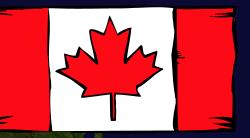
# Physical Geography of North America



#### WRITE WHAT IS UNDERLINED!!







- Size of Texas, California and Montana combined!
- More coastline than all other coastal states combined!



 All major landforms are found in the U.S. and Canada, and they share the same landform regions

 North America is abundant in resources; this allowed for both countries to develop into global economic superpowers



## The Eastern Lowlands

- Flat coastal plain that runs along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico
- Many harbors located here
- <u>The Mississippi River empties into</u> the Gulf









 <u>The Piedmont (eastern lowlands) contains</u> <u>rolling hills and fast flowing rivers and streams</u>



#### The Appalachian Highlands

- Contains the <u>Appalachian Mountains</u>
- Runs along eastern side of North America
  - Chain runs north to south
  - 1,600 miles from Newfoundland in Canada to Alabama
  - 400 million years old!





## The Interior lowlands

- The interior part of North America
  - Interior Plains
  - Great Plains
  - Canadian Shield
- Great Plains
  - Mostly flatland
  - 4,000 ft above sea level
- Lowlands, rolling hills, thousands of lakes and rivers, <u>and some of the</u> <u>world's most fertile soil</u>





# **Canadian Shield**

- <u>Rocky & flat</u>
- <u>Covers 2 million sq.</u> <u>miles around</u> <u>Hudson Bay</u>





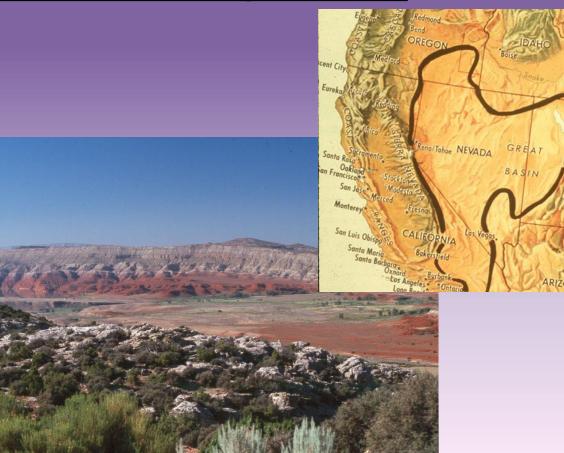
<image>



## The Western Mountains. Plateaus. & Basins

#### <u>The Great Basin Desert is the</u>

#### **United States' largest desert**





#### **Death Valley**

Death Valley is hot-very, very hot. Temperatures can top 130°F. Few forms of life can survive its intense heat for long periods. Land features called Dead Man Pass, Funeral Mountains, and Starvation Canyon are reminders of the danger.

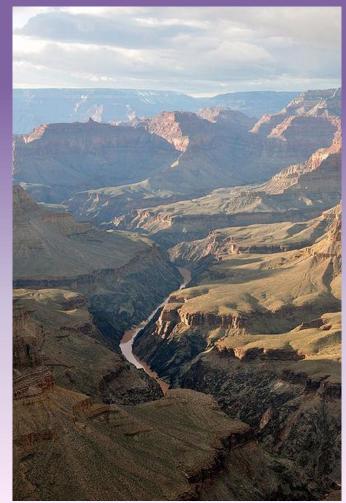
Death Valley (shown below) is located at the western edge of the Great Basin in California. It is the hottest point in North America. And at 282 feet below sea level, it also is the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere.

