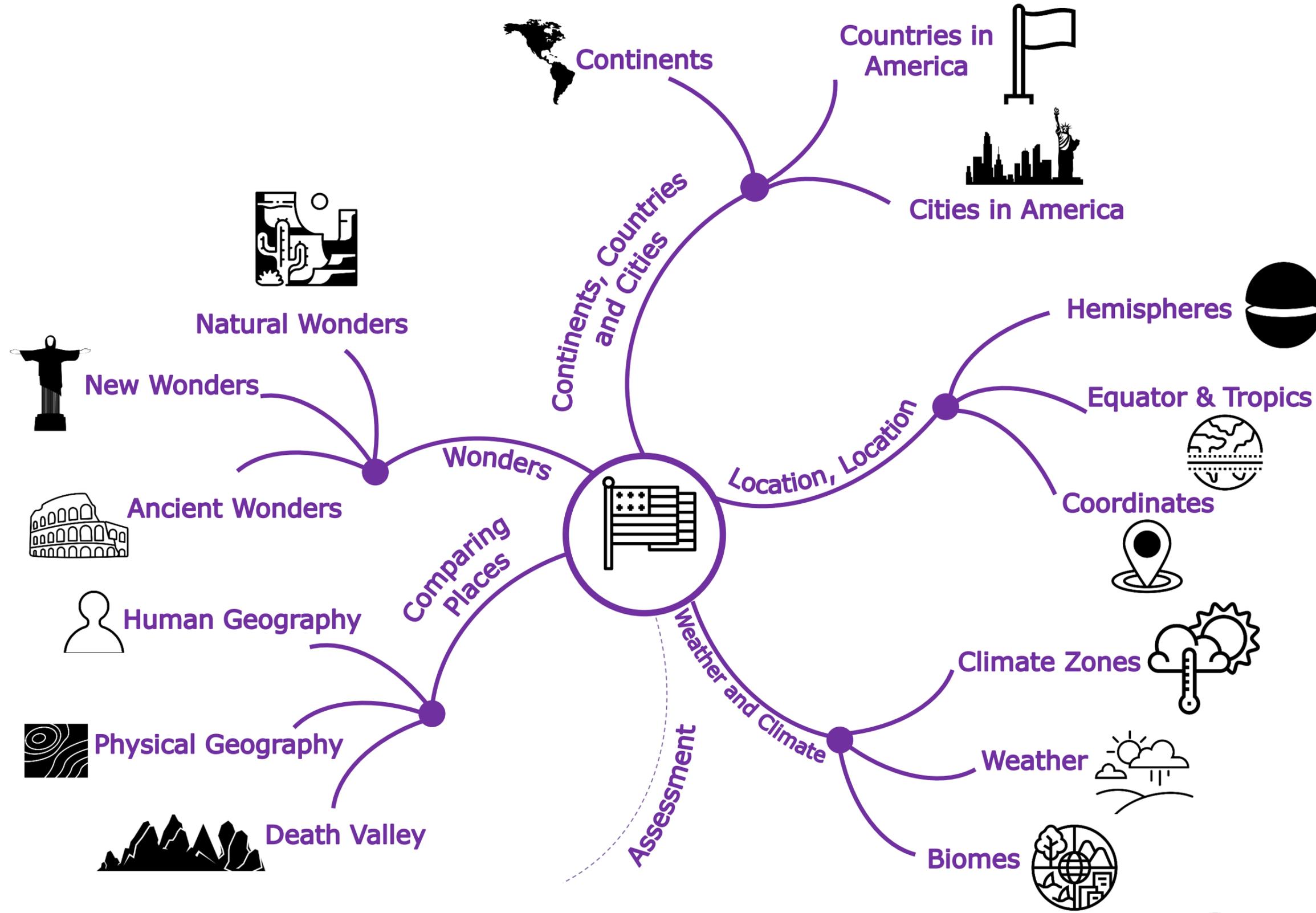


Vocabulary

Continent
 Equator
 Hemisphere
 Biomes
 Tropics
 Longitude
 Latitude

Amazing Americas





Vocabulary

Continent
 Equator
 Hemisphere
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Amazing Americas



UKS2 Amazing Americas

Lesson 1: Continents, Countries and Cities



WALT

- K - To use an atlas to locate countries in North and South America
- S – To identify the countries of North and South America

