

**GOD IS  
OUR  
SAVIOUR**

**America**

**Term 2**

**Year 5**

# Christopher Columbus

## Biography

Just as God guided the Israelites on their journey, He has guided many people throughout history as they looked to Him. One is Christopher Columbus.

Christopher Columbus was born in Italy in 1451. As a boy he worked with his brother sailing up and down the coast of Italy selling wool and wine for his father. This is how he became a sailor. At the age of 10 Columbus knew that God had called him to carry the message of Christ to other lands. His first name, Christopher, means “Christ bearer”.

Columbus was sure that the world was round, and not flat, as most other people in his time believed. If this was so, then by sailing straight westward across the Atlantic he could reach those lands on the other side of the world. He was sure that God wanted him to make this expedition, and, after a long time trying to convince the king of Spain that the journey would be worthwhile, the king provided the money that was needed.

Columbus set out from Spain in 1492. He was in charge of a fleet of three ships. Columbus himself commanded the 'Santa Maria', his best friend commanded the 'Pinta' and his brother commanded the 'Nina'.

In the days of Christopher Columbus, they did not have a compass to sail the world. They used the stars to guide them to stay on course.

As the long days passed without any sight of land, the crew became more and more afraid. They planned to get rid of Columbus and sail back home. 'Perhaps the world is flat after all,' they thought. 'What if we fall over the edge?'

However, nothing could change Columbus's mind. He continued to trust in God. God protected Columbus and the mutiny did not occur. After seventy days Columbus saw a light that seemed to come from a fire along the coast. The next morning the three tiny ships made for the shore. With the flag of Spain in one hand and a sword in the other, Columbus knelt down and gave thanks to God. The new-found land was an island off the coast of America, part of the Bahamas. He named the island San Salvador which means Holy Redeemer.

God had not only protected Columbus, but also guided him. God guided him because of his great faith and trust. Columbus had confidence in continuing the journey, even when everyone else wanted to turn back. His confidence was in God. Columbus died in 1506.

## Activities – Christopher Columbus

### PART A

1. When did he receive a call from God to become a “Christ-bearer”?
2. Who gave him the money for 3 ships to sail to the other side of the world?
3. Why were the members of the crew afraid?
4. What is the meaning of mutiny?
5. Why didn't the mutiny occur?
6. How did Columbus know he was approaching land?
7. What was the name of the island discovered by Columbus, and where was it?  
Draw a map of Central and North America and mark the Bahamas.
8. Which Old Testament hero trusted God while making a journey?
9. Why was the voyage of Columbus and his crew similar to the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land? Choose the correct answers:
  - a) None of the travellers had been to the new land before.
  - b) Both events took place on the continent of Africa.
  - c) God was guiding them.
  - d) All the travellers trusted in God for the whole of the journey.
  - e) The travellers did not always trust their leader.

### PART B - God is Wise

#### Read:

Because God knows everything there is to know, it is wise to let Him be our guide through life. God knows the future. He knows the best decisions to make. Being a Christian is more than just asking Jesus to forgive our sins. We also need to ask Jesus to be our guide through life. We need to be listening to what He has to say, and obeying His advice.

#### Copy and fill in the missing words:

#### How can I know what God wants me to do?

I can learn what the \_\_\_\_\_ has to say.

I can ask God to speak to me and show me what \_\_\_\_\_ is.

I can listen to His voice when I \_\_\_\_\_.

I can listen to what my conscience is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Missing words:** right saying Bible pray



# Jim Elliot

## Biography

The Auca Indians who lived in the jungles of Ecuador were a fierce tribe, feared by all other tribes. In the 1950s they were still living in their traditional tribal way. The only contact with white people they had ever had was that of the rubber traders some years before. The rubber traders had come with guns, which had terrified the Aucas. When the five young American missionaries, Nat, Jim, Peter, Ed and Roger decided to make contact with the Aucas, they were really exposing themselves to great danger.

