

Finn's North American Expedition

Learning objective: To identify and describe the key geographical regions, physical features, and diverse climates of North America.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the waters and landmasses of North America. Use the word bank to correctly label the geographical features on your map, then use your knowledge of the continent to answer the questions below. For the 'Greater Depth' section, justify your answers using geographical vocabulary such as 'climate', 'topography', and 'region'.

Word bank: Rocky Mountains · Mississippi River · Arctic Tundra · Gulf of Mexico · Great Lakes · Sonoran Desert · Appalachian Mountains

1. Finn observes that the Mississippi River flows south into the Gulf of Mexico. Explain why rivers are essential for human settlements and trade in North America. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the climate of the Arctic Tundra in the north with the Sonoran Desert in the south. How does the latitude influence these differences? (3 marks)

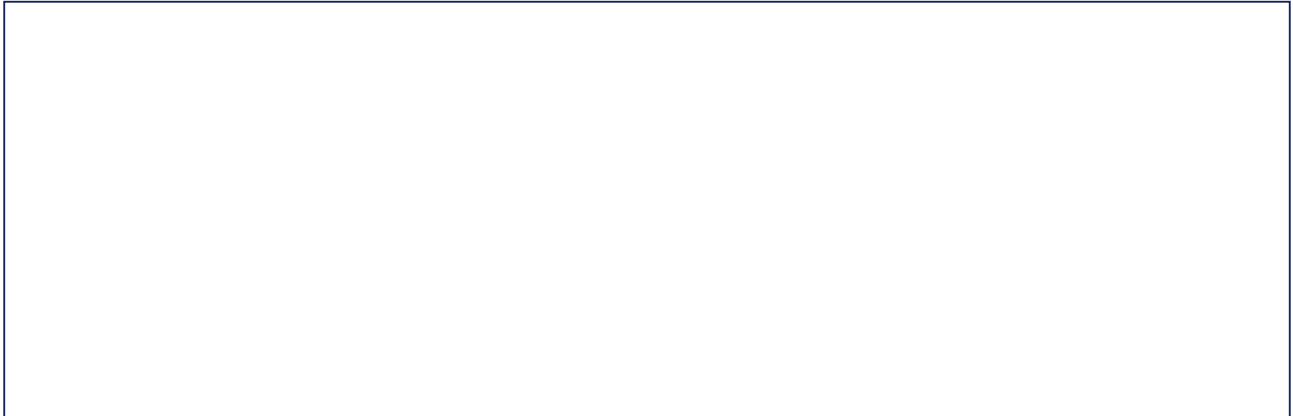
3. If the Rocky Mountains were to suddenly disappear, what might happen to the weather patterns on the leeward side of the range? Justify your prediction. (3 marks)

4. Identify one major economic activity that might take place near the Great Lakes and explain why the geography of this area supports it. (2 marks)

5. Many North American cities are built near major coastlines. Why might this have been a strategic advantage for early settlers? (2 marks)

6. Evaluate the impact of North America's vast size on its variety of biomes. Why is it impossible for the whole continent to share the same weather? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch map of North America. Label the three largest countries (Canada, United States, and Mexico) and draw an arrow pointing to where you would find the Rocky Mountains.



Extension challenge: Design a travel brochure for a fictional tourist visiting North America. You must choose two different regions (e.g., a coastal region and a mountainous region). Describe the weather, the typical landscape, and suggest one activity for each region. Include the cost of a 'Guided Nature Tour' in each region using pounds (£) to show the difference in local expenses.