Stem Sentence

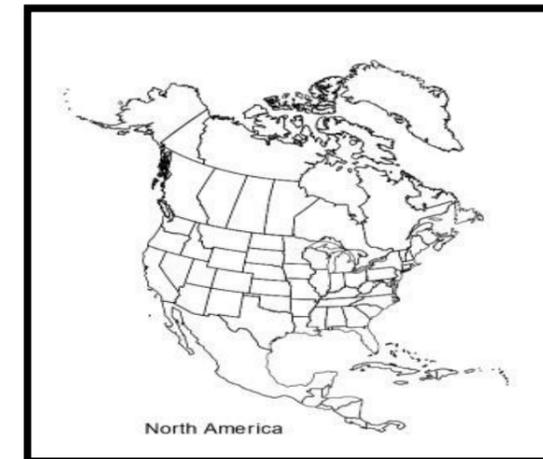
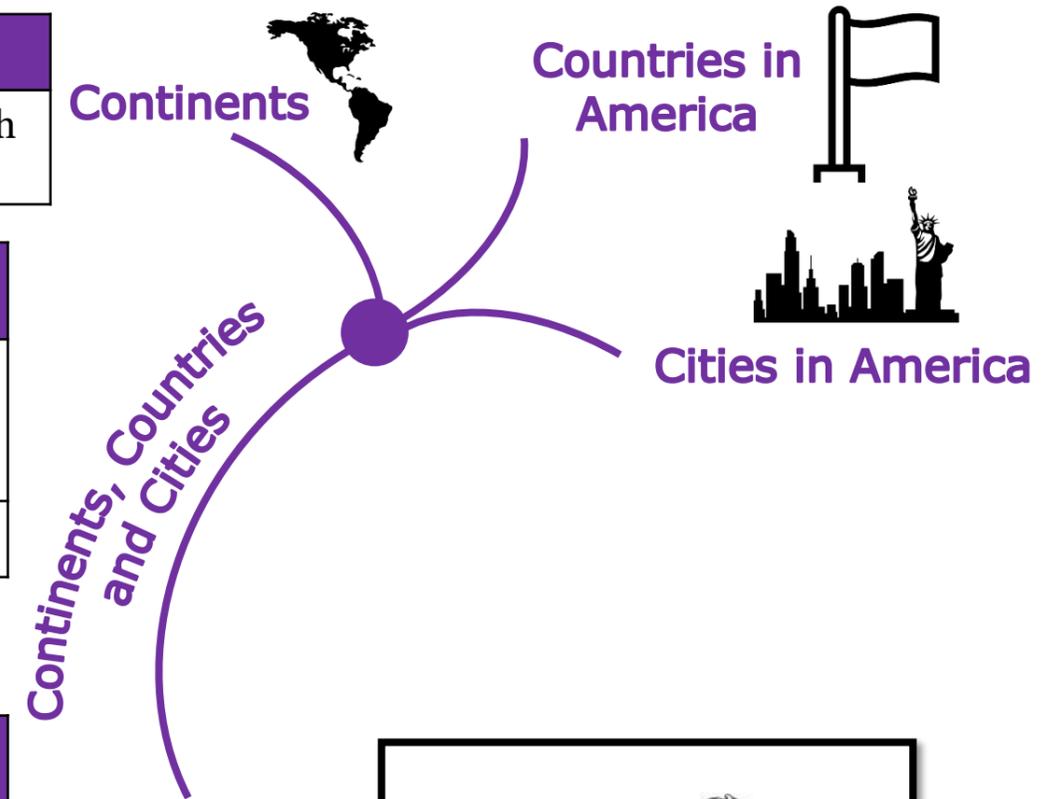
The Americas are made up of two separate continents, North America and South America.

Key Vocabulary

Continent	a continent is a large landmass usually made up of a number of countries.
The Americas	A landmass of two continents.

Lesson activity idea

Use an atlas to identify the countries of North and South America.
Extension: Name the 50 states of America



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Lesson 2: Location, Location



WALT

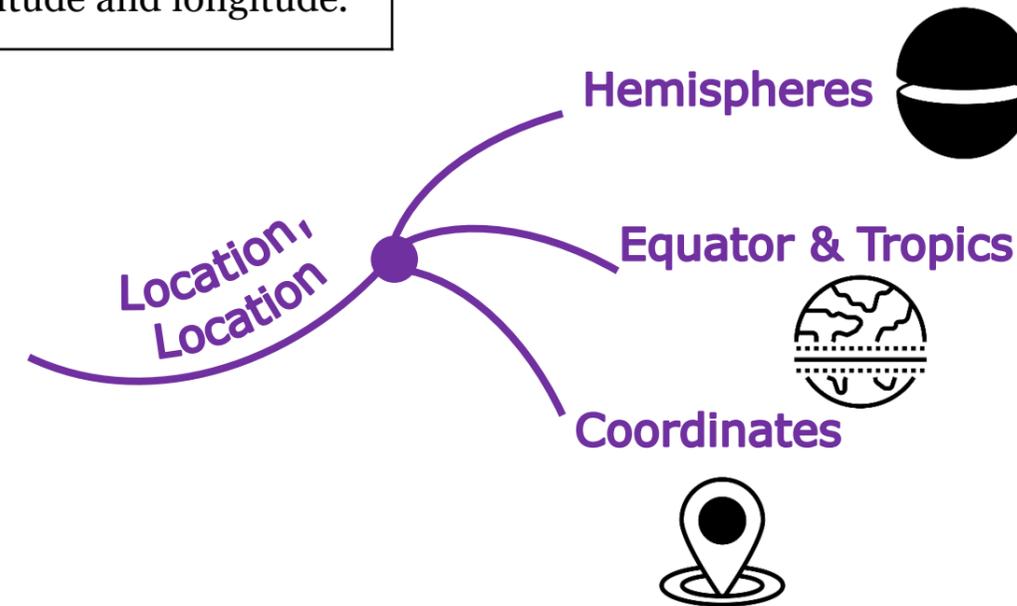
K – Understand the physical geographical similarities and differences of two regions in America
 S – I can use lines of longitude and latitude on a map

Stem Sentence

The Americas cover a huge area of the globe, extending over several lines of latitude and longitude.

