

Find the Features

Use location clues to identify major United States physical features.

SS.5.G.1.3 "Identify major United States physical features on a map of North America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline these seven feature names: Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, Great Plains, Mississippi River, Great Lakes, Atlantic Ocean, and Gulf of Mexico. For each underlined name, circle the words in its sentence that tell where it is on a map.

Land and Water Clues

- ① North America includes the United States, Canada, and Mexico. On a map, physical features help you find places by their shapes and positions. The Rocky Mountains form a high chain in the western United States. The Appalachian Mountains are an older chain in the eastern United States. Mountain ranges often appear as long bands rather than single dots.
- ② East of the Rocky Mountains, the Great Plains spread across the central United States. This broad region is mostly flat or gently rolling. The Mississippi River runs south through the central part of the country and empties into the Gulf of Mexico. Farther north, the Great Lakes sit along much of the United States-Canada border. They are a group of large freshwater lakes.
- ③ Along the eastern coast, the Atlantic Ocean lies beyond the land. The Gulf of Mexico is south of the United States and east of Mexico. These water bodies, along with rivers and lakes, can guide map readers. Use nearby countries, coasts, and cardinal directions to tell one physical feature from another. A map label becomes clearer when you connect it to its position.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

Which mountain range would you locate in the western United States?

2

Which physical feature spreads across the central United States east of the Rocky Mountains?

3

Which river runs south through the central United States and empties into the Gulf of Mexico?

4

Which body of water is south of the United States and east of Mexico?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use the readable North America physical map provided by your teacher. Choose four different United States physical features from the passage. Actually point to each feature and place a numbered removable label on it, or mark a map copy. Then use matching numbers to record each feature and a brief location clue in the table. Record the map title on your map copy or separate paper.

PHYSICAL FEATURE	PLACEMENT CLUE FOR THE MAP

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline these seven feature names: Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, Great Plains, Mississippi River, Great Lakes, Atlantic Ocean, and Gulf of Mexico. For each underlined name, circle the words in its sentence that tell where it is on a map. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which mountain range would you locate in the western United States?	Rocky Mountains.
2	Which physical feature spreads across the central United States east of the Rocky Mountains?	Great Plains.
3	Which river runs south through the central United States and empties into the Gulf of Mexico?	Mississippi River.
4	Which body of water is south of the United States and east of Mexico?	Gulf of Mexico.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

PHYSICAL FEATURE	PLACEMENT CLUE FOR THE MAP
Appalachian Mountains	eastern United States
Great Lakes	along the United States-Canada border in the north
Atlantic Ocean	beyond the eastern coast
Rocky Mountains	western United States, west of the Great Plains

Accept any four different features named in the passage if each placement clue is accurate. Clues may use cardinal directions, nearby landforms, coasts, countries, or borders. Provide a readable North America physical map showing all listed features, plus a markable copy or removable labels. Check the learner's actual four mapped locations before accepting the preparation table. A range is a band, a river a course and a region an area; accept appropriate placement rather than requiring a single exact point. The table model supplies clues, not proof of completed map use.