Ed, Jim and Peter had already spent three years working with another tribe of Indians in Ecuador. These were the more friendly Quichas. The Quichas territory bordered that of the Aucas. There they had got to know Nat. He was a pilot with Missionary Aviation Fellowship. His work involved flying a single-engine plane over the jungles and landing on tiny air strips which were merely small clearings in the jungle. He helped other missionaries with transport and supplies. He enjoyed his work, even though it was dangerous.

The four missionaries began praying about going into Auca territory. God would have to open the way for them, as the government had made things so difficult. One day they came across an Auca girl called Dayuma who had run away from the tribe. They were able to make friends with her and learn some of her language. Once a week they would fly over the Auca village and drop gifts using a canvas bucket on a long rope. Their first gift was a shiny aluminium kettle filled with coloured buttons. Other gifts included salt, axe-heads, plastic combs, clothing and little parcels of food wrapped in banana leaves.

Each time they flew over there were more and more Aucas waiting to receive their gifts. They started flying lower with the hope of broadcasting a message to the Aucas through a loud speaker. With the help of Dayuma, they were able to translate the message into the Auca language. "We like you. We have come to pay you a visit," was the message.

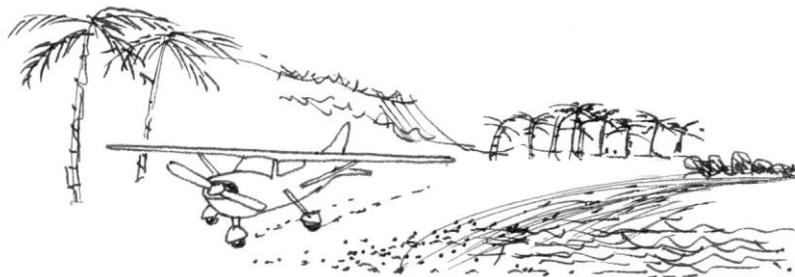
The Aucas seemed to be responding. They started sending gifts back to the missionaries using the bucket and rope. They sent a black bird in a cage and some cotton thread.

By now, a fifth missionary, Roger, had joined the four. It was time to make a landing in Auca territory. Nat, the pilot landed the plane safely on a sandy beach four miles from the Auca settlement. They set up base here and prepared to stay for two weeks. They kept up their routine of flying over the settlement delivering gifts. It was not long before the Aucas realized that the plane was landing on the beach and their curiosity

overcame their fear. Three Aucas came to investigate. The missionaries made friends with the three Aucas and one of them even agreed to have a ride in the plane.

A couple of days later the men radioed their wives as usual, saying that they had seen ten Aucas heading towards the base. That was the last message they sent. A search party some days later found their bodies in a shallow river. The five missionaries had been killed by the Aucas.

Although the death of the men was tragic, they had pioneered the way for others to spread the gospel. Many other brave Christians continued their work. Two of these were Jim's wife and Nat's older sister. Other missionaries from the U.S.A. also joined them. Some Indians from the surrounding tribes who had previously received the Good News, came to share with the Aucas. Many Aucas eventually gave their lives to Jesus, and they will always remember the five men who gave their lives to bring them the Good News.



### Questions

1. What was the difference between the two tribes, Aucas and Quichas?
2. What work did Nat do?
3. How did the missionaries try to gain favour with the Aucas at first?
4. How did the Aucas respond?
5. Who was Dayuma?
6. How did she help the missionaries?
7. What was the last message the missionary men sent to their wives who were back at base?
8. How did the death of the missionaries expand the work of sharing the Gospel to the Aucas?

# John Newton

## Biography

Eleven-year-old John Newton struggled under the weight of the coiled rope as he helped get the ship ready for departure. "Aren't you too little for such a big job?" the deck hand asked as he began to ready the sails. "No sir, I'm strong for my age," John replied as he continued his task. "But don't your mom and dad mind you being out at sea?" continued the deck hand. "No," John answered again. "My mother is dead and my father is the captain of the ship!"

John Newton's mother died just before he turned seven years old. In her short time with her son, Mrs. Newton eagerly taught him God's word and prayed that he would become a minister when he grew up. Unfortunately, in the years that followed, no one would have guessed that John Newton would ever be a preacher.

