

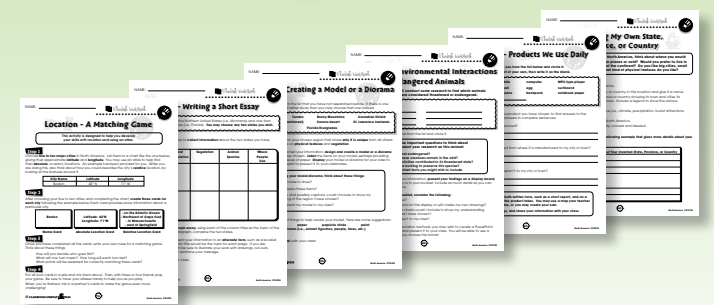
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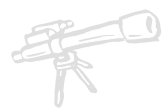
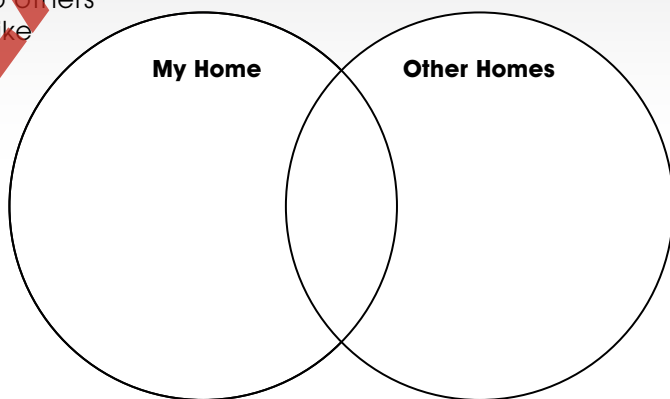
North America - Regions

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 region | A A period of little or no rain. Many crops may die, and people and animals suffer greatly. |
| 2 feature | B Something unique about a person, place, or thing. |
| 3 vegetation | C The words people use to communicate with one another, in both speech and writing. |
| 4 language | D An area of land with its own unique characteristics. |
| 5 drought | E The plants that grow in a particular place. |
| 6 physical characteristics | F The features of a place that help us recognize and describe it. They may include mountains, valleys, plains, forests, deserts, or bodies of water. |

2. Think about your home. What makes it unique? How is it different from the homes of your relatives or friends? How are they the same? Compare your home to others using a Venn diagram like the one here.

Share the unique features with your class.



North America - Regions

When we describe a **region**, an area on the face of the Earth, we tell about those **features** that make it **unique**. One way that we can describe a region is through its **physical characteristics**, such as mountain ranges or **vegetation**. Another way to describe a region is by **language**, or by looking at where, how, and why people live in a certain area. A region can be either small or large, and can be studied over time to see how it changes. North America has a wide variety of regions.



In the most northerly areas of Canada and Alaska, we find a region known as the **tundra**. The tundra is a cold, bare area, where trees cannot grow. In this **barren** region, only certain small plants can survive. Very few people live in this region when compared to those to the south, and yet the **Inuit** people have survived in this area for centuries.

Another region in North America is The Great Plains, a large area made up of smaller regions, such as The Corn Belt. It can be described as a large, relatively flat region covered by **grasslands**, or **prairies**. This region stretches from southwestern Canada through the central United States, and contains such cities as Kansas City and Des Moines. It is an ideal place for growing a variety of crops, such as wheat, corn, and other grains. However, when there is **drought**, the area can become dry and dusty, as it did in the early twentieth century, when it was known as "The Dust Bowl".

What characteristics make the tundra a unique region?



The Yucatan **Peninsula** in southeastern Mexico is a region where tourists flock for the humid temperatures and the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea. The region is also the site of the ruins of the ancient Mayan civilization. In the region's tropical forests, tall stone pyramids and other structures rise in silence at the ancient city of Chichen Itza.



North America - Regions

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

change language region
physical characteristics rainforest tundra

A _____ is an area on the face of the Earth described by the features that make it unique. One way to describe a region is by its _____ such as mountains or vegetation. Another way to describe a region is to look at where people live, and the _____ that they speak. A region can be either small or large, and can _____ over time. One region in North America, where trees cannot grow is called the _____. In Mexico, there is a region of humid _____ where we can find an ancient civilization.