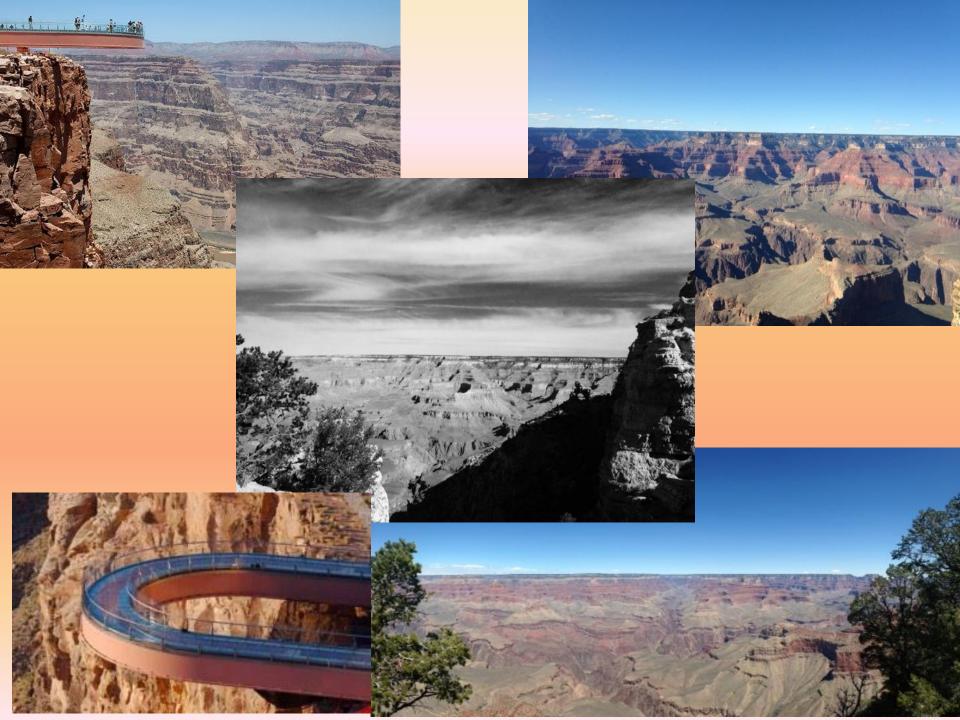




### Grand Canyon

steep-sided canyon carved by the Colorado River in the state of Arizona





## <u>The Western Mountains.</u> <u>Plateaus. & Basins</u>



#### <u>Rocky Mountains are west of the Great</u> <u>Plains</u>

- Western Mountain chain
  - The Rockies are relatively young...80 million years young!
  - 3,000 miles from Alaska to New Mexico



 The Rocky Mountains make up the Continental Divide which is the highest points in the Rockies that mark the separation between rivers flowing eastward and

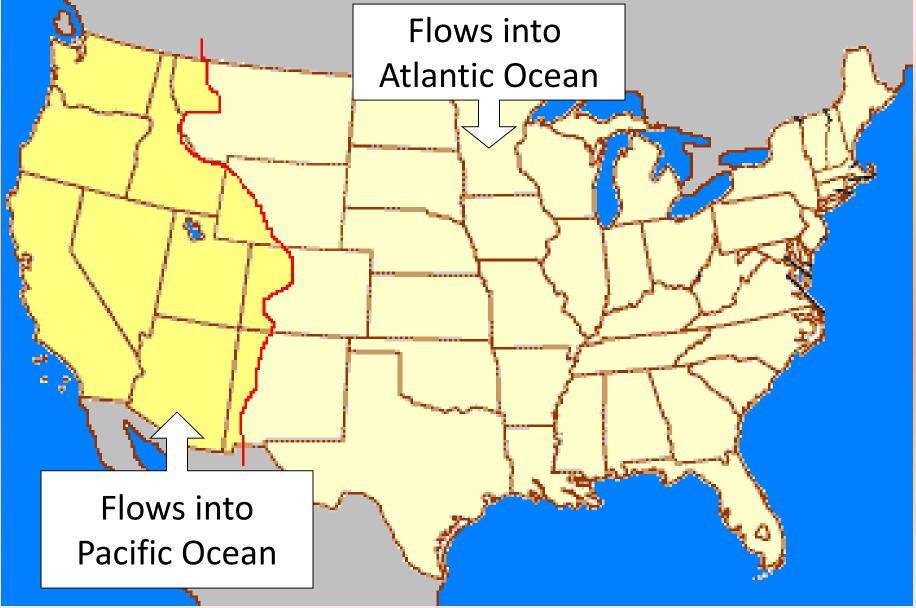
westward.