After his mother's death John's life took a turn that would lead him in a very different direction. While his father, the sea captain, spent months at sea, John was left in the care of his new stepmother. She really didn't want John around and he was left to go his own way. All that freedom was too much for John. His behavior grew worse and worse until finally his father began taking him on voyages to keep him out of trouble. Of course, the rough sailors did not provide the good influence John needed. By the time he returned from sea, he was even more drawn to shady characters and rough living. John seemed to have forgotten all that his mother had taught him in his early years.

### **The Capture**

"Hey you," called the voice of a strange man John had seen staring at him earlier that night. John took off running down the darkened alley as fast as he could. His father had warned him to beware of the gangs of navy officers who captured young men, forcing them to serve on war ships. As John ran, several men closed in on him, tackling and then cuffing him. The men dragged John, kicking and screaming to a ship. He was thrown into a dark hole where he found himself with a group of other unfortunate young men. This time at sea made John an even angrier young man.

### **There is No God**

By his early twenties, John Newton had become a rebellious person. Even the toughest sailors, known for their cursing and drinking, were sickened by John's bad attitude and foul language. He refused to follow the captain's orders and constantly made fun of anyone who believed in God. When John remembered what his mother taught him, he would try to be good, but his efforts would only last a short time.

One day while at sea, John began reading a book which left him convinced there was no God. At first John was afraid not to believe in God, but over time he began to like

the freedom of not having to worry about answering to God someday for his doing wrong.

### **God, Please Help Me**

One day during a long voyage, a fierce storm struck. The ship lurched and rocked as the violent storm raged. Climbing the huge waves, the boat plunged time after time, crashing into the ocean on the other side. With each fall, more and more of the ship's contents spilled into the raging water. As an experienced sailor, John Newton had ridden out many a fierce storm before, but never had he come this close to death. As the ship began to break into pieces and water rushed in everywhere, one sailor washed overboard. A few hours later when John faced certain death, he began to recall Bible verses his mother had taught him. John, who couldn't swim, heard himself cry, "Lord, have mercy on us." But then he thought, "What mercy can there be for a wretch like me"? As John began to tell God he was sorry for turning away from Him and for doing so much wrong, he began to feel peace in his soul.

When the storm ended, John realized that God had saved him from a sure death. He immediately went in search of a Bible and asked Jesus to save his soul as well. The Bible, which he had made so much fun of, now gave him the guidance he needed. John Newton became a Christian. The other sailors noticed that John no longer used foul language and he did not make fun of Christians. He didn't even get upset when others teased him.

### **The Slave Trade**

John Newton made many trips to Africa to buy slaves, who were sold in the United States and the Caribbean. Even after becoming a Christian, Newton did not see anything wrong with slavery, like most others during his time. Later Newton did begin to see that slavery was wrong. He and a young politician named William Wilberforce joined others who spoke out against the practice. In time their efforts led to a law which banned slavery in England.

### **The Preacher**

Remember when as a little boy John Newton's mother wanted him to be a preacher? Well, it came true later in his life. He became the pastor of a church in Olney, England, and later a church in London. He also traveled around England telling about his adventures at sea and how God saved a wretch like him.

Besides preaching, John and his best friend wrote a new hymn for the church service every week. Can you imagine that, a new hymn every week! In all, Newton wrote almost 300 hymns. The best known of them is "Amazing Grace," which has become one of the favorite hymns of all time. When he was writing the hymn, he remembered the storm in which he almost died. "Amazing grace," he wrote, "that

saved a wretch like me!" He remembered how wonderful it was to feel right with God at last. "How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed," it says.

Life is full of dangers like that storm. John's hymn reminds us of God's kindness in bringing us safely through difficult times. It reminds us of His mercy and grace to us when we didn't deserve help, and His good promises to us for the future--forgiveness and eternal life.

### **Questions**

1. John Newton spent much of his childhood free to do as he pleased. He later spent some of his adult years in a form of slavery. Which of these experiences do you think caused him to become the most hardened?
2. How is John Newton's story similar to the Biblical account of Jonah? How did their near-death experience affect each of them?
3. Are you surprised that even though John Newton had been captured and made a slave of a Navy ship, he still participated in the cruel slave trade? Why do you think it took so many years for him to change his mind about slavery?

