Where News Happens

Use maps to locate the places named in news reports.

SS24.CWI.1d "Locate on a map the areas affected by events reported in national and international news stories."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Use an atlas with regional maps or an approved digital map that shows the named places. In each paragraph, circle the first mention of the affected city or town, underline the first mention of its state or peninsula, and number the circled names 1, 2, and 3 in passage order.

From Headline to Map

1. In March 2024, news outlets reported that a cargo ship struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland. The bridge fell into the Patapsco River, blocking a route used by ships entering Baltimore's port. The affected city is Baltimore, not every city along the Atlantic coast. On a map of the United States, Maryland sits on the eastern side of the country, and Baltimore lies near the Chesapeake Bay. The city's latitude is about 39° north. A map reader can start with the country, narrow to Maryland, and then find Baltimore beside the Patapsco River.

2. In January 2024, international news covered a volcanic eruption beside Grindavik, a town on the Reykjanes Peninsula in Iceland. Lava reached the edge of the town and damaged buildings. Iceland is an island nation in the North Atlantic, between North America and Europe. The Reykjanes Peninsula extends from Iceland's southwest corner, and Grindavik is near its southern coast. Its latitude is about 64° north. A world map helps you find Iceland, but a closer map is needed to place the town and peninsula. Marking the whole island as damaged would stretch the report beyond what it says.

3. In May 2024, international news showed severe flooding around Porto Alegre, a city in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Rain swelled waterways, and floodwater covered streets and homes near the Guaíba waterway. Brazil occupies much of eastern South America. Rio Grande do Sul is a state at Brazil's southern end, while Porto Alegre sits in the state's eastern part. The city is near 30° south latitude. If you search only for Brazil on a world map, the flood zone will seem too broad. A closer map lets you point to Porto Alegre and the nearby water, not all of Brazil.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Find Baltimore on your map. Which U.S. state contains it, and which river runs through its port?

2. Find Grindavik on your map. Which Icelandic peninsula contains it, and which coast of that peninsula is the town near?

3. Find Porto Alegre on your map. Which Brazilian state contains it, and is that state in northern or southern Brazil?

4. Find all three affected cities or towns on your map. Which is farthest north, and which is farthest south?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

YOUR TURN: A March 2025 earthquake damaged buildings in and around Mandalay, Myanmar. Find Mandalay on your map, then write three sentences naming its country and continent, placing it relative to one nearby mapped city or river, and explaining why you would mark a local area instead of the entire country.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Use an atlas with regional maps or an approved digital map that shows the named places. In each paragraph, circle the first mention of the affected city or town, underline the first mention of its state or peninsula, and number the circled names 1, 2, and 3 in passage order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find Baltimore on your map. Which U.S. state contains it, and which river runs through its port?	**Baltimore is in Maryland, and its port is on the Patapsco River.**
2	Find Grindavik on your map. Which Icelandic peninsula contains it, and which coast of that peninsula is the town near?	**Grindavik is on the Reykjanes Peninsula, near its southern coast.**
3	Find Porto Alegre on your map. Which Brazilian state contains it, and is that state in northern or southern Brazil?	**Porto Alegre is in Rio Grande do Sul, in southern Brazil.**
4	Find all three affected cities or towns on your map. Which is farthest north, and which is farthest south?	**Grindavik is farthest north, and Porto Alegre is farthest south.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mandalay is in Myanmar, in Asia. On my map, I would mark the area around Mandalay, east of the Irrawaddy River. I would not shade all of Myanmar because the report names an area around the city.

Accept accurate nearby map features in YOUR TURN, even if they differ from the sample. Students should identify an area around Mandalay rather than mark all of Myanmar as affected.