

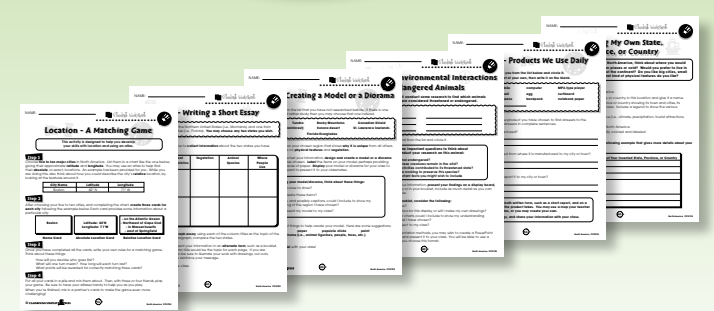
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North America - Location

1. Using a straight line, match the word on the left to its definition on the right. You may use an atlas or a dictionary to help.

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1 hemisphere | Lines we have drawn on a map to find the location of a place north or south of the equator. | A |
| 2 latitude | A word that is used to describe the usual temperature, the rain or snowfall, and the winds found in a certain place. | B |
| 3 longitude | One of the two shapes made by cutting a sphere in half. | C |
| 4 climate | Lines we have drawn on a map to find the location of a place east or west of the prime meridian. | D |
| 5 equator | An imaginary line running around the middle of the Earth in an east-west direction. It is half way between the North and South poles. | E |

2. On the map, show the equator as a red line. Color the lines of latitude yellow, and the lines of longitude green.



North America - Location

When we talk about a place's **location**, we can describe it in two different ways. A place's **absolute location** tells exactly where it is. When we describe a place's **relative location**, we describe the things around it and the things that connect it to other places.



We can easily describe the absolute location of a city like San Francisco. We do this by using **latitude** and **longitude**. San Francisco has an exact location of 37° N latitude and 122° W longitude. This makes it very easy to find on a map. However, while this works well for cities, it does not work as well for a continent like North America. Because North America is so large, it is easier to describe its location by looking at features and places around it.

North America's relative location is in the Western **Hemisphere**, north of the Equator. North America is east of Europe, west of Asia, and north of South America. Several oceans surround North America. To the north lies the Arctic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. These oceans provide **links** between North America and the other continents.

What is North America's relative location?

STOP

North America's location gives it many different **climates**. In its most northerly point, in the Canadian territory of Nunavut, the temperatures rarely go above 32° F (0° C). In its most southerly point, in the country of Panama, the climate is that of a tropical rainforest! And in between these two extremes, a wide variety of different climates can be found.



North America - Location

1. Circle **T** if the statement is true or **F** if it is false.
- T = True
F = False
- T F a) North America is in the eastern hemisphere.
 - T F b) A place's location can be described by its absolute location only.
 - T F c) Latitude and longitude help us to find relative location.
 - T F d) The oceans around North America help create links to other parts of the Earth.
 - T F e) Because it is so large, it is best to describe North America's relative location when trying to figure out where it is.
 - T F f) Because it is so large, North America has many different climates.
 - T F g) The southern part of North America is very cold.
 - T F h) We can find a tropical rainforest in Panama.

2. Fill in each blank with a word from the list.

location	climate	absolute	latitude	Equator
longitude	relative	hemisphere	two	continent

When we describe a place's _____ we can describe it in _____ different ways. A place's _____ location describes where it is by using the things around it. When we describe a place's _____ location, we use _____ and _____ to describe where it can be found. It is easier to use relative location when describing where we can find a _____ because it is so large. North America is found in the Western _____. It is north of the _____. The _____ of North America is very cold in the north, more moderate in the middle, and very hot in the south.



North America - Location

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

- Why is it easier to give a city's absolute location than a continent's absolute location?

- Which major bodies of water surround North America?

Research & Application

5. Many atlases list the exact locations of the world's major cities using latitude and longitude. Using an atlas, find the exact location of the following North American cities. Also list the country in which we find each city. Use a chart like this to help you organize the information you find.

City Name	Exact Location	Country
New York City	40° N 75° W	U.S.A.

