Climate Mapmaker

Use place clues to describe U.S. climate regions.

5.G.4 "Use maps to describe the characteristics of climate regions of the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the location of four climate regions, then circle one climate clue for each region and number each matching pair 1 to 4.

A Trip Across Climate Regions

1. Imagine planning a road trip with a climate map in your hands. A map key uses colors to show regions with similar weather over many years. In the Great Lakes area and much of the Northeast, a humid continental region has cold winters and warm summers. Farther south, across much of the Southeast, a humid subtropical region has hot, muggy summers and usually mild winters. Both regions get rain during the year.

2. Travel west across the central United States. The western Great Plains, just east of the Rocky Mountains, are often semiarid: they get less rain than the eastern Plains. In the Rockies, mountain climate changes with elevation, and higher slopes are colder and often snowier than nearby lowlands. In the Southwest, southern Arizona and southeastern California include desert areas where rainfall is scarce and summers are very hot.

3. Along the Pacific Northwest coast, a marine west coast region has cool summers and mild, rainy winters. Farther south, coastal southern California has a Mediterranean climate, with dry summers and mild, wetter winters. Interior Alaska has a subarctic climate with long, cold winters and short summers. Hawaii's lowlands are tropical and stay warm all year, though some parts of the islands receive much more rain than others.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A map shows one route through the Great Lakes area and another through the Southeast. How would their summers and winters differ?

2. On a map, the western Great Plains lie just east of the Rockies. How do the climate clues for these two places differ?

3. Follow the Pacific coast south from the Northwest to southern California. How do summers change between these two coastal regions?

4. A map places interior Alaska far north of Hawaii. How would you describe winter temperatures in each place?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence guide for shading a blank U.S. climate map. In each of your first three sentences, locate a different region from the passage and describe one climate characteristic; in your fourth sentence, compare two of those regions.

ANSWER KEY

Climate Mapmaker

GRADE 5 · 5.G.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the location of four climate regions, then circle one climate clue for each region and number each matching pair 1 to 4. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A map shows one route through the Great Lakes area and another through the Southeast. How would their summers and winters differ?	**The Great Lakes area has warm summers and cold winters. Much of the Southeast has hot, muggy summers and usually mild winters.**
2	On a map, the western Great Plains lie just east of the Rockies. How do the climate clues for these two places differ?	**The western Great Plains are semiarid and get less rain than the eastern Plains. Higher Rocky Mountain slopes are colder and often snowier than nearby lowlands.**
3	Follow the Pacific coast south from the Northwest to southern California. How do summers change between these two coastal regions?	**The Pacific Northwest coast has cool summers. Coastal southern California has dry summers.**
4	A map places interior Alaska far north of Hawaii. How would you describe winter temperatures in each place?	**Interior Alaska has long, cold winters. Hawaii's lowlands stay warm all year.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Shade the western Great Plains just east of the Rockies for semiarid conditions. Shade much of the Southeast for a humid subtropical climate with hot, muggy summers. Shade Hawaii's lowlands for a tropical climate that stays warm all year. The Southeast is humid, but the western Great Plains are semiarid.

Accept accurate comparisons based on the passage, even if students use different words for a climate characteristic. In the map guide, check that all three regions have locations and climate clues and that the final sentence compares two of them.