

## Elevation and Capital Location

Elevation is important. Here's why: temperature goes down 3-5 Fahrenheit degrees when you go up a thousand feet. This can influence what people wear. It also affects what crops people grow, how much energy they use in their houses, and so forth.

Elevation, of course, is not the only important geographic fact. Location is also important. A mountain in Canada makes an already cold place even colder. A mountain in South America, however, can be more comfortable than a place at sea level.

Let's test this hypothesis. Here are the temperatures at all the capital cities in South America.

Capital	Country	Elevation in feet	Average Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit	
			January	July
La Paz	Bolivia	12000	49	42
Quito	Ecuador	9400	58	58
Bogotá	Colombia	8600	58	57
Brasilia	Brazil	3500	74	71
Caracas	Venezuela	3400	68	71
Santiago	Chile	1800	69	49
Lima	Peru	500	74	62
Asunción	Paraguay	400	83	64
Montevideo	Uruguay	70	73	51
Buenos Aires	Argentina	60	76	52
Cayenne	Suriname	20	79	81
Paramaribo	French Guiana	10	79	80
Georgetown	Guyana	5	79	81



- The Equator is just north of Quito (Q) - the capital of Ecuador (That's Equator, in Spanish). The Equator also crosses the mouth of the Amazon River, in the northeast part of the huge country of Brazil. Draw the Equator on the map above.
- Which other country does the equator cross? Circle: Bolivia Colombia Paraguay
- Spain and Portugal claimed most of South America during the Age of Colonization. Three other European countries had small colonies on the north coast. Fill in the blanks to describe the climate on the coast near the equator:  
Elevation is \_\_\_\_\_ and temperatures are \_\_\_\_\_ in both "summer" and "winter."
- The Inca Empire started high in the mountains. The capitals of Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador are high in the mountains rather than in river valleys (like most capital cities). Finish this sentence: In a country close to the Equator, a location in the mountains is advantageous because \_\_\_\_\_
- The border between Argentina and Chile follows the Andes Mountains. Why is Chile narrower than Argentina? \_\_\_\_\_
- The capitals of Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay are on low land next to the same river. Which of these three cities has the highest temperatures? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_
- Brasilia was built as a "new city" - how does its location and elevation influence its weather?  
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