Here are the cities to find:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| a) Los Angeles | b) Toronto | c) Mexico City | d) Panama City |
| e) Managua | e) Port-au-Prince | f) Nassau | g) Kingston |
| h) Houston | i) Calgary | | |

6. Using your map of North America, list these countries from **most northerly** to **most southerly**.

Panama	United States of America	Costa Rica	Canada
Mexico	Nicaragua	Belize	El Salvador

7. Think about the location of your school. What is its number, its street, its city, and its state? What things do you find around it? Describe your school in two ways. Give its **exact location**. Give its **relative location**. How are these two descriptions the same? How are they different? Share your descriptions with a friend.



Crossword Puzzle!

Word List

tundra
population
characteristics
hemisphere
continent
relative
coasts
rivers
route
products
absolute
equator
Atlantic
western
climate

Across

- North America is the third largest _____ in the world.
- A region in the most northerly parts of Alaska and Canada.
- A path taken from one place to another.
- A place can be described by physical and human _____.
- _____ location describes exactly where a place is.
- many people live along the _____ because they need water for transportation.

Down

- North America is best described by its _____ location.
- North America is north of this imaginary line.
- North America is found in the _____ hemisphere.
- One of the shapes made by cutting a sphere in half.
- Things people use at home, work and school.
- The _____ in North America is growing.
- The Mississippi is one of North America's great _____.
- The temperature, rain and/or snowfall found in a place.
- The _____ Ocean lies to the east of North America.



Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| hemisphere | country | products | continent |
| location | coast | language | highway |
| population | latitude | rainforest | region |
| communication | Equator | absolute | vegetation |
| feature | environment | longitude | relative |
| tundra | river | climate | characteristic |
| link | movement | interaction | |

c	o	m	m	u	n	i	c	a	t	i	o	n	e	w	t	c	h	
m	o	r	a	i	n	f	o	r	e	s	t	e	g	e	g	h	t	
l	a	l	e	n	i	i	r	e	d	d	o	a	n					
b	a	o	s	e	l	o	n	g	t	r	u	d	e	o	s	r	e	
a	n	p	d	t	o	u	l	b	o	m	e	r	c	y	s	a	n	
n	g	i	u	m	s	i	r	t	e	o	o	y	n	m	a	c	i	
o	u	l	m	l	a	y	l	o	h	c	n	a	l	e	m	t	t	
i	a	o	c	e	v	i	t	a	l	e	r	h	h	a	t	e	n	
g	g	p	o	p	u	l	a	i	o	n	l	a	e	n	r	o		
e	e	e	u	x	u	o	v	n	e	f	g	a	e	e	e	i	c	
r	a	f	n	m	i	c	h	a	q	f	t	t	e	h	m	s	u	
e	b	s	t	m	g	a	f	r	u	s	t	i	e	e	e	t	r	
n	s	p	r	i	p	t	g	d	a	i	n	t	a	m	v	i	c	
v	o	e	y	n	u	l	o	n	g	u	h	i	o	c	s			
i	l	l	a	s	s	o	l	u	o	w	n	d	e	s	m	u	d	
r	u	l	a	b	b	n	r	t	r	i	v	e	r	p	o	u	e	
o	t	b	w	r	e	d	n	p	u	h	e	i	c	h	n	t	e	
n	e	o	w	y	a	w	h	g	i	h	d	v	n	e	r	h	r	
m	b	u	l	v	e	g	e	t	a	t	i	o	n	r	a	p	u	
e	r	n	k	t	e	c	l	i	m	a	t	e	l	e	s	o	t	
n	a	n	r	l	p	r	o	d	u	c	t	s	t	u	v	t	a	
t	i	u	n	n	c	a	s	p	r	d	l	r	a	g	e	e		
l	h	n	e	a	r	i	n	t	e	r	a	c	t	i	o	n	f	



Comprehension Quiz

Part A

Circle **T** if the statement is true or **F** if it is false.

T = True
F = False

- North America is in the eastern hemisphere.
- Lines of latitude are used to find the location of a place north or south of the Equator.
- The plants that grow in a place are called vegetation.
- The Great Plains is a cold and mountainous region.
- The Equator is an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.
- A rainforest has a dry, dusty climate.
- Latitude and longitude are used to find a place's absolute location.
- Oceans provide links between the continents.

