

Place Clues Across America

Use direction and nearby features to locate important U.S. places.

SS5G1 "Locate important places in the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every place name in the passage. Circle each word or phrase that tells where a place is, such as a direction, border, ocean, river, or mountain range.

Reading Location Clues

- ① The United States reaches from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west. Along much of the northern United States, the Great Lakes form part of the border with Canada. These five freshwater lakes include Lake Superior, the largest by surface area. A traveler moving from the Atlantic coast toward the Great Lakes travels generally north and west.
- ② The Mississippi River begins in northern Minnesota and flows south to the Gulf of Mexico. The Rocky Mountains rise west of the river and stretch through the western United States. The Appalachian Mountains are in the eastern United States. A person traveling east from the Rocky Mountains would cross the central plains and the Mississippi River before reaching the Appalachians near the Atlantic coast.
- ③ Two places lie beyond the mainland states. Alaska is in the far northwest of North America, west of Canada. Hawaii is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean, far west of the mainland. Washington, D.C., the national capital, is in the eastern United States on the Potomac River. Knowing nearby water, landforms, and directions helps a reader describe where each place is.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which ocean is east of the United States, and which ocean is west of it?

2 Where are the Great Lakes located in relation to Canada?

3 What two geographic features would a traveler cross when traveling east from the Rocky Mountains before reaching the Appalachians?

4 Which place is in the far northwest of North America, west of Canada?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose three important places from the passage that are not named in Questions 1 through 4. Write one location clue for each place. Each clue must name the place and tell where it is using a direction or a nearby geographic feature.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every place name in the passage. Circle each word or phrase that tells where a place is, such as a direction, border, ocean, river, or mountain range. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which ocean is east of the United States, and which ocean is west of it?	The Atlantic Ocean is east of the United States, and the Pacific Ocean is west of it.
2	Where are the Great Lakes located in relation to Canada?	The Great Lakes form part of the border with Canada along much of the northern United States.
3	What two geographic features would a traveler cross when traveling east from the Rocky Mountains before reaching the Appalachians?	The traveler would cross the central plains and the Mississippi River.
4	Which place is in the far northwest of North America, west of Canada?	Alaska.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hawaii is in the Pacific Ocean, far west of the mainland. Lake Superior is one of the Great Lakes along the northern United States near Canada. Washington, D.C., is in the eastern United States on the Potomac River.

Accept accurate location clues based on the passage, including equivalent direction words such as eastern for east. Each response should name a different eligible place and include a correct spatial relationship or nearby feature.