Some of this vast continent's desert habitats haven't seen rain for 400 years, but - just like its rainforests and tropical glaciers - they still teem with wildlife.

**Most poisonous frog**
Although it's smaller than a woman's thumb, a single golden poison-dart frog contains enough toxin to kill 10 men! For centuries, the deadly liquid was used to tip hunters' blowgun darts, which is how this Colombian species earned its name.

**Heaviest snake**
Green anacondas live in the swamps of tropical South America and Trinidad. The female, found in Brazil in 1960, was 8.4 m (27 ft 6 in) long and measured 1.1 m (3 ft 7 in) around - the same as a large man's chest. She weighed 500 lb (227 kg): heavier than three washing machines!

**Slowest mammal**
The three-toed sloth moves so little that algae grows on its furry coat, giving it a greenish tint. It has a painfully slow walking speed, but in trees, where it spends most of its life, it can move twice as fast: up to 4.6 m (15 ft) per minute.

**Largest living bird of prey**
The Andean condor has a wingspan of up to 3.2 m (10 ft 5 in), and can weigh as much as a four-year-old child. Being so heavy, it prefers to live in high, windy areas where it can glide on air currents. Condors are scavengers, so feed mostly on carrion.

**Most names for a mammal**
In the English language alone, the puma has over 40 names including cougar, panther, mountain lion, panter, catamount (short for "cat-of-the-mountain" and deer taker). Many sub-species also have their own names, such as Florida panther and Yuma cougar.

**Largest toucan**
The toco toucan can grow to a length of 65 cm (2 ft 1 in), a third of which is its enormous bill. This feature is made of keratin, which is what claws (and human fingernails) are formed of. The colourful beak includes air pockets too, so isn't as heavy as it looks.

**KEY**
1. Scarlet ibis
2. Bottlenose dolphin (highest jump for a dolphin)
3. Scarlet macaw
4. Golden poison-dart frog
5. Howler monkey (noisiest land animal)
6. Green anaconda
7. Great white shark (largest predatory fish)
8. Hammerhead
9. Sloth
10. Huemutze macaw (longest parrot)
11. Red bellied piranha
12. Black pescado
13. Guanaco
14. Brown pelican (smallest pelican)
15. Capybara (largest rodent)
16. Vochú (smallest camelid)
17. Bororo (largest river dolphin)
18. Caiman
19. Jaguar (strongest bite for a big cat relative to body size)
20. Puma (cougar)
21. South American tapir
22. Giant anteater
23. Naked wolf
24. Opossum
25. Iguana
26. Peccary
27. Methú
28. Canguro
29. Toco toucan
30. Andean condor
31. Armadillo
32. Chilean flamingo
33. Seagull
34. Viscacha
35. Alpaca
36. Magellanic penguin