

Exploring North America with Finn the Dolphin

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

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Finn the dolphin has travelled far beyond his usual waters to map the vast continent of North America. Spanning from the icy, treeless tundra of the Arctic in the north to the tropical rainforests of Central America, this continent is a land of incredible variety. To the west, the rugged Rocky Mountains stretch like a giant spine, while the center of the continent contains sweeping grasslands known as the Great Plains. Finn was particularly amazed by the Grand Canyon, a massive gorge carved by the Colorado River over millions of years. Because the continent covers such a large area, the climate changes dramatically depending on your location. In the far north, temperatures stay freezing for much of the year, whereas southern regions enjoy warm, sunny weather. Many people live in bustling cities like New York or Toronto, but large areas remain wild, home to bears, eagles, and bison. Whether it is the frozen lakes of Canada or the deserts of the south-west, North America is a place where every landscape tells a unique story.

Word bank: continent · tundra · climate · latitude · canyon · geography

1. Name two different types of landscape or terrain mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what has caused the Grand Canyon to look the way it does? (2 marks)

3. Why might a person need to pack very different types of clothing if they were traveling from Canada to Central America? (2 marks)

4. What does the author mean when they describe the Rocky Mountains as 'a giant spine'? (2 marks)

5. If you were planning an adventure across North America, which region would you most like to visit and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of North America and label three features mentioned in the text, such as the Rocky Mountains, the Great Plains, or the Arctic tundra.



Extension challenge: Research one of the major cities mentioned in the text. Find out one interesting geographical fact about its location (e.g., is it near a lake, a river, or a mountain range?) and write a short paragraph about it.