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

T = True
F = False

- T F a) The Great Plains is a large and flat area that is good for growing corn, wheat, and other grains.
- T F b) Many trees grow in the tundra.
- T F c) No one lives in the tundra region.
- T F d) The ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza was built on the Great Plains.
- T F e) The words grassland and prairies are other words used to describe the Great Plains.
- T F f) One way to describe a region is to look at the language spoken there.
- T F g) Vegetation means the animals that live in a place.
- T F h) People go to the Yucatan Peninsula for the warm water and humid temperatures.
- T F i) "The Dust Bowl" described a wet and damp time on the Great Plains.



North America - Regions

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

- 3. How do we describe a region? What features do we use?

- 4. What features make the Great Plains unique?

Research and Extensions

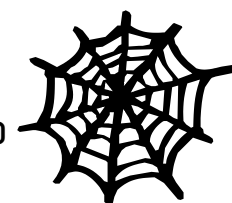
5. Choose a region in North America from the list below.

Great Plains	the tundra	Rocky Mountains
Yucatan Peninsula (rainforest)	Sonoran desert	Canadian Shield
St. Lawrence lowlands	the Florida Everglades	

Using the web organizer on the next page, collect facts about the region that you have chosen. You may add any extra areas of interest that you wish.

Collect information on the following topics:

- Physical characteristics
- Vegetation
- Human activities (i.e., cities, population, attractions, etc.)
- Languages spoken



6. Using the information you have collected from activity 5 above, create a travel brochure for your chosen region. You might want to organize your brochure using the titles you used on the web. Include drawings and facts on each page or in each section of your brochure. Share your finished work with your class.



Crossword Puzzle!

Word List

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

Across

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

Down

1. North America is best described by its _____ location.
2. North America is north of this imaginary line.
3. North America is found in the _____ hemisphere.
4. One of the shapes made by cutting a sphere in half.
5. Things people use at home, work and school.
6. The _____ in North America is growing.
10. The Mississippi is one of North America's great _____.
11. The temperature, rain and/or snowfall found in a place.
12. 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	
r	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	d	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	t	g	n	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 30

Circle **T** if the statement is true or **F** if it is false. T = True
F = False 8

- T F a) North America is in the eastern hemisphere.
- T F b) Lines of latitude are used to find the location of a place north or south of the Equator.
- T F c) The plants that grow in a place are called vegetation.
- T F d) The Great Plains is a cold and mountainous region.
- T F e) The Equator is an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.
- T F f) A rainforest has a dry, dusty climate.
- T F g) Latitude and longitude are used to find a place's absolute location.
- T F h) Oceans provide links between the continents.

Part B 6

Label the map by doing the following:

1. Show the following features on the map by writing the letter on the map in the correct location.
 - a) North America
 - b) Atlantic Ocean
 - c) Pacific Ocean
 - d) Arctic Ocean
 - e) South America
2. Color the Equator red.

SUBTOTAL: /14

North America Transportation Map

Road Ways

- Primary Roads
- Highways

NAME: _____

After You Read 



North America - Regions

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|
| change | language | region |
| physical characteristics | rainforest | tundra |

A _____ ^a is an area on the face of the Earth described by the features that make it unique. One way to describe a region is by its _____ ^b such as mountains or vegetation. Another way to describe a region is to look at where people live, and the _____ ^c that they speak. A region can be either small or large, and can _____ ^d over time. One region in North America, where trees cannot grow is called the _____ ^e. In Mexico, there is a region of humid _____ ^f where we can find an ancient civilization.

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

T = True
F = False

- T** **F** a) The Great Plains is a large and flat area that is good for growing corn, wheat, and other grains.
- T** **F** b) Many trees grow in the tundra.
- T** **F** c) No one lives in the tundra region.
- T** **F** d) The ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza was built on the Great Plains.
- T** **F** e) The words grassland and prairies are other words used to describe the Great Plains.
- T** **F** f) One way to describe a region is to look at the language spoken there.
- T** **F** g) Vegetation means the animals that live in a place.
- T** **F** h) People go to the Yucatan Peninsula for the warm water and humid temperatures.
- T** **F** i) "The Dust Bowl" described a wet and damp time on the Great Plains.

1.

- a) region
- b) physical characteristics
- c) language
- d) change
- e) tundra
- f) rainforest

3.

Possible answers:
Features, physical characteristics, vegetation, language

4.

Possible answers:
large region, Corn Belt, Canada to central U.S.A., crops (corn, wheat, other grains), Dust Bowl

5.

Answers will vary

6.

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

2.

- a) **T**
- b) **F**
- c) **F**
- d) **F**
- e) **T**
- f) **T**
- g) **F**
- h) **T**
- i) **F**

9

10

12