Part B

Label the map by doing the following:

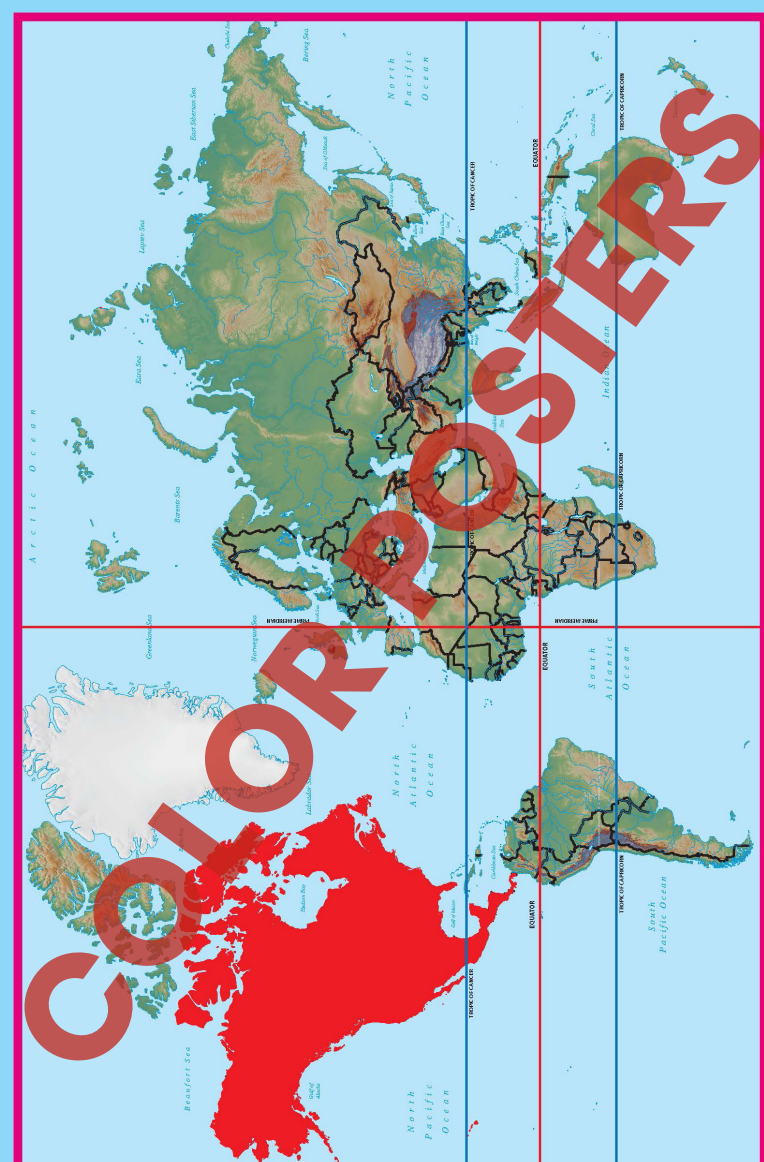
- Show the following features on the map by writing the letter on the map in the correct location.

- North America
- Atlantic Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Arctic Ocean
- South America



SUBTOTAL: /14

North America World Location Map





North America - Location

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

3. Why is it easier to give a city's absolute location than a continent's absolute location?

4. Which major bodies of water surround North America?

Research & Application

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- i) Calgary

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Describe your school in two ways. Give its **exact location**. Give its **relative location**. How are these two descriptions the same? How are they different? Share your descriptions with a friend.

3.
Answers will vary
(i.e. It is smaller than a continent...)

4.
Arctic Ocean,
Atlantic Ocean,
Pacific Ocean

5.
(Answers do not include minutes)
a) 34°N 118°W
b) 43°N 70°W
c) 19°N 99°W
d) 8°N 79°W
e) 12°N 86°W
f) 18°N 72°W
g) 25°N 77°W
h) 18°N 76°W
i) 29°N 95°W

6.
Canada; United States; Mexico; Cuba; Belize; El Salvador; Nicaragua; Costa Rica; Panama

7.
Answers will vary

Across:
7. continent
8. tundra
9. route
11. characteristics
13. absolute
14. coasts

Down:
1. relative
2. equator
3. western
4. hemisphere
5. products
6. population
10. rivers
11. climate
12. Atlantic



EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY