

North America Clues

Read geographic clues and connect land and water to early U.S. history.

USI.1 "The student will apply history and social science skills to understand the geography of North America by locating North America in relation to the other continents and the oceans..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each named land region, circle each named body of water, and write a 1 beside every sentence that tells how geography affected people.

Land, Water, and Location

- ① North America lies north of South America. The Atlantic Ocean is east of North America, the Pacific Ocean is west, and the Arctic Ocean is north. Europe is across the Atlantic Ocean, while Asia is across the Pacific Ocean. The Gulf of Mexico is south of the United States. These water boundaries helped shape travel, trade, and settlement.
- ② Several land regions affected the early United States. The Coastal Plain, beside the Atlantic Ocean, offered ports for ships. The Appalachian Mountains stood west of the coast and made travel inland harder. Farther west, the broad Great Plains supported farming and bison herds. The Rocky Mountains formed a high, rugged barrier. Rivers, especially the Mississippi River, carried people and goods through the interior.
- ③ The United States has 50 states. Forty-eight contiguous states stretch across the middle of North America. Alaska is separated from them and lies northwest of Canada. Hawaii is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. California is on the west coast, Florida reaches into the southeast, Maine is in the northeast, and Texas is south-central. Knowing these locations helps people describe places clearly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Where are the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean in relation to North America?

2 How did the Appalachian Mountains affect early travel?

3 How did the Mississippi River help people in the interior?

4 Which state lies northwest of Canada, and which state is in the Pacific Ocean?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three accurate location clues for three different U.S. states. In each sentence, name the state and describe its location using a direction plus a nearby ocean, region, or state.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each named land region, circle each named body of water, and write a 1 beside every sentence that tells how geography affected people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where are the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean in relation to North America?	The Atlantic Ocean is east of North America, and the Pacific Ocean is west of North America.
2	How did the Appalachian Mountains affect early travel?	They made travel inland harder.
3	How did the Mississippi River help people in the interior?	It carried people and goods through the interior.
4	Which state lies northwest of Canada, and which state is in the Pacific Ocean?	Alaska lies northwest of Canada, and Hawaii is in the Pacific Ocean.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Washington is in the northwest United States beside the Pacific Ocean. Colorado is in the western United States in the Rocky Mountains. Georgia is in the southeast United States, north of Florida.

Accept any three accurate state-location clues that include a direction and a correct nearby geographic feature or state. Directions may be stated with words such as north, southern, west, or northeast.