

Environment & Sustainability

Physical Features

Landscape: There is a fault line running down the west side of North America.
The Grand Canyon is one of the wonders of the world. This gorge was cut through many layers of rock by the Colorado River.
Yellowstone was the first national park in the country and in the world. It is the home of Old Faithful, a hot-water geyser.

Climate: The hottest place in North America is Death Valley in California, USA. The coldest is Snag in Canada.

Water bodies

Rivers: *Colorado River, Niagara River, Mississippi River*
Rivers have created deep canyons, *such as Copper Canyon in the Mexican State of Chihuahua, and the Grand Canyon or Antelope Canyon in USA*
Bordering Seas and Oceans: *Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Arctic Ocean.*
The Panama Canal built 51 miles long connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean.
The Great Lakes at Lakes are a series of interconnected lakes across the USA-Canada border. They include lakes *Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario*. By area, they are the largest lake system in the world, and 2nd by volume.
Mountains: Most mountain ranges are in the west of the continent.
There is a chain of mountains running from Alaska to Chile - known as the American Cordillera and is made up of other well-known ranges such as the *Andes (South America) and the Rocky Mountains (North America)*. *ranges: Rocky Mountains, Sierra Madres, Alaska Range.*
Highest Peak : *Denali 6194m Alaska , USA*
Volcanoes: *Mount St Helens (Hawaii), Yellowstone (USA). Mexico has over 40 volcanoes*

Economy & Trade

As New York has become an increasingly important city for business and trade, it has grown rapidly. New York has developed like it has and what other things are likely to be there – transport, shops, places to live etc.

The Panama Canal is 51 miles long and connects the Atlantic and Pacific. This means ships no longer need to sail round Cape Horn – a very long and dangerous route. It was completed in 1914 and now nearly 15000 ships a year pass through it.

Human features

Famous Landmarks: Statue of Liberty (New York), Golden Gate Bridge (San Francisco), Disneyland (California and Florida), Mount Rushmore (South Dakota)

Population: The number of people living in the same area determines the way the area develops (housing, high rise, skyscrapers, limited recreation space, complex transport)
The population density for North America is about 20 people per km². However, due to big cities in some areas (e.g. New York City) and extreme weather in others (e.g. northern Canada) people are not spread evenly

Being a Geographer

Arctic circle (66°N)

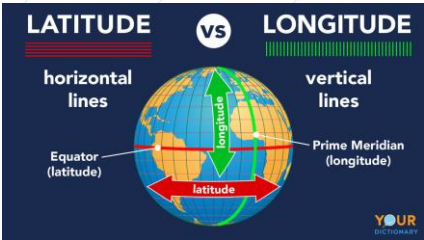
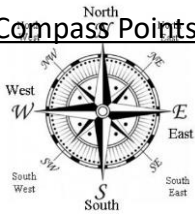
Tropic of cancer (23°N)

Equator (0°)

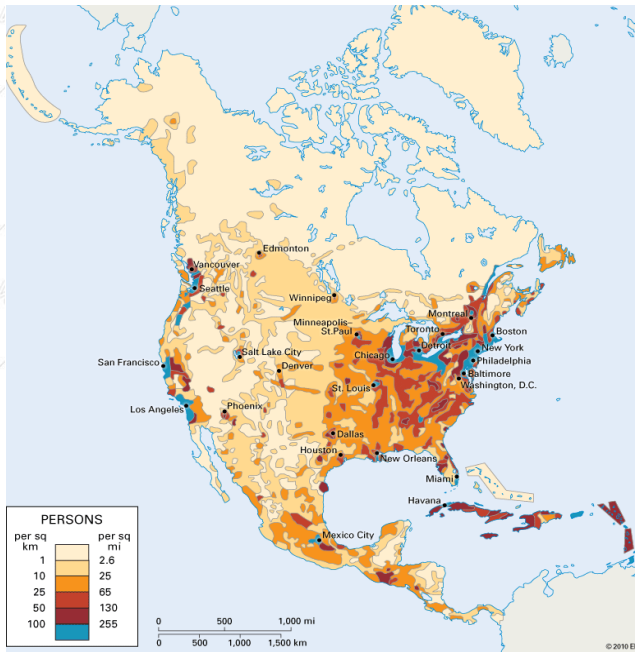
Tropic of capricorn (23°S)

