Map the Routes

Land and water shaped travel across the Western Hemisphere.

6.C.2.1 "Identify and describe on a physical map the major landforms and bodies of water important to the development of each region of the Western Hemisphere."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each named landform or body of water in the passage. Number the paragraphs from north to south to track where the features belong.

Routes Across the Americas

1. North of Mexico, the Rocky Mountains rise along western North America. Their high peaks made east-west travel difficult, so routes often followed passes between mountains. Farther east, the Great Lakes lie along the United States-Canada border. Ships used these connected freshwater lakes to move goods between growing towns. In the middle of the United States, the Mississippi River flows south into the Gulf of Mexico. Riverboats carried farm products toward Gulf ports. On a physical map, the mountains, lakes, and river trace different paths across the same region.

2. Between northern North America and South America, Central America forms a narrow land bridge. The Pacific Ocean borders its western coast, while the Caribbean Sea lies along its eastern coast. Ports on both coasts helped people exchange goods by sea. The Caribbean islands lie mainly north and east of Central America, within and beside the Caribbean Sea. Deep water separates many islands, so boats became important for travel between them. The narrow land bridge also offered overland routes between nearby coasts, though mountains and forests could make travel slow.

3. In South America, the Andes Mountains run along the western edge of the continent. Steep slopes shaped where people built roads and farms, while mountain passes offered routes across the range. Far to the east, the Amazon River crosses the northern part of the continent and reaches the Atlantic Ocean. Boats on the river connected communities across a vast area of forest. The Atlantic Ocean borders South America's eastern coast, where ports linked inland goods to overseas markets. The positions of these features help explain why travel differed from place to place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where would you label the Rocky Mountains on a physical map of North America? How did they affect travel?

2. Trace the Mississippi River on a physical map using words: Where is it, and which way does it flow? Why was it useful?

3. Which side of Central America would you label the Caribbean Sea? How did nearby water affect travel among the Caribbean islands?

4. Where would you label the Andes Mountains on a physical map of South America? How did they shape routes across the region?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In the box, draw your own simple physical map showing North America, Central America, and South America, with a north arrow. Label the Great Lakes, Pacific Ocean, and Amazon River in their correct positions, then write two sentences explaining how two of these features affected travel or trade.

ANSWER KEY

Map the Routes

GRADE 6 · 6.C.2.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each named landform or body of water in the passage. Number the paragraphs from north to south to track where the features belong. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where would you label the Rocky Mountains on a physical map of North America? How did they affect travel?	**Label them in western North America. Their high peaks made east-west travel difficult, so travelers used mountain passes.**
2	Trace the Mississippi River on a physical map using words: Where is it, and which way does it flow? Why was it useful?	**It runs through the middle of the United States and flows south to the Gulf of Mexico. Riverboats carried farm products toward Gulf ports.**
3	Which side of Central America would you label the Caribbean Sea? How did nearby water affect travel among the Caribbean islands?	**Label the Caribbean Sea east of Central America. Because water separates many islands, people traveled between them by boat.**
4	Where would you label the Andes Mountains on a physical map of South America? How did they shape routes across the region?	**Label them along South America's western edge. Their steep slopes made travel difficult, and passes offered routes across the mountains.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The sketch places North America above Central America, South America below it, the Great Lakes near the United States-Canada border, the Pacific Ocean west of Central America, and the Amazon River across northern South America flowing east. Ships on the Great Lakes moved goods between towns. Boats on the Amazon River connected communities across the forest.

Accept rough land outlines if the north arrow, relative positions, and three feature labels are accurate. The two written sentences should connect two different labeled features to travel or trade as described in the passage.