

Year 5 Geography Assessment: Exploring North America

Learning objective: To assess understanding of the human and physical geography of North America, including biomes, climate zones, and significant landmarks.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of North American geography to provide detailed answers. Use full sentences where required.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastlines of the North American continent. From the frozen Arctic tundra of Northern Canada to the tropical rainforests of Southern Mexico, he has observed how the diverse landscape influences where people choose to live and how they adapt to their environments.

Word bank: tundra · latitude · precipitate · mountain range · continent · human geography · physical geography · climate zone · urbanisation

1. Name two of the three largest countries that make up the majority of the North American continent. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the climate in Northern Canada is significantly different from the climate in the Caribbean islands. Refer to the concept of latitude in your answer. (3 marks)

3. Identify one major mountain range found in North America and describe how it might affect the weather patterns of the surrounding area. (3 marks)

4. Define the term 'human geography' and provide one example of how it applies to a major North American city. (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the physical geography of the Great Plains with the geography of the Rocky Mountains. Why might these differences affect how the land is used by people? (4 marks)

6. A tourist wants to visit a desert biome in North America. Suggest one specific region they should travel to and justify your answer using geographical evidence. (3 marks)

7. Write a short report (approx. 100 words) describing the impact of human activity on North American natural landscapes. Consider how expanding cities or farming might change the local environment. (5 marks)

8. What might happen to the local wildlife if a forest biome in North America were replaced by a new urban housing development? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled sketch map of North America. Include the Arctic Circle, the Rocky Mountains, and the Mississippi River. Use shading to show one desert region and one tundra region.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research the 'Continental Divide'. Justify why this geographical feature is considered a significant boundary for the continent's water systems.