# Lord of the volcano

## (The true story of Kapiolani)

Biography

The “Big Island” of the Hawaiian Islands group in the north Pacific was created by volcano activity. It rises up from the ocean bed to a height of over 4000 metres above sea level. There are numerous craters on the island, many inactive, but a few still likely to erupt on occasion.

The Hawaiian people had believed for generations that the great goddess Pele lived in the largest and most active volcano, Mauna Loa. They prayed to her and made gifts to the Hawaiian priests who served Pele.

The volcano was a terrifying sight. In the huge crater there burned a lake of molten lava that rose and fell within the crater, sometimes boiling over and spilling down the mountain side, leaving burning trees and a trail of destruction in its wake. The danger of an eruption was always present so it was no wonder the Hawaiians feared the goddess Pele above all else.

But the Christian missionaries came to Hawaii in 1820, and in a few years there were many who had become Christians. The new faith was to them so new that they still trembled when the priests called on the name of Pele. Perhaps, after all, Pele was greater than their new-found God, the Father of Jesus Christ.

“Do not neglect Pele,” said the old chiefs. “If you do, her anger will spill over in boiling lava, with merciless ruin and desolation to the country-side.”

“She will pour down her anger into the sea and spoil all your fishing grounds,” said the priests, who were angry themselves, now that the people no longer brought them gifts. “Great is Pele, and greatly to be feared.”

But there was one woman who did not fear. She was a woman of the royal family, a chieftainess named Kapiolani. She looked out with strong, fearless eyes at the priests and said scornfully, “The Lord God, the Creator, is stronger than Pele!”

The people heard her, and in terror cried, “That is Kapiolani! Pele will destroy her!”

“Pele is powerless!” declared the new Christian. “I believe that God will defend the province of Pele, to the very edge of the crater, where it spills out its lava. Pele will not touch me. Jehovah, my God, is the great God and Pele is as nothing.”

The people gazed at Kapiolani with mingled fear and admiration.

“My God made these mountains,” added the great lady, “and the lava too. He is the only strong One.”

The Hawaiians talked of nothing else.

“Our chieftainess, Kapiolani, is going to defy the great goddess Pele, who lives in the boiling crater, and who rules our island.”

Eighty of her people agreed to go up the mountain with her as she climbed the lower valleys thick with trees, then up and up until she stood on the rough rocks at the very edge of the crater.

During the ascent Kapiolani broke off a branch of a low bush that bore red and yellow berries. Everyone knew that these were Pele's berries. From of old they had been taught that no-one must touch them without asking her. Not only had the daring Kapiolani broken off the berries. The people feared that this was carrying her daring a little too far. Certainly no harm had come to her yet, but there was still time.

It was cold at the top of the mountain, but the fumes from the volcano gave the air a clammy warmth as they drew near the crater. The ground was hot with the molten lava in the crater. It sent up a cloud of vapour from the rain which had fallen into the fissures in the rocks. It was an awesome sight, but Kapiolani did not hesitate.

From a distance the people watched uneasily. Would Pele reach out and slay their courageous leader? From her robe Kapiolani drew forth a copy of the New Testament, and there, with ringing voice, she read within hearing of the heathen goddess, the message of the one true God. The people waited as Kapiolani did this, their hearts trembling. Then they saw her step to the edge of the crater and let herself down over the side. The vapour rose about her. There she stood, unafraid. They watched her take some of the berries and cast them down into the fiery heart of the volcano.

Defiantly she sent one stone after another hurtling down into the crater. There was no greater insult she could heap upon Pele. Would she rise in her anger and consume Kapiolani? Nothing happened. The people waited. Still nothing happened. There she stood, a solitary figure, offering prayer and praise to her God, Jehovah, the One who created the volcano, the One who had given her the courage to defy the goddess who had held her people in fearful bondage for generations.

Kapiolani rejoined the group who had accompanied her. She called upon them to praise God who had proved Himself the Lord over all creation. So that day, praises of God rang out across the crater, the song of a free people, no longer subject to the greed of the priests and the fear of a mountain goddess.

