

The Geography of Latin and South America for Kids



By Rachel Bubb

I hope this book helps make geography a very interesting and fascinating class. It's a great idea to use this book as a guide book and read picture books that go with each country as you go through the book (or watch documentaries about the places). When I was putting this book together, I used both the Scholastic and the Eyewitness World Atlas. One great atlas online (that's free; you can print out pages from it instead of looking at the computer) is the World Atlas (www.worldatlas.com).

-Rachel

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(Writings and Drawings)

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Contact: Rachel Bubb
c/o 6443 El Camino Dr.
Redding, CA 96001

www.storiesfromchinaforkids.blogspot.com

www.inknewspaper.net



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Introduction

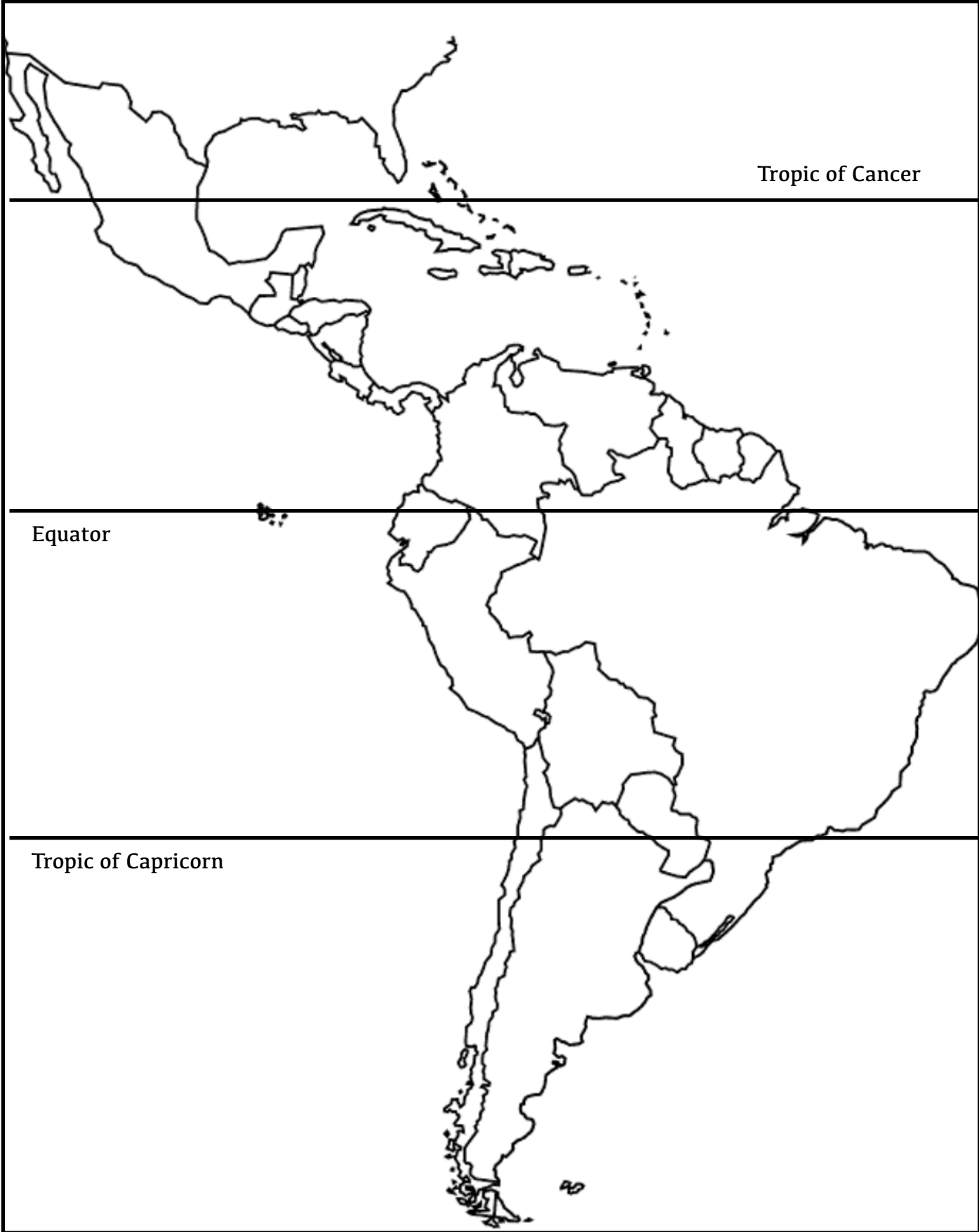
Latin and South America were home to many indigenous people before the Spanish, Portuguese and other Europeans came in the 1500s. “In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue” and after this many ships came to Latin America, the Caribbean islands, and South America in search of gold. They also wanted to find a shipping route that would take them all the way from Europe to India, but they didn’t realize there were two whole continents in between them: North and South America. The Spanish who came were called conquistadors and many of them married the ladies who lived in the land. Soon there were more and more mixed families, but slowly Spanish, Portuguese, and other languages became the dominant languages.

In the following pages are several maps. Print them out because we’ll use them in class. As we go through each country, color the country in on the map of countries. We’ll also talk about geographical features; draw and color them in on the second map. At the end of the book is a sample topographical map that’s been labeled and colored in. Some animals that are found in North America are also found in South America, like hummingbirds and opossums.

When people think about the geography of this part of the world, they often think of the Amazon river and rainforest and the Andes Mountains, which run all the way through South America. In your atlas, look at the map of South America and find both the Andes Mountains and the Amazon River. They are huge and long! The Caribbean islands and Latin America are famous for their warm weather year round and their beaches.







Tropic of Cancer

Equator

Tropic of Capricorn