

Landmark Location Trail

Use location clues to identify major United States physical landmarks.

SS.7.G.2.2 "Locate major physical landmarks that are emblematic of the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each physical landmark. Circle the nearby words that tell where it is in the United States.

A Route Across U.S. Landmarks

- ① In the Southwest, the Grand Canyon cuts through northern Arizona. The Colorado River carved this steep-walled canyon over millions of years. Farther north and east, the Rocky Mountains form a long chain that runs from New Mexico toward Canada. Their high peaks help separate the interior of the continent from the Pacific coast. When locating these landmarks, notice that the canyon is in one state, while the Rockies stretch through several western states of the country.
- ② East of the Rockies, the Great Plains spread across the central United States. This broad, mostly flat region reaches from Texas north to the Canadian border. The Mississippi River flows south through the nation's interior, carrying water toward the Gulf of Mexico. Near the northern border, the Great Lakes lie along the United States and Canada. Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario make up this freshwater system in North America.
- ③ Along the eastern side of the country, the Appalachian Mountains run from Alabama into Canada. They are older and generally lower than the Rockies. At the southern tip of Florida, the Everglades form a wide wetland of sawgrass and slow-moving water. In Alaska, Denali rises in the Alaska Range. It is the highest mountain in North America, far northwest of the landmarks in the lower forty-eight states described earlier in this route across the nation.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

What state contains the Grand Canyon, and what broad U.S. region is it in?

2

Which mountain chain helps separate the interior of the continent from the Pacific coast?

3

Where do the Great Plains extend from and to?

4

Name the landmark at the southern tip of Florida. Then name the landmark in Alaska that is far northwest of the lower forty-eight states.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Complete the table with three major U.S. physical landmarks that are not named in the passage. For each one, give its state or region and a clear location clue.

PHYSICAL LANDMARK	STATE OR REGION	LOCATION CLUE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each physical landmark. Circle the nearby words that tell where it is in the United States. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What state contains the Grand Canyon, and what broad U.S. region is it in?	The Grand Canyon is in northern Arizona, in the Southwest.
2	Which mountain chain helps separate the interior of the continent from the Pacific coast?	The Rocky Mountains.
3	Where do the Great Plains extend from and to?	They extend from Texas north to the Canadian border.
4	Name the landmark at the southern tip of Florida. Then name the landmark in Alaska that is far northwest of the lower forty-eight states.	The Everglades are at the southern tip of Florida. Denali is in Alaska.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

PHYSICAL LANDMARK	STATE OR REGION	LOCATION CLUE
Mount Rainier	Washington	Pacific Northwest, east of Puget Sound
Death Valley	California	Southwest, near California's eastern border
Niagara Falls	New York	Northeast, along the Canadian border

Accept accurate major physical landmarks and accurate state, region, or directional location clues. Students may use different landmarks than the sample if each location is correct.