South America Countries and Capitals

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which pair gives the capitals of Brazil and Argentina, in that order?
   A. Brasília and Buenos Aires
   B. Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires
   C. Brasília and Córdoba
   D. São Paulo and Montevideo
   Correct answer: A. Brasília and Buenos Aires
   Brasília is Brazil’s capital. Buenos Aires is the capital of Argentina.

2. Which country has a long Pacific coast west of Argentina and has Santiago as its capital?
   A. Ecuador
   B. Peru
   C. Chile
   D. Uruguay
   Correct answer: C. Chile
   Chile lies between the Pacific Ocean and Argentina along much of its length. Santiago is its capital.

3. Caracas is the capital of which country on South America’s Caribbean coast?
   A. Colombia
   B. Venezuela
   C. Guyana
   D. Suriname
   Correct answer: B. Venezuela
   Caracas is the capital of Venezuela, near its Caribbean coast.

4. Which pair gives the capitals of Colombia and Ecuador, in that order?
   A. Bogotá and Guayaquil
   B. Quito and Bogotá
   C. Medellín and Quito
   D. Bogotá and Quito
   Correct answer: D. Bogotá and Quito
   Bogotá is the Colombian capital. Quito is the capital of Ecuador.

5. Which South American country has Montevideo as its national capital?

A. Paraguay
B. Uruguay
C. Chile
D. Argentina

Correct answer: B. Uruguay
Montevideo is in Uruguay on the north side of the Río de la Plata estuary.

6. Which city is the capital of Peru and lies on the Pacific coast?

A. Lima
B. Cusco
C. Arequipa
D. Iquitos

Correct answer: A. Lima
Lima is Peru's capital. The other cities are inland.

7. Asunción is the capital of which landlocked South American country?

A. Uruguay
B. Bolivia
C. Ecuador
D. Paraguay

Correct answer: D. Paraguay
Asunción lies on the Paraguay River and serves as Paraguay’s capital.

8. Which mainland country lies between Venezuela and Suriname along the north coast of South America?

A. Paraguay
B. Ecuador
C. Guyana
D. Uruguay

Correct answer: C. Guyana
The northern coastal neighbors are Venezuela, Guyana, and Suriname when moving east in this part of the continent.

9. Which city is Bolivia’s constitutional capital?

A. Sucre
B. La Paz
C. Cochabamba
D. Santa Cruz de la Sierra

Correct answer: A. Sucre
Article 6 of Bolivia’s constitution names Sucre as its capital.

10. Which country has Paramaribo as its capital?

A. Venezuela
B. Guyana
C. Colombia
D. Suriname

Correct answer: D. Suriname
Paramaribo is Suriname’s capital, near the Atlantic coast.

11. Which two sovereign countries in South America are landlocked?

A. Paraguay and Ecuador
B. Bolivia and Uruguay
C. Bolivia and Paraguay
D. Uruguay and Suriname

Correct answer: C. Bolivia and Paraguay
Bolivia and Paraguay have no coastline. Uruguay, Ecuador, and Suriname each have a coast.

12. Which order correctly gives the capitals of Guyana and Suriname from west to east?

A. Paramaribo and Georgetown
B. Georgetown and Paramaribo
C. Georgetown and Cayenne
D. Cayenne and Paramaribo

Correct answer: B. Georgetown and Paramaribo
Georgetown is Guyana’s capital and lies west of Paramaribo, Suriname’s capital.

13. Which South American country borders both Colombia and Peru but has no border with Brazil?

A. Guyana
B. Venezuela
C. Bolivia
D. Ecuador

Correct answer: D. Ecuador
Ecuador borders Colombia to the north and Peru to the south and east. Brazil is farther east.

14. Going south along mainland South America’s Pacific coast, in which order do you meet Ecuador, Peru, and Chile?

A. Ecuador, Peru, Chile
B. Peru, Ecuador, Chile
C. Chile, Peru, Ecuador
D. Ecuador, Chile, Peru

Correct answer: A. Ecuador, Peru, Chile
Ecuador is north of Peru. Peru shares its southern border with Chile.

15. Which pair of countries meets Brazil at the Triple Frontier near the junction of the Paraná and Iguazú rivers?

A. Paraguay and Bolivia
B. Argentina and Uruguay
C. Argentina and Paraguay
D. Bolivia and Peru

Correct answer: C. Argentina and Paraguay
The three-country junction is near Foz do Iguaçu in Brazil, Puerto Iguazú in Argentina, and Ciudad del Este in Paraguay.