#### Canadian Rockies Berg Lake







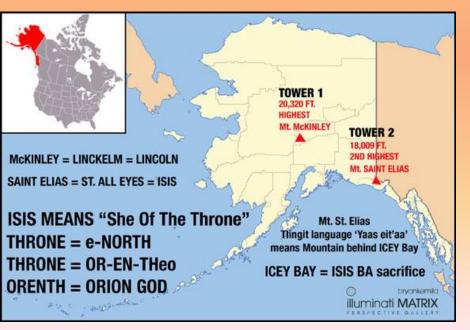


Canadian Rockies The Ramparts

### Canadian Rockies Kicking Horse Mountain Resort

#### <u>Mt. Denali (formerly known as Mt.</u> <u>McKinley)—Highest peak in North America</u> <u>; located in Alaska</u>



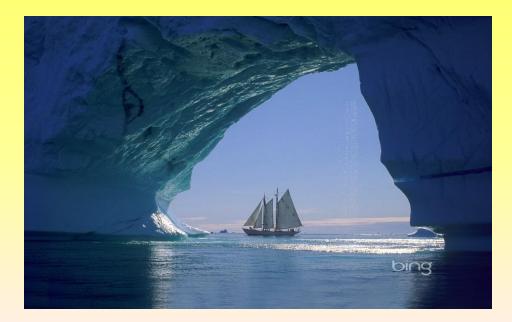




# The Islands

- Canada's northernmost islands are in the Arctic Circle
- Greenland is N. A.'s largest island
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa3wnJI</u>





# Don't forget about the water!



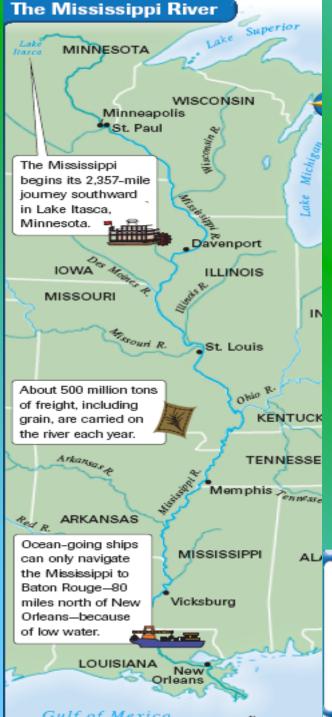
<u>8 of the world's 15</u> <u>largest lakes are</u> <u>found in North</u> <u>America!</u>



#### **Great Lakes**



- <u>Huron, Ontario,</u> <u>Michigan, Erie, &</u> <u>Superior</u> (H.O.M.E.S.)
- Source of <u>transportation</u>, <u>hydroelectric</u> <u>power</u>, irrigation, <u>fresh water</u>, & <u>fisheries</u>
- <u>http://www.travelchannel.com/</u> <u>shows/earth-</u> wonders/video/the-great-lakes



## <u>Mississippi River</u>

- <u>3<sup>rd</sup> longest river in</u>
  <u>the world</u>
- <u>Major shipping</u> <u>resource</u>
- Connects to 2 tributaries which are major rivers → Ohio & Missouri

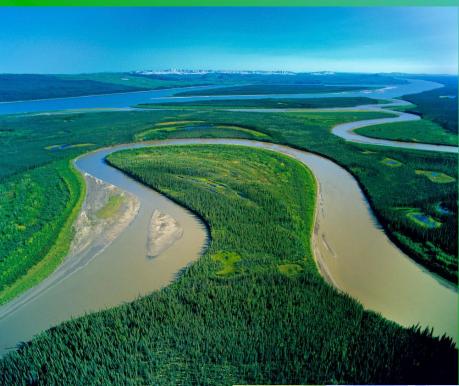
#### SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- LOCATION What states have the Mississippi River for at least part of their border?
- OVEMENT What rivers empty into the Mississippi?

