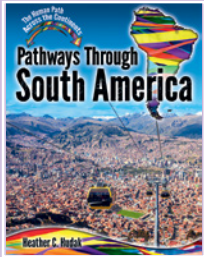
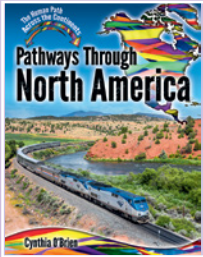
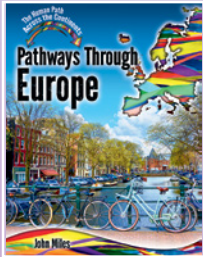
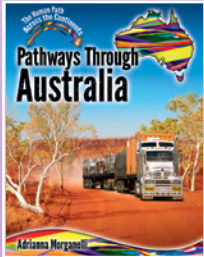
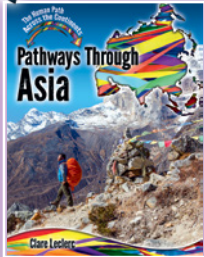
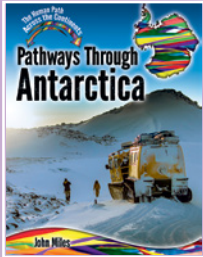
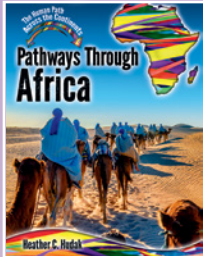


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This fantastic journey through the continent of South America helps show how humans affect, and are affected by, the environments in which they live. Readers will gain an understanding of the continent's various landforms, resources, and human activities. Examples featured include walking along the Inca Trail in Peru, riding a cable car in Bolivia, and taking a water taxi in Suriname.

ISBN 978-0-7787-6650-6 PAP

From Pathways Through Australia

Through the OUTBACK on Horseback

Australia is the driest continent on Earth. Much of its interior is a near-desert, bush region referred to as the Outback. The population there is small—less than one million out of 24 million Australians. Its dry conditions have left it virtually untouched by humans, making it one of the largest intact natural areas on Earth. Settlers first brought horses from Europe to the Outback because they could endure its extreme climate as they transported people and goods. Horses could also work on farms, gathering cattle and sheep.

← **TODAY MOST OF AUSTRALIA'S HORSES** are stock horses, a breed used for gathering **stock**. They are now often ridden for pleasure to explore the Outback. The Harry Redford Cattle Drive combines both herdsback activities. Drivers, or people who move animals over long distances, take tourists with them along a 350-mile (524-km) route through the Queensland Outback. It starts at the Redford trail, is

← MOST OUTBACK SETTLEMENTS grew up because of either the grading of animals, or mining for such materials as gold, iron, copper, lead, and uranium. The settlers built simple houses, using cheap, easily transported materials like **corrugated** iron. Today, early settler homes have mostly been pulled down in favor of sturdier, more permanent homes. Horses too have been replaced. Instead, people use strong, four-wheel drive vehicles on the rough roads between **remote** settlements. Light aircraft are also popular and essential for medical emergencies.

← BRUMBIES ARE FERAL, or wild, horses that have escaped or been abandoned when farms closed. They have learned to survive on their own and live in herds, ranging freely through parts of the Outback. Australia has more feral horses than any other country in the world! Feral animals damage the Outback's fragile ecosystems by eroding the soil. Soil erosion makes it difficult for the plants to grow. Methods to keep the animals under control include fencing in fields and reducing numbers by culling.