

Exploring the Diverse Landscapes of North America

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

Use this scaffold to structure a detailed non-chronological report about the physical and human geography of North America. Ensure you use geographical terminology and connectives to link your ideas.

North America is a vast continent, stretching from the frozen Arctic tundra in the north to the tropical rainforests near the equator, offering a remarkable variety of landscapes and environments.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in contrast · predominantly · vast · topography · climate zone · biomes · urbanisation · significantly · nevertheless

1. Introduction: Define the continent's location and significance. Start by stating: North America is situated in the northern and western hemispheres, bordered by... (2 marks)

2. Physical Geography: Describe the major physical features such as mountain ranges (e.g., The Rockies) and river systems. You could begin with: The continent's topography is dominated by... (3 marks)

3. Climate and Biomes: Explain how the latitude affects the climate. Start by writing: Due to its immense size, North America experiences a diverse range of climates, ranging from... (3 marks)

4. Human Geography: Discuss population centres or land use. Start by saying: Human settlement across the continent varies significantly, with major urban areas such as... (2 marks)

5. Comparative Analysis: Compare the western coastal regions with the central plains. Consider: Unlike the rugged peaks of the west, the interior of the continent... (3 marks)

6. Justification: Why is the protection of North American biomes important? Consider the impact of human activity on the environment. Start with: It is vital to protect these ecosystems because... (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer travelling from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico. Write a diary entry describing how the vegetation, climate, and human activity change as you move through these different latitudes. Justify why certain regions are more densely populated than others.