## Mississippi River



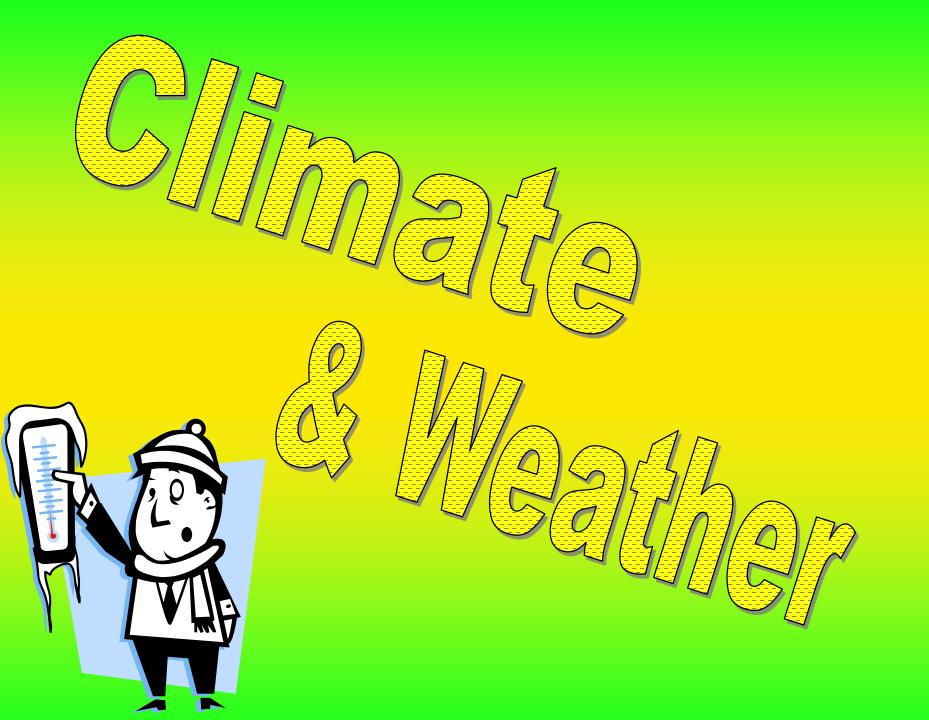
Lake Itasca Origin of Mississippi River in Minnesota



#### Mackenzie River

- Longest river in Canada
- Flows across the Northwest Territories to the Arctic Ocean





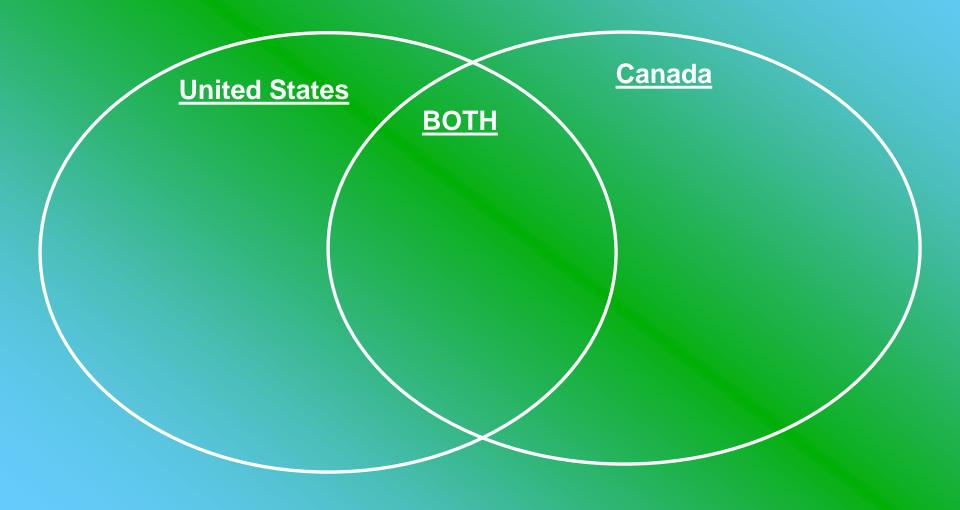
#### Climate and Vegetation of the U.S. and Canada







#### Draw a Venn diagram on your paper!



### United States

- <u>Desert</u>
- <u>Mediterranean</u>
- <u>Humid subtropical</u> (GA!)
- <u>Tropical Wet and Dry</u>





BOTH

- •<u>Semi-arid</u>
- •Marine West Coast
- •Humid Continental
- •<u>Highlands</u>
- •<u>Sub-arctic (Alaska)</u>
- •<u>Tundra (Alaska)</u>







Canada • Icecap



Thousands of farms like this one in Cimarron County, Oklahoma, were turned into dust-covered wastelands by the drought and dust storms of the 1930s. • Ice Storms

- Snow Storms
- <u>Tornadoes</u> → <u>Tornado Alley</u>
- <u>Hurricanes</u>
- <u>Santa Anna</u> Winds → fires
- <u>Dust Storms</u> →
  <u>Dust Bowl of</u>
  <u>1930's</u>

#### **Extreme** Weather in America

- <u>http://abcnews.go.co</u>
  <u>m/US/video/extreme-</u>
  <u>weather-america-</u>
  <u>29562798</u>
- While watching the video add to your notes details about each type of weather