coast. Parts of the Amazon forest are now being settled, but large areas inland are still almost empty. The poorest parts are in the north-east, where the rains often fail, and in the shanty towns around the cities. Modern industry is growing very fast, but there are still too few jobs. Brazil has pioneered fuel made from sugar-cane for cars and trucks.

Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia are known as the Andean states. Colombia is known for its coffee. Bananas and other tropical crops grow near the coast of Ecuador, but the capital city is high in the mountains. Peru relies on mountain rivers to bring water to the dry coastal area. Tourists come to see ancient Inca cities. Bolivia has the highest capital city in the world. It is the poorest country in South America: farming is difficult and even the tin mines hardly make a profit.



▲ **Machu Picchu, Peru**, the lost city of the Incas, is perched on a mountainside 2400 metres above sea level. The last Inca emperor probably lived here in 1580. The ruins were rediscovered in 1911.

PERU



AREA 1,285,216 sq km
POPULATION 29,249,000
MONEY New sol



▲ **Going to market, Peru.** This lady is a descendant of the Incas who lived in Peru before the Spanish arrived. She carries her baby on her back in a fine woven blanket. In most South American countries, the Indians are among the poorest people.



▲ **Amazon jungle.** The hot, wet jungle covers thousands of kilometres. There is no cool season, and the forest is always green. The trees can be 50 metres high. New roads and villages, mines and dams are being built in the Brazilian jungle, and parts of the forest are being destroyed.

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS



These volcanic islands belong to Ecuador but are 1000 kilometres from the mainland. They have unique plants and animals because they have been isolated for so long.

The giant tortoises are the most famous and spectacular 'residents'.