

Exploring the Wonders of North America with Finn

Learning objective: To identify, locate, and describe key physical and human geographical features of North America.

Use your atlases and geographical knowledge to answer the questions below. Think carefully about the diverse climates and landscapes found across the continent.

Finn the dolphin is mapping out the vast continent of North America. From the icy northern territories near the Arctic Circle to the tropical southern regions, North America is home to a magnificent variety of landscapes, including towering mountain ranges, expansive prairies, and dense forests. It is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Finn wants to know how you would describe this diverse land.

Word bank: Rocky Mountains · Arctic Circle · Mississippi River · Great Lakes · Equator · Tundra · Human geography · Physical geography

1. Finn is swimming near the coast of North America. Identify the two major oceans that border the continent and explain why their locations are significant for trade and climate. (2 marks)

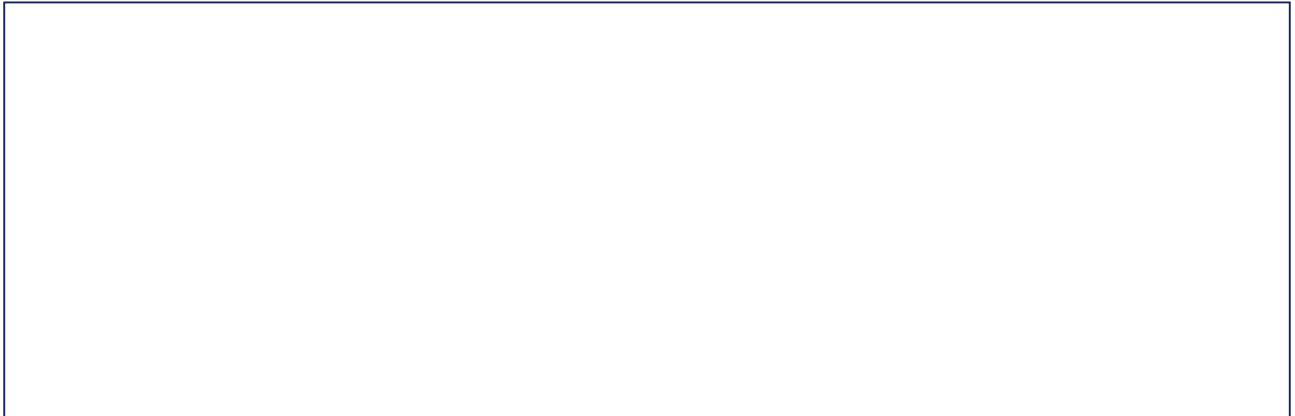
2. Compare and contrast the climate of the far north of North America with the climate found in the southern regions. Use the term 'Arctic Circle' in your answer. (2 marks)

3. The Mississippi River is a vital feature of North American physical geography. Justify why a river system is often essential for human settlement and the development of cities. (3 marks)

4. List three major physical features of North America. Explain why these are classified as 'physical' geography rather than 'human' geography. (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the local wildlife if the Great Lakes were to experience a significant change in water levels? Formulate a hypothesis based on your knowledge of ecosystems. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled map of North America. Include the Rocky Mountains, the Great Lakes, and one major ocean. Add a small illustration of Finn the dolphin swimming in the Atlantic Ocean.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer travelling from the frozen tundra of the north down to the southern deserts. Write a short journal entry (100 words) describing the changes in the landscape and the weather you encounter along the way. Use at least four words from the word bank.