

Finn's North American Expedition Log

Learning objective: To identify and describe the key geographical features, climate zones, and human geography of North America.

Join Finn the dolphin on an expedition across the North American continent. Use your geography textbook, atlas, or digital research tools to investigate the physical and human characteristics of this vast land. Ensure you use specific geographical vocabulary and provide justifications for your findings.

Word bank: tundra · biome · urbanisation · topography · tributary · time zones · indigenous · climate · mountain range · coastal

1. Physical Geography: Identify one major mountain range or river system in North America. Explain how this feature influences the climate or settlement patterns of the surrounding region. (3 marks)

2. Climate Zones: North America spans from the Arctic to the tropics. Compare and contrast two different biomes found within the continent. Why do these areas have such distinct vegetation? (4 marks)

3. Human Geography: Choose a major city in North America. Describe its main industries and explain why its location was significant for its initial development. (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were tasked with establishing a new settlement in North America, which region would you choose based on natural resources and climate? Give two reasons for your decision. (4 marks)

5. Comparative Analysis: How does the topography of the western side of the continent differ from the eastern side? Describe the impact this has on travel and trade. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if the major rivers in North America were to dry up? Predict the consequences for agriculture and local communities. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Create a labelled sketch map of North America. Include the Arctic Circle, the Tropic of Cancer, three major mountain ranges, and two significant river systems. Write a short paragraph explaining why North America is classified as a continent according to physical and human geography criteria.