

Mapping North America with Finn the Explorer

Learning objective: To identify and locate key geographical features, biomes, and countries within North America.

Follow the drawing prompts to create a detailed map of North America. Use the word bank to label your features accurately. Ensure your map is clear, colourful, and geographically representative.

Draw: Create a large, clear outline map of North America on a landscape sheet of paper. Use a fine-liner for the coastlines and clear, bold colours for the different countries. Sketch the Rocky Mountains using jagged triangular lines along the western side. Use blue shading for the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. Ensure you include a compass rose in the corner showing North, South, East, and West.



Label words: Canada · United States of America · Mexico · Rocky Mountains · Mississippi River · Arctic Circle · Gulf of Mexico · Great Lakes

Steps:

1. Identify the three largest countries in North America. Label them on your drawing and justify why the climate changes so significantly from the north of Canada to the south of Mexico.
2. Draw the Rocky Mountains. Explain why mountain ranges often act as a barrier to weather systems and how this affects the land on either side.

3. Compare and contrast the climate of the Arctic Circle with the climate near the Gulf of Mexico. What might happen if global temperatures continue to rise in these specific regions?
4. Step 1: Outline the North American continent. Step 2: Draw and label the Great Lakes. Step 3: Draw the Mississippi River flowing towards the Gulf of Mexico.
5. Why is it important for geographers to study the physical features of a continent like North America? Provide two distinct reasons.
6. If you were to travel from the west coast to the east coast of the USA, describe the variety of terrains you might encounter. Justify your answer using geographical terminology.