



North America



Year Group: 5

Subject Focus: Geography

Term: Summer 1

Key facts

- North America is one the world's seven continents.
- There are 23 countries in North America—this includes the countries in Central America and the Caribbean islands.
- The three biggest countries are: Canada, The United States of America and Mexico.
- North America is the third largest continent by area, following Asia and Africa, and the fourth by population after Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- In North America, the further north you go, the colder it becomes. (Canada can be cold and relatively snowy.)
- In North America, the further south you go, the warmer it becomes. (Mexico tends to be hot and humid because it's closer to the equator)
- You can use longitude and latitude coordinates to find specific locations. Latitude tells you how far north or south from the Equator and longitude tells you how far east or west from the Prime Meridian.
- The largest city in North America is Mexico City.
- Approximately 500 million people live in North America
- North America has a varied landscape due to its size.

Did you know?

There are different biomes across North America which are specific to the plants and animals that live there.

Examples of these biomes are: forest, rainforest, grassland, tundra, desert, savannah, and taiga.



Map of North America



North America has many physical and human features.

North America	
Physical features	Human features
Grand Canyon	Statue of Liberty
Niagara Falls	Empire State Building
Yellowstone National Park	Golden Gate Bridge
Rocky Mountains	Chichen Itza
The Great Lakes	Disneyland
Mississippi River	New York City
Yucatán Peninsula	The CN Tower
	Kennedy Space Center

Exciting books/ web links:



Learn about biomes and lines of latitude:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbkw2hv>

Key words:

biome	A region (part of the earth's surface) defined by a specific climate and certain animals and plants that have adapted to survive and thrive in that climate
climate	the general weather conditions that are typical of an area
continent	very large area of land that consists of many countries.
drought	a long period where there is little or no rain.
equator	an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth at an equal distance from the North and South Poles.
Lines of latitude and longitude	Invisible lines that cover the Earth to help locate positions. Lines of latitude run east to west. Lines of longitude run vertically from the North Pole to the South Pole.
savannah	tropical grasslands. They may have scattered bushes and trees
temperate forests	forests which experience mild summers and winters (temperate means moderate or mild)
taiga	one of the three main forest biomes. The taiga is a forest of the cold, subarctic region
tundra	is a large, barren region with no trees

Parents as partners:

- Encourage your child to create some amazing fact cards about North America.
- Draw, paint a picture or build a model of a famous landmark in North America e.g. The Grand Canyon.
- Christopher Columbus is credited for finding America. Create a fact file or write a biography detailing his achievements.
- Visit some of the websites listed on this page and talk about what you discover:
<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/north-america-facts.html>
<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/North-America/353542>