Adapted from *Safety Last*, by Rita Snowden, Epworth Press.

### Questions

1. How many years ago is it since Christian missionaries first came to Hawaii?
2. Find words in the story that mean: alone, eat up, throw up lava, melted from heat, climb upwards, large cracks?



# North America facts

Student activities

**Project: Draw a map of North America. Include Hawaii. Name the countries. Mark the capital cities of each country. Mark major features such as lakes, rivers and mountain ranges.**

## Geography of North American

North America is the third largest of the seven continents. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. North America is dominated by its three largest countries: Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Central America and the Caribbean are usually considered part of North America, but they have their own section here.

Although Columbus is given much credit as having discovered America, there were plenty of people already living in North America prior to the Europeans having arrived. This included many Native American tribes in the United States and the Aztec civilization in what is now Mexico. In the 1600's the Europeans quickly colonized and took over much of North America. The United States was formed in the late 1700's and became a "melting pot" of people and cultures from around the world.

## Countries of North America

Bermuda

Canada

Greenland

Mexico

Saint Pierre and Miquelon

United States

### Major cities:

Mexico City, Mexico

New York City, USA

Los Angeles, USA

Chicago, USA

Toronto, Canada

Houston, USA

Ecatepec de Morelos, Mexico

Montreal, Canada

Philadelphia, USA

Guadalajara, Mexico

Bordering Bodies of Water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic

Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico

**Major Rivers and Lakes:** Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake, Lake Erie, Lake Winnipeg, Mississippi River, Missouri River, Colorado River, Rio Grande, Yukon River

**Major Geographical Features:** Rocky Mountains, Sierra Madres, Appalachian Mountains, Coastal Range, Great Plains, Canadian Shield, Coastal Plain

**More facts:**

The city with the largest population in North America is Mexico City, Mexico. The country with the greatest population is the United States (2010 census).

**The longest river** in North America is the Mississippi.

Lake Superior is the **largest fresh water lake in the world** by area. It is located on the border between the United States and Canada.

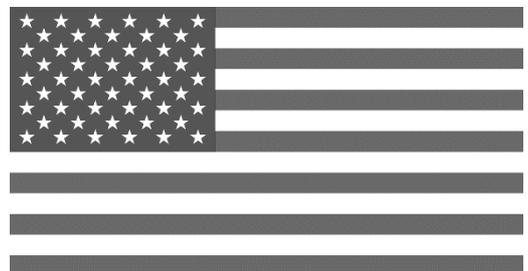
The country of Greenland is the biggest island on the planet.

Canada is slightly larger than the United States in area making it the second largest country by area in the world (after Russia).

The USA has 52 states. Alaska and Hawaii are states of the USA, although not physically joined to the USA.

**The flag** has 50 stars representing 50 states.

Colours: red and white stripes; dark blue rectangle in left hand corner with white stars.



# Facts about United States of America

## Geography

**Area:** 9,529,063 sq km

The world's third largest nation in area and population.

**Population:** 317,641,087

**Capital:** Washington DC

**Number of states:** 52 (including Hawaii and Alaska)

**People living in cities:** 82%

**Official language:** English. The growing Spanish-speaking Hispanic population is 11.2% of the population and numbers 34 million

