

Exploring North America with Finn

Learning objective: To understand the geographical features and climate diversity of North America.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below to test your knowledge about the North American continent.

Finn the dolphin loves to travel across the globe to map out different lands. Recently, Finn visited North America, a vast continent that stretches from the icy Arctic in the north to the tropical lands in the south. Because it is so large, the landscape changes dramatically. In the far north, there is the tundra, where the ground stays frozen for much of the year. Moving south, you can find the Rocky Mountains, a massive mountain range that runs through Canada and the United States. Finn was amazed by the variety of habitats; he saw hot, sandy deserts in the southwest and lush, green forests in the east. North America is also home to the Great Lakes, which hold a huge amount of the world's fresh water. Whether it is the bustling cities or the quiet, wild wilderness, North America is a place of incredible contrasts. Finn's map shows that North America is split into three main countries: Canada, the United States, and Mexico, along with several smaller nations in the south. It is a continent that truly has a bit of everything for an explorer to discover.

Word bank: continent · landscape · climate · tundra · desert · mountain range

1. Name the three main countries mentioned in the passage that make up a large part of North America. (2 marks)

2. What does the passage say about the ground in the tundra region? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think North America has such a wide variety of different climates and landscapes? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why might North America be an important continent for the world's water supply? (2 marks)

5. If you were planning an adventure with Finn, would you rather visit the frozen tundra or the hot desert? Explain your choice using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of North America, including a sketch of the Rocky Mountains on one side and a desert scene on the other.

Extension challenge: Research one of the Great Lakes and write three interesting facts about why it is important to the geography of North America.