Where Should They Settle?

South America | Map decision

Name _____ Date _____

A group of 5,000 families needs a new home town. They will need fresh water, land to grow food, and a way to move goods in and out. Study the physical map and the facts about each site, then choose.



A Site A

Rain and snow	about 93 in
Elevation	about 300 ft
River or lake	Yes: Rio Negro / Amazon
Land	Flat, thick rainforest
Average temp.	81 F, hot all year

B Site B

Rain and snow	about 27 in
Elevation	about 12,600 ft
River or lake	Yes: Lake Titicaca
Land	High flat plateau in the Andes
Average temp.	49 F, frosty nights

C Site C

Rain and snow	less than 1 in
Elevation	about 130 ft
River or lake	No (on the ocean)
Land	Desert coast, bare hills
Average temp.	62 F, mild

D Site D

Rain and snow	about 41 in
Elevation	about 100 ft
River or lake	Yes: Parana River
Land	Flat grassland (Pampas)
Average temp.	64 F, warm summers

Elevation (feet)

0 3,000 6,000 10,000 15,000 20,000+

0 1,000 miles

0 1,000 km

Blue lines = rivers
Dashed lines = latitude and longitude

1. Which site would you choose? Site _____

2. Explain your choice using two clues from the map (color, rivers, mountains, coast):

Clue 1: _____

Clue 2: _____

3. Pick one site you did NOT choose. What is its biggest problem? Site ___

_____

Elevation: Mapzen terrain tiles | Rivers and borders: Natural Earth | Climate: 1991-2020 averages

Where Should They Settle?

South America | The Five Themes of Geography

Name _____ Date _____

Answer these about the site you chose on page 1. My site: Site _____

LOCATION

Where exactly is your site? Use the latitude and longitude lines on the map.

Follow the curved dashed lines from your site to their labels at the edge of the map.

My site is near _____ ° N or S and _____ ° E or W (circle N or S, and E or W)

PLACE

What is your site like? Describe its land and its weather in your own words.

Use the fact card: rain, elevation, land and temperature.

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

What will the people have to build or change to live well at your site?

For example: wells, canals, dams, terraces, warm houses, cleared fields, walls against floods.

MOVEMENT

How will people and goods get to and from your site?

Think about rivers, the coast, mountain passes and flat land for roads.

REGION

What kind of region is your site in? Name one other place in the world that is like it.

For example: rainforest, desert, grassland, mountains, cold northern land, coast.

Teacher Key

South America | Where Should They Settle?

There is no single right answer. A strong answer names a site, gives two clues that really come from the map or the fact cards (water, rain, elevation, land, temperature, coast), and names a real problem with a site it did not choose.

A Manaus, Brazil

about 3°S, 60°W

On the Rio Negro, just above where it joins the Amazon. Plenty of fresh water and a river road that big ships use all the way to the Atlantic. But it is hot and wet all year, the rainforest must be cleared, and the soil wears out fast once the forest is cut. Manaus grew into a city of about 2 million on river trade.

B Puno, Peru

about 16°S, 70°W

On the shore of Lake Titicaca, high in the Andes. Fresh water and fish, but the air is thin, nights are frosty and only hardy crops such as potatoes and quinoa grow well. Goods must cross the mountains to reach the sea. People have farmed around the lake for thousands of years.

C Antofagasta, Chile

about 24°S, 70°W

On the coast of the Atacama Desert, one of the driest places on Earth. A good sea port with mild weather, but no river and almost no rain, so almost no farming: its drinking water is now made from seawater. The city was founded in 1868 to ship nitrate and silver from desert mines, and later copper.

D Rosario, Argentina

about 33°S, 61°W

On the Parana River in the Pampas: flat, rich grassland with enough rain for wheat, corn, soybeans and cattle, a mild climate, and a river that ocean ships can use. Many students pick it, with good reason; river floods are its main risk. Rosario is now one of the biggest grain ports in the world.

Five Themes page

Place: details from the fact card, in the student's words. Human-environment interaction: for example clearing forest and building above flood level (A), terraces and frost-hardy crops (B), piping in water or taking the salt out of seawater (C), levees against river floods (D). Movement: river boats on the Amazon (A) or the Parana (D), mountain roads and the lake (B), ships on the Pacific (C). Region: rainforest (A), high mountain plateau (B), coastal desert (C), grassland (D); any real place of the same kind counts for the second part.

Location: students follow the curved dashed lines to their labels; accept answers within a few degrees of the value shown.