## Religion

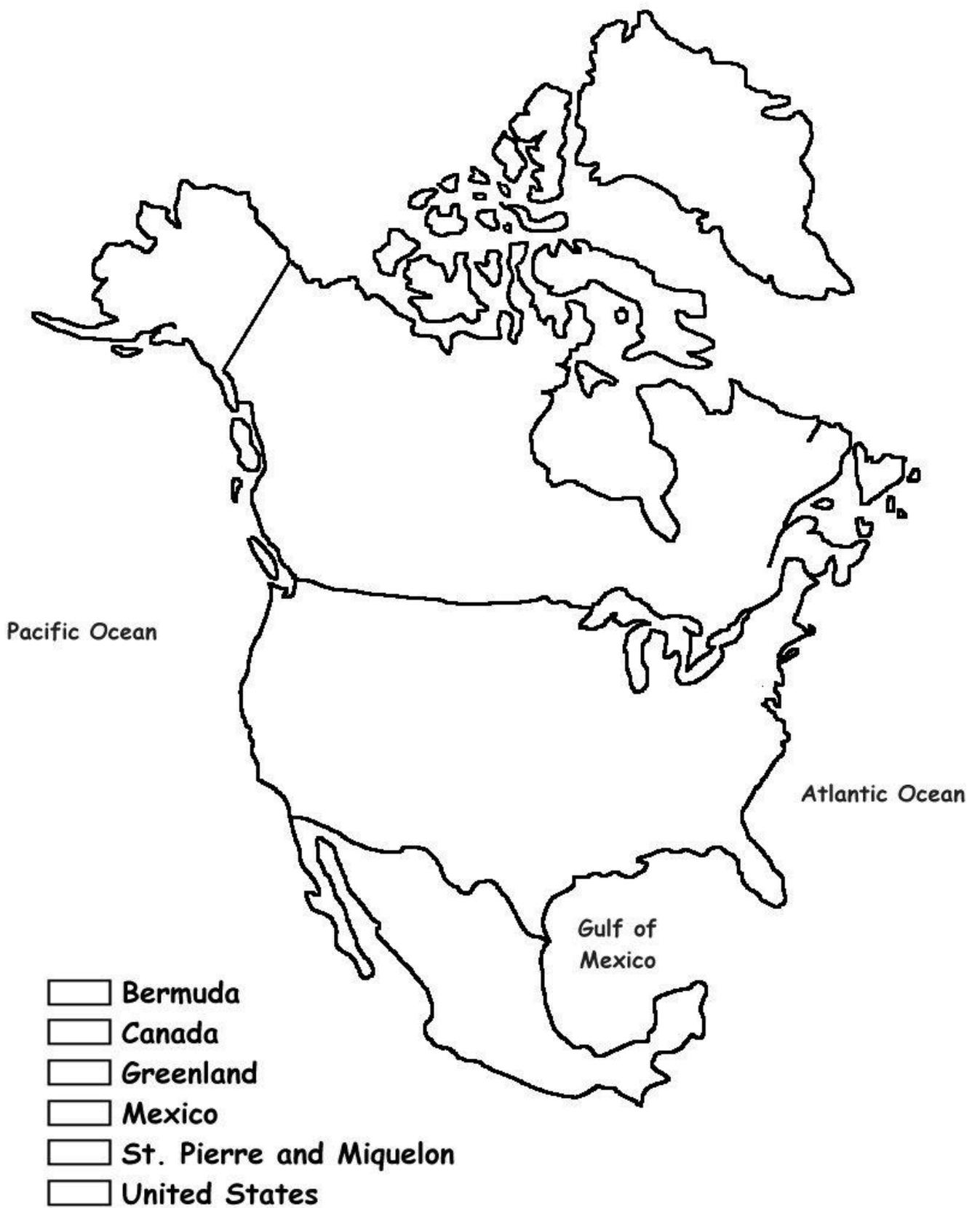
Christians: 77%

### Prayer points:

Across the USA there is a rapid falling away from Christian values. The USA was once a strong Christian nation, but now there is a rise in the belief that we are all free to live as we please, and that the Bible has no authority.

The 38-million-strong African-American community suffered immensely due to its origins in slavery and to racial discrimination.

Pray for young people at risk. Over half of inner-city black males fail to complete secondary school. Many are in prison or in gangs. Poverty, drugs and violence are rampant. Murder is the major cause of death for inner-city, African-American males ages 15 to 34.



# Central America and the Caribbean

**Project: Draw a map of Central America and the Caribbean islands. Mark the countries and name the seas or oceans. Also draw some of the features such as coral reefs and farm crops.**

**Central America** is generally considered part of the continent of North America, but is often referred to as its own region. Central America is a narrow strip of land between North America and South America to the east of Central America is the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean is to the west.

## Countries of Central America

There are seven countries that are considered part of Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

## History

Central America was the home of many Native Americans prior to the coming of Europeans. Most of central America was colonized by Spain. Spanish is still the most common language. The Central American countries have seen many wars.

