Trace the Clues

Locate U.S. places and landforms with a map

5.G.2 "Use maps and globes to locate states, capitals, major cities, major rivers, the Great Lakes, and mountain ranges in the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Keep a classroom U.S. map or atlas beside you as you read. Underline each state, circle each capital or major city, and number each river, Great Lake, and mountain range as you find it on the map.

A Trip Across the Map

1. Start in Colorado. Denver, the state capital, sits just east of the Rocky Mountains. Colorado is west of Kansas, and Wyoming is directly north of Colorado. The Colorado River begins in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and flows southwest into Utah. Follow the river on a map, then find the nearby states. Each place you locate gives you a clue for finding the next one.

2. Move to the Great Lakes region. Lake Michigan touches Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. Chicago, a major city in Illinois, sits on the lake's southwest shore. Illinois's capital, Springfield, is southwest of Chicago. Farther east, Lake Erie touches Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan. Cleveland, a major city in Ohio, stands on Lake Erie's southern shore. Find the lakes first, then look for the cities.

3. Now trace the Mississippi River south through the middle of the country. It forms the eastern edge of Missouri for much of its course. Jefferson City, Missouri's capital, lies west of the river. Farther south, the river forms part of the border between Mississippi and Louisiana. It then flows through Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico. To the east, the Appalachian Mountains cross several states, including Tennessee and North Carolina.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Find Colorado on your U.S. map. Which state named in the passage is directly north of it?

2. Find the Rocky Mountains in Colorado on your map. Is Denver east or west of the mountains?

3. Find Lake Michigan on your map. Which major city in the passage is on its southwest shore, and what state is it in?

4. Trace the Mississippi River beside Missouri on your map. Which capital in the passage lies west of the river?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use your map to find Lake Erie and the Appalachian Mountains. Write two sentences: tell which state Lake Erie touches and which state the Appalachian Mountains cross.

ANSWER KEY

Trace the Clues

GRADE 5 · 5.G.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Keep a classroom U.S. map or atlas beside you as you read. Underline each state, circle each capital or major city, and number each river, Great Lake, and mountain range as you find it on the map. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find Colorado on your U.S. map. Which state named in the passage is directly north of it?	**Wyoming.**
2	Find the Rocky Mountains in Colorado on your map. Is Denver east or west of the mountains?	**East.**
3	Find Lake Michigan on your map. Which major city in the passage is on its southwest shore, and what state is it in?	**Chicago, Illinois.**
4	Trace the Mississippi River beside Missouri on your map. Which capital in the passage lies west of the river?	**Jefferson City.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lake Erie touches Ohio. The Appalachian Mountains cross Tennessee.

For Your Turn, accept any Lake Erie state and any Appalachian Mountains state supported by the classroom map. Check that students use the map to locate each place, not just its name in the passage.