

# Landform Location Lab

Use location clues to build an accurate physical-feature map.

**5.6.D** "create a map of important physical features such as the Appalachian Mountains, Great Lakes, Mississippi River, Great Plains, and Rocky Mountains."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle each physical feature named in the passage. Underline the words that tell where each feature belongs on a map.

### Mapping Major Features

- ① A physical-feature map helps a reader see where landforms and water bodies are located. Start with an outline of the contiguous United States. Add a title and a compass rose so directions are clear. Use careful labels placed near each feature. A map does not need every detail. It needs accurate locations that help a reader compare places.
- ② The Appalachian Mountains form a long chain in the eastern United States. The Rocky Mountains rise in the western United States. Between these mountain regions, the Great Plains spread across the central part of the country. On a map, these broad regions should not be drawn as narrow lines. Their labels should show they cover large areas.
- ③ Near the northern border, the Great Lakes are a group of large freshwater lakes. The Mississippi River begins in Minnesota and flows generally south to the Gulf of Mexico. It passes through the central United States. When placing labels, check relationships: the Great Lakes are north of much of the river, and the river is east of the Great Plains on maps.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which mountain range should you label in the eastern United States?

2 What physical feature should be shown as a broad central region between the two mountain regions?

3 Where should you place the Great Lakes on a map of the United States?

4 Show the Mississippi River's route by explaining where it begins and the direction it flows.

## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Draw a simple map of the contiguous United States in the box. Add a title, a compass rose, and accurate labels for the Appalachian Mountains, Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, Great Lakes, and Mississippi River. Draw the Mississippi River as a line flowing south.

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Circle each physical feature named in the passage. Underline the words that tell where each feature belongs 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 should you label in the eastern United States?                               | <b>Appalachian Mountains.</b>                                                  |
| 2 | What physical feature should be shown as a broad central region between the two mountain regions? | <b>The Great Plains.</b>                                                       |
| 3 | Where should you place the Great Lakes on a map of the United States?                             | <b>Near the northern border of the United States.</b>                          |
| 4 | Show the Mississippi River's route by explaining where it begins and the direction it flows.      | <b>It begins in Minnesota and flows generally south to the Gulf of Mexico.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

A sketch titled "Major Physical Features of the United States" has a compass rose. It places the Rocky Mountains in the west, the Appalachian Mountains in the east, the Great Plains in the central area, the Great Lakes near the northern border, and a Mississippi River line from Minnesota south toward the Gulf of Mexico.

Accept maps with the five required features in accurate relative locations, even if the outline or shapes are simple. The Great Plains should be between the Rocky and Appalachian Mountains, and the Mississippi River should be east of the Great Plains and flow generally south.