

Island Map Clues

Use oceans, nearby places, and direction words to locate U.S. territories.

SS.7.G.1.2 "Locate on a world map the territories and protectorates of the United States of America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every name of a U.S. territory, then write C beside Caribbean locations and P beside Pacific locations to prepare for map labeling.

Finding U.S. Territories

- ① When you locate U.S. territories on a world map, begin by separating the Caribbean from the Pacific Ocean. Puerto Rico lies in the Caribbean Sea, east of the Dominican Republic. The U.S. Virgin Islands are also in the Caribbean, east of Puerto Rico. These two places are populated U.S. territories. On a small-scale world map, they may appear close together, but labels and map keys help you identify each one accurately. Check the island names rather than guessing from their size.
- ② Three populated U.S. territories lie in the Pacific. Guam is in the western Pacific Ocean, east of the Philippines. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is north of Guam. American Samoa is in the South Pacific, south of the Equator and northeast of New Zealand. A world map may place these islands far apart from the continental United States. Use the Equator, oceans, and nearby countries to confirm where each territory belongs before placing labels.
- ③ Some world maps also label small, mostly uninhabited U.S. island territories, including Wake Island and Midway Atoll in the Pacific. Their tiny size can make them difficult to see. The United States has no current formal protectorates. Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands are independent countries that have Compacts of Free Association with the United States. Do not label those three countries as U.S. territories or protectorates on your map today.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every name of a U.S. territory, then write C beside Caribbean locations and P beside Pacific locations to prepare for map labeling. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two populated U.S. territories would you look for in the Caribbean?	Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
2	After you find Guam on a world map, in which direction should you look for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands?	North of Guam.
3	Give two location clues that help you find American Samoa on a world map.	It is in the South Pacific, south of the Equator, and northeast of New Zealand. Any two clues are acceptable.
4	How should you label Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands on a map that shows U.S. territories?	Label them as independent countries with Compacts of Free Association, not as U.S. territories or protectorates.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

TERRITORY	REGION OR OCEAN	MAP PLACEMENT CLUE
Puerto Rico	Caribbean Sea	east of the Dominican Republic
U.S. Virgin Islands	Caribbean Sea	east of Puerto Rico
Guam	western Pacific Ocean	east of the Philippines
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	western Pacific Ocean	north of Guam
American Samoa	South Pacific	south of the Equator and northeast of New Zealand

Accept accurate equivalent location language, such as "Caribbean" for "Caribbean Sea." The five populated territories are Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. Provide a usable current world map with visible labels or suitable insets for all five named territories and removable markers or a map copy. Require actual locations matching the five guide rows; inspect each placement and map source record. Use the supplied map to check ocean, Equator and nearby-place clues. Do not accept a future map-use plan as the completed task.