

Exploring the Vast Landscapes of North America

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

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use the word bank to help you understand the geographical terminology used.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the vast continent of North America, which stretches from the frozen Arctic Circle down to the tropical Isthmus of Panama. The topography is incredibly diverse, ranging from the jagged, snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains in the west to the sprawling, fertile Great Plains in the heart of the land. In the far north, the treeless tundra remains frozen for much of the year, while the southern regions experience high levels of precipitation and warm, humid climates. North America is also home to bustling, modern metropolises like New York and Toronto, where millions of people live and work. These cities are hubs of culture and commerce, often powered by the continent's rich natural resources. Between these urban centres lie protected national parks, showcasing breathtaking canyons and ancient forests. Whether exploring the arid deserts of the southwest or the icy northern coastlines, one cannot help but admire the sheer scale of this continent. Finn notes that every region offers a unique story, shaped by its climate, its people, and its magnificent natural history.

Word bank: continent · tundra · topography · metropolis · precipitation · diverse

1. Identify two distinct physical geographical features mentioned in the text that show the diversity of North American landscapes. (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, what type of climate would you expect to find in the far northern regions of the continent? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes North America as having a 'diverse' topography. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the animals living in the tundra if the climate were to become significantly warmer over a long period? (3 marks)

5. Do you think it is more challenging to live in a dense metropolis or a remote, rural area of North America? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of North America and label three different climate zones or geographical features, such as mountains, deserts, or forests, as described by Finn.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the human geography of a large North American metropolis with a rural village. Create a table to categorise differences in transport, housing, and daily activities. Why might these differences exist?