



Year 6 Geography Knowledge Organiser: What can we discover about North America and its many regions?



Subject Specific Skills

- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on North America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.
- Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).
- Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

Prior Learning

- Children will have used maps, atlases and globes to locate different places in the world.
- Children should be able to describe some of the key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Key Vocabulary:

Alpine	Plans relating to the high mountains
Coniferous	Tress which do not lose their leaves
Countries	A nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory. There are 23 countries in North America
Deciduous	Trees which lose their leaves annually
Everglades	Tropical wetlands in Southern Florida, USA.
Great plains	Flat grasslands through central USA between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River
Inuit	A member of an Indigenous people living in northern Canada and parts of Greenland and Alaska.
Rainforest	A dense forest with a high amount of rainfall, characterized by a thick canopy of tall trees. Much of Central America is covered in rainforest.
Totem pole	a monumental carving on trees by Indigenous peoples, often representing ancestry, histories, people or events.
Panama canal	Man-made waterway to allow ships a dense forest with a high amount of rainfall, characterized by a thick canopy of tall trees.
Tundra	a treeless biome found in the Arctic, Antarctic, and at high mountain elevations.

Physical Features

The Arctic Circle	One of the two polar circles on Earth. This one is in the north and consists of the Arctic Ocean and extends to Canada, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the U.S.A. (Alaska), Denmark, Iceland and Russia. Conditions are freezing cold creating large sheets of ice.
The Grand Canyon	An enormous carved canyon in the ground formed by the Colorado River, which began 5-6 million years ago. It runs 1800m deep and 18 miles wide and is in Arizona in western U.S.A.
The Rocky Mountains	'The Rockies' are a major mountain range, spanning 3000km, in the west running through Canada and the United States. The range offers dramatic wilderness, diverse wildlife/alpine lakes

Human Features

Economy and Infrastructure	The economy (money usage) is diverse and includes major industries like agriculture, forestry, and mining. Important infrastructure includes the Panama Canal, a human-made waterway.
Population	The continent's population is unevenly distributed. In major cities there are large populations, whereas in more rural areas, there are smaller populations.
Languages	English is the main language spoken in the United States and most of Canada, while French is spoken in parts of Eastern Canada. Spanish is the main language in Mexico and Central America and spoken across the United states.
Demographics and Culture	North America has a multicultural population because of centuries of immigration from the other continents (European, Asia, Africa and South America). The diversity is reflected in smaller neighbourhoods found in many cities.

