

North American Landscapes

Read closely to identify landforms, water features, and regions.

SS.3.G.2.4 "Describe the physical features of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each full name of a physical feature or geographic region, such as a mountain range, plain, river, gulf, ocean, sea, peninsula, island group, or region. Do not circle country names or general words such as land, forests, lakes, beaches, or islands.

Land and Water Around Us

- ① The United States has many kinds of land. The Rocky Mountains rise in the west, while the Great Plains spread across the middle. The Mississippi River flows south through the country to the Gulf of Mexico. Canada lies north of the United States. It has wide forests, many lakes, and part of the Rocky Mountains. Far north, Canada reaches into the Arctic region.
- ② Mexico is south of the United States. Mountain ranges cover much of its land, including the Sierra Madre. Mexico has dry deserts in the north and tropical forests in the south. Its western coast meets the Pacific Ocean, and its eastern coast meets the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The Baja California Peninsula stretches along Mexico's northwest coast.
- ③ The Caribbean is a geographic region southeast of the United States and east of Central America. It includes many islands surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Some islands are mountainous, and others have low, flat land. Cuba is the largest Caribbean island. The Greater Antilles and Lesser Antilles are island groups in the Caribbean. Beaches and warm water shape many coasts there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What named river flows south through the United States, and where does it flow?

2 Which two bodies of water meet Mexico's eastern coast?

3 Which geographic region does Canada reach into far north?

4 What are two ways the passage describes the land on Caribbean islands?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the table for the United States, Mexico, and the Caribbean. For each place, choose one named physical feature that was not used as an answer to Questions 1 through 4, then tell where it is or describe it.

PLACE	NAMED PHYSICAL FEATURE	WHERE IT IS OR DESCRIPTION

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each full name of a physical feature or geographic region, such as a mountain range, plain, river, gulf, ocean, sea, peninsula, island group, or region. Do not circle country names or general words such as land, forests, lakes, beaches, or islands. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What named river flows south through the United States, and where does it flow?	The Mississippi River flows south to the Gulf of Mexico.
2	Which two bodies of water meet Mexico's eastern coast?	The Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.
3	Which geographic region does Canada reach into far north?	The Arctic region.
4	What are two ways the passage describes the land on Caribbean islands?	Some islands are mountainous, and others have low, flat land.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

PLACE	NAMED PHYSICAL FEATURE	WHERE IT IS OR DESCRIPTION
United States	Great Plains	spread across the middle of the country.
Mexico	Sierra Madre	mountain ranges cover much of Mexico's land.
Caribbean	Greater Antilles	an island group in the Caribbean.

Accept accurate named features and locations or descriptions from the passage. For the table, students should include all three required places and use features not already given as answers to Questions 1 through 4.