



Year 4/5 Geography Knowledge Organiser: North America



Subject Specific Skills

- use maps to locate the world's countries, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities;
- use key vocabulary to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in this strand: atlas, index, coordinates, continent, country, North America, South America, border, key.
- use key vocabulary to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in this strand: Arctic Circle, physical features, climate, human geography, natural resources.
- use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present human features using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

Prior Learning

- 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.
- explore similarities and differences, comparing the human geography of a region of the UK and a region of South America.
- use key vocabulary to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in this strand: e.g. the Amazon rainforest.
- describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes; human geography.
- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied;
- use symbols and keys

THE CONTINENT OF NORTH AMERICA

- North America is the third largest continent in the world.
- North America consists of many countries, for example, Canada, USA, Mexico, Guatemala, Barbados, Cuba and many more.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGIONS

- Mountainous West
- Great Plain
- Canadian Shield
- Eastern Region
- Caribbean

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Mining



CLIMATE

Caribbean



- wet and dry season
- hot all year round

Mountainous West



- Depends on where you are
- Desert lands - hot
- Mountains - cooler
- rainfall and snow



Key Vocabulary

Canadian Shield – A large area of Canada which is a vast mass of igneous rock and lakes.

Caribbean – A region of the Americas that consists of the Caribbean Sea, its islands and the surrounding coasts.

Climate – The usual or average weather conditions over a long period of time.

Continent – A large landmass made up of many countries.

Country – An area that is controlled by its own government.

Eastern Region – An area of the Americas which is in the east and consists of many wetlands.

Flora / fauna – Plant and animal life.

Mountainous West – An area of the Americas which is in the west and contains many mountains.

Great Plain – A large expanse of flat land in North America which has fertile soil and grasslands.

Weather – The specific atmospheric conditions on a given day including temperature and rainfall.

MAJOR CITIES IN NORTH AMERICA



Mexico City, Mexico



New York, USA



Toronto, Canada



Havana, Cuba



Los Angeles, USA



Guatemala City, Guatemala