

Finn's North American Expedition: A Geographical Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and categorise the diverse physical and human geographical features of North America.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastlines and inland regions of North America. He has collected a list of features, but he needs your help to organise them! Sort the items from the word bank into two categories: 'Physical Features' (natural landscapes/climate) and 'Human Features' (man-made structures/settlements). Once you have sorted them, answer the challenge questions below to demonstrate your deeper understanding of this vast continent.

Word bank: The Rocky Mountains · The Statue of Liberty · The Mississippi River · The CN Tower · The Grand Canyon · The Golden Gate Bridge · The Great Lakes · The Panama Canal

1. Sort the items from the word bank into two columns: Physical Features and Human Features. Explain why 'The Grand Canyon' is classified as a physical feature. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the geographical location of the Rocky Mountains with the Mississippi River. How do these features affect human settlement in those areas? (4 marks)

3. Justify your answer: If you were building a new city, would you prefer to be located near a major physical feature like the Great Lakes or near a human-made transport hub like the Panama Canal? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

4. What might happen if the Rocky Mountains did not exist? How would this change the climate and weather patterns for the land to the east of them? (3 marks)

5. If a tourist wanted to spend £500 visiting North American landmarks, which two features from the list would you suggest they visit to see the greatest contrast between nature and human engineering? Give reasons for your choice. (3 marks)

6. Evaluate the importance of the Panama Canal to global trade. Why is it considered a vital human-made feature for North American geography? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of North America. Include a legend to colour-code one physical feature (e.g., the Rocky Mountains) and one human feature (e.g., the CN Tower) in their approximate locations.



Extension challenge: Research a North American national park not mentioned here. Create a persuasive travel brochure for it, focusing on how its unique physical geography provides a habitat for local wildlife.