

Mountain Range Clues

Use direction words to locate two major U.S. mountain ranges.

SS3G1.b "Locate major mountain ranges of the United States of America: Appalachian, Rocky."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each mountain range name. Circle the direction word or phrase that tells where each range is in the United States. Teacher: supply a readable U.S. physical map with both ranges and a relief key.

Finding Mountain Ranges

- ① The United States has many mountain ranges. This passage focuses on two major ranges, the Appalachian Mountains and the Rocky Mountains. A mountain range is a long chain of mountains. To locate a range, look for direction words and nearby places. These clues help you tell whether a range is in the eastern, central, or western part of the country.
- ② The Appalachian Mountains lie in the eastern United States. They stretch from northeastern states southward toward Alabama. These older mountains are closer to the Atlantic Ocean than the Rocky Mountains are. If you travel west from the Atlantic coast across many eastern states, you can reach the Appalachians. Their hills and forests cross several state borders.
- ③ The Rocky Mountains are in the western United States. They run from northern states southward into New Mexico. The Rockies stand much farther west than the Appalachians. A traveler going west across the country would reach the Appalachians first and the Rockies later. Knowing east and west helps you place both ranges in the correct part of the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which mountain range is in the eastern United States?

2 Which mountain range is in the western United States?

3 A traveler starts at the Atlantic coast and travels west. Which range would the traveler reach first?

4 Where are the Rocky Mountains compared with the Appalachian Mountains?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Use the map key to locate the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains on the supplied physical map. Trace both ranges with your finger for your teacher. Then write two clues without using range names: one sentence for the eastern range and one for the western range.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each mountain range name. Circle the direction word or phrase that tells where each range is in the United States. Teacher: supply a readable U.S. physical map with both ranges and a relief key. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which mountain range is in the eastern United States?	The Appalachian Mountains.
2	Which mountain range is in the western United States?	The Rocky Mountains.
3	A traveler starts at the Atlantic coast and travels west. Which range would the traveler reach first?	The Appalachian Mountains.
4	Where are the Rocky Mountains compared with the Appalachian Mountains?	The Rocky Mountains are much farther west than the Appalachian Mountains.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One range lies in the eastern United States, closer to the Atlantic Ocean. The other range is farther west, so a traveler crossing the country reaches it later.

Accept equivalent clues that correctly place one range in the eastern United States and the other farther west. Students must not use the mountain range names in their two clues. Observe both ranges on the actual map: Appalachians in the east toward Alabama; Rockies farther west toward New Mexico. Record accuracy and help separately from the written clues.