Antarctic circle (66°S)

Compass Points



Population density map



Largest N. American countries

1. Canada – 9.98 million km²
2. USA – 9.83 million km²
3. Greenland (Den) – 2.16 million km²
4. Mexico – 1.96 million km²
5. Nicaragua – 130,375 km²

Most populous N. American countries

1. USA – 328 million people
2. Mexico – 132 million people
3. Canada – 37 million people
4. Guatemala – 18 million people
5. Cuba – 11 million people

Europe & the rest of the world

North and South America are two separate continents with the border being between Panama and Colombia. The Panama Canal separates North and South America.

North America is the third largest continent.

North America is placed mostly between the Arctic Circle and the Tropic of Cancer

North America includes the islands of the Caribbean. The Caribbean is a series of individual countries in North America (Southern Part). The islands are known for their white sands, palm trees and warm waters.

Washington DC is the capital of the USA, although there are approximately 20 larger cities in the US.

New York is the most populous city in North America.

Large areas of North America have very low levels of population.

Subject: Geography		Unit: North America	Year: 6
What do we know already:		What's next:	
• The causes of an earthquake, volcano and tsunami (Y3) • The location of the tectonic plates (Y3) • Different types of biome and where they are situated in Europe (Tundra, grasslands/ Mediterranean, Temperate Forest, Taiga) Y3 • The location of world mountain ranges and their peaks- this includes the Rockies and The Andes(Y4)		•Locating places using lines of longitude and latitude •Times zones across the world •locate countries in North America, referring to continents, oceans and neighbouring countries •Capital cities of countries across North America •Human and physical features of North America, including landmarks. •Climate zones, biomes and population distribution	
Vocabulary:			
Tier 1	Tier 2		Tier 3
Border continent North America Ocean River Sea USA Volcano	Arctic Circle- an imaginary line of latitude that runs around the Earth, north of the equator Antarctic Circle- an imaginary line of latitude that runs around the Earth, south of the equator capital city- a city where the government of that country is based. canyon- a narrow, deep valley cut by a river through rock. equator- an imaginary line that lies halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole. It runs east-west all the way around Earth fault line- a place where two or more tectonic plates meet, creating a crack or fracture in the Earth's crust. gorge- a narrow valley with steep, rocky walls located between hills or mountains. human features- things like houses, roads and bridges. They have been built by people. landmark- features or structures around the world that are easily recognised or unique. location- a fixed position or place in space where something or someone is. mountain chain- long chains or groups of mountains. mountain range- a group of mountains that are close together and connected by high ground. Northern Hemisphere- the half of the Earth that is north of the equator. physical features Physical features like seas, mountains and rivers are natural. They would be here even if there were no people around. population- number of people who live there. Prime Meridian- an imaginary line that divides the Earth into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres and is the starting point for measuring longitude. Southern hemisphere- the half of the Earth that is south of the equator. time zone- an area on Earth that has a specific time. Different places on Earth have different time zones. vegetation belt- a large area of land with a specific set of plant species, determined by the climate, soil, drainage, and elevation		biome- a large area of the Earth with a similar climate, landscape, and types of plants and animals Lines of latitude-imaginary lines that run east to west around the Earth, measuring distance north or south. Lines of longitude- imaginary lines that run north to South, measuring the distance east or west. The Tropics- The region of Earth’s surface that is closest to the equator. The tropics are generally warmer than other parts of Earth. Tropics of Cancer- an imaginary line which marks the northern edge of the tropics. Tropics of Capricorn- an imaginary line which marks the southern edge of the tropics. USA- United States of America

