

Name _____

Discovering the Wonders of South America

Short Answer Key

1. The Amazon Rainforest is known for its incredible biodiversity and serves as a vital carbon sink, helping to regulate the Earth's climate by absorbing carbon dioxide. It is essential for maintaining global ecological balance.
2. Machu Picchu is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an iconic archaeological site in Peru. It holds cultural significance as a symbol of Inca civilization and history. Historically, it served as a royal estate and religious retreat.
3. One traditional dish from South America is "empanadas," which are savory pastries filled with ingredients like meat, cheese, or vegetables. Empanadas are popular in various South American countries, including Argentina and Chile.
4. European colonization had a profound impact on the indigenous peoples of South America. It led to the displacement of indigenous communities, the spread of diseases, and the loss of traditional lands and ways of life. Many indigenous populations faced oppression and exploitation.
5. The jaguar, native to South America, is a large and powerful big cat known for its striking coat pattern. Jaguars inhabit a range of environments, including rainforests, swamps, and grasslands. They are excellent swimmers and climbers, which helps them hunt a variety of prey.

