

Finn's North American Expedition

Learning objective: To understand the physical and human geography of North America, including its diverse climates and landscapes.

Read the passage below about Finn the dolphin's travels to North America, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Finn the dolphin recently completed a grand tour of North America, the third-largest continent on Earth. He started his journey in the icy, treeless tundra of the far north, where the ground remains frozen for much of the year. Travelling south, he marvelled at the towering, snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains, which stretch across the continent like a rugged spine. Finn noted that North America is incredibly diverse; the climate changes drastically from the freezing arctic north to the sun-drenched, tropical coastlines of the south. He swam past vast, golden prairies in the centre of the continent, known for their fertile soil and agricultural importance. In the bustling cities, Finn observed tall skyscrapers and busy ports where goods are traded using pounds sterling and other global currencies. Whether he was observing the giant redwood forests of the west or the humid swamps of the east, Finn was struck by how the land shapes the lives of the people who dwell there. He concluded that North America is a vast, complex land of extremes, where nature and human innovation exist side by side.

Word bank: continent · tundra · climate · mountainous · diverse · landscape

1. According to the text, what is the tundra like in the far north of North America? (2 marks)

2. Name two different types of landscapes Finn observed during his journey. (2 marks)

3. Why might the climate change so significantly as you travel from the north of the continent to the south? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the central prairies are described as having 'agricultural importance'. (2 marks)

5. If you were planning an expedition to North America, which region would you choose to visit and why? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of North America and label three distinct regions Finn visited: the icy tundra, the mountainous Rockies, and the fertile prairies.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the climate of the far north with the climate of the southern coast. What might happen to the local wildlife if the climate in the tundra became warmer over time? Explain your reasoning.