## The land

This part of the world is mostly rain forest. It is rich in natural resources, but many people here are very poor. The main farming crops are coffee, bananas and beans. Central America is covered with volcanoes, which create rich, fertile soil for farmland. Fishing is another food supply.

**Population** There are about 42 million people living in Central America.

**The Caribbean Islands** are to the east of Central America. There are hundreds of islands. Most of the native people were killed by disease or taken as slaves when the Spanish arrived. The Spaniards brought thousands of slaves from Africa to work on farms in this area. Most people living here are descendants of those slaves.

The largest four Caribbean Islands are Cuba, Hispaniola (Haiti and Dominican Republic), Jamaica, and Puerto Rico.

The Caribbean contains around 8% of the world's coral reefs (by surface area).

The Panama Canal allows ships to cross Central America from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. It is a man-made short-cut for ships sailing between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It goes through the country of Panama.

**Religion** Most people are Roman Catholic, in both Central America and the Caribbean Islands.

# South America

## Project

**Draw a map of South America and mark on it:**

- The largest country
- Other countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile
- The largest city
- The southernmost city in the world
- The longest river
- The Amazon rainforest
- The Andes mountains
- The biggest lake
- The driest place on earth
- The Atlantic and Pacific oceans

**Next to your map draw pictures and label:**

- Animals of South America
- Natural resources: a) minerals b) farm crops

## South America Facts

South America is the fourth largest continent in size. The South American continent has 15 countries. Two of these are owned by Britain, (The Falkland Islands and South Georgia) and one is owned by France (French Guiana).

1. There are **12 countries** in South America

Alphabetical list of countries in South America

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru  
Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela

2. **Largest Country:** Brazil. The country is covering more than half the continent's landmass. Brazil is only slightly smaller than the USA.

3. **Largest City:** Sao Paulo in Brazil. With more than 20 million people (2014). Sao Paulo is also one of the 10 biggest cities in the world.

4. **The southernmost city** in the world is on the South American continent! The city is called Ushuaia, is located on the Southern tip of Argentina. More than 55,000 people live there.

5. **Smallest Country:** Suriname. The country is one of the 10 most sparsely populated countries in the world.

6. **Longest River:** Amazon River. The Amazon is the second longest river in the world after the Nile, and carries more water than the world's other 10 biggest rivers combined!

7. **The highest mountain:** Aconcagua in Argentina. The mountain (6,961metres/22,837ft) is located in the Andes Mountain range.

The Aconcagua is considered the second highest of the world's Seven Summits after Mount Everest which is in Asia.

8. **Biggest Lake:** Lake Titicaca (shared by Bolivia and Peru)

9. **Driest Place:** While South America's rain forests also are some of the wettest places on the earth, the Atacama Desert in Chile is considered the driest place on earth.

10. There are **two landlocked countries in South America:** Paraguay and Bolivia are located in the interior of the continent and have neither access to the **Atlantic Ocean** nor to the **Pacific Ocean**.

11. **History:** One of the earliest South American civilizations are recorded in Peru. In the late 15th century Europeans came to live in South America, mainly from Spain and Portugal, but also from the Netherlands, Britain and France.

12. **People of South America:** The Incas were the largest group of indigenous people in South America when the Europeans arrived. Indigenous cultures still are present in South America but now only in small the numbers.

13. **Languages in South America:** Spanish is the main language in South American countries, only in Brazil people speak Portuguese and in Surinam, formerly a Dutch colony, the official language is still Dutch. Many people speak also English as a second language. Quechua, the language spoken by the Inca, is the most common indigenous language.

14. **Religion:** Most of the South American people are Catholics (90%), some Protestants, Jews and some indigenous people have their indigenous beliefs.

15. **Animals:** In South America there are tapirs, piranhas and anacondas and many other animals. South America is also home to many endangered animals such as the jaguar, the giant otter or the Amazonian manatee.

16. **Main natural resources in South America** are minerals such as iron ore (used to make steel) or copper and agricultural produce such as corn, coffee, wheat, soybean and cocoa.