Key Vocabulary

Longitude	Longitude is measured by imaginary lines that run around the Earth vertically (up and down) and meet at the North and South Poles.
Latitude	It is measured with 180 imaginary lines that form circles around the Earth east-west, parallel to the Equator.
Equator	An imaginary line around the globe at latitude 0° north. The sun is directly above this line around 20 th March and 23 rd September
Tropic of Cancer	Tropic of Cancer: an imaginary line around the globe at latitude 24° north. The sun is directly above this line at the solstice around 21 st June.
Tropic of Capricorn	The Tropic of Capricorn is one of the five major circles of latitude of a map of the Earth
Hemisphere	One of the halves of the earth as divided by the equator



Place Name	Anchorage, Alaska	Rio de Janeiro
State and/or country		
Capital city		
Coordinates (latitude and longitude)		
Hemisphere		
Size (area, etc.)		
Natural (physical) features		
Time zone		

Lesson activity idea

Compare and describe the key physical features of two places in America

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Lesson 3: Weather and Climate



WALT

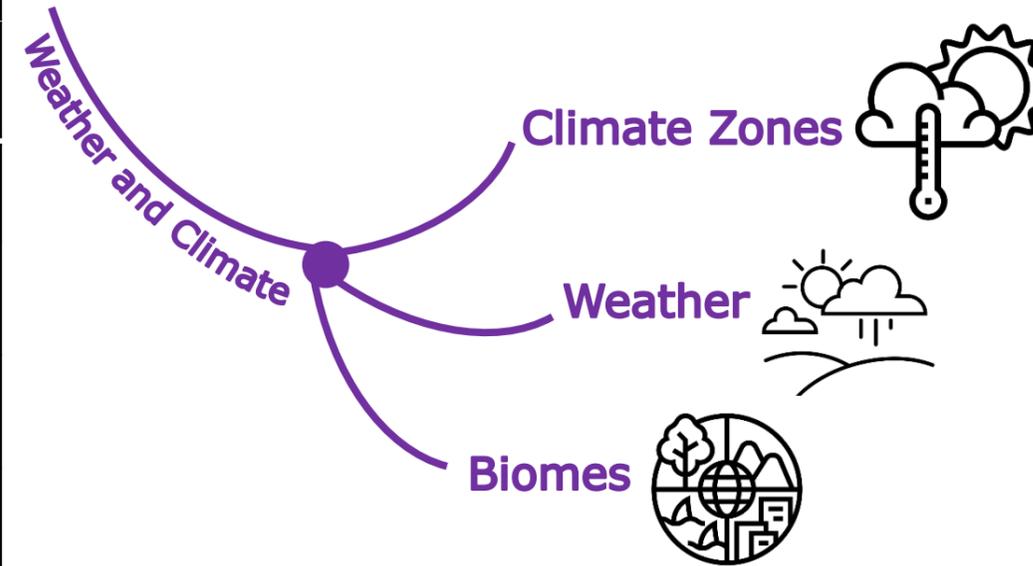
K- Understand the physical geographical similarities and differences of a region in America and where I live
 S- Identify the significance of lines of longitude and latitude

Stem Sentence

The weather is a short term atmospheric condition whereas the climate is the weather of a specific region averaged over a long period of time.

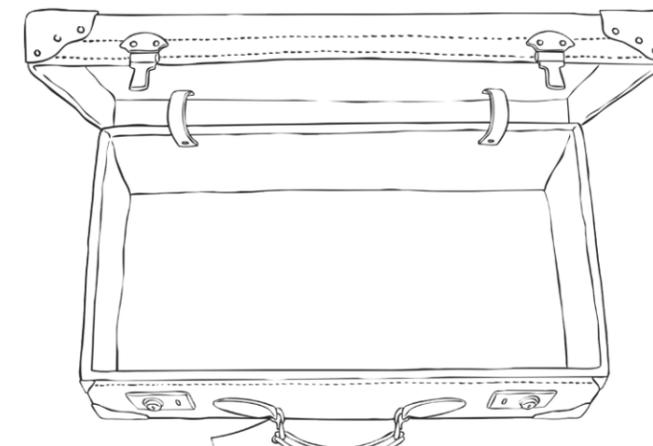
Key Vocabulary

Weather	Weather is the daily state of the atmosphere, or air, in any given place.
Climate	Climate is the average of weather conditions in an area over a long period.
Climate Zone	A climate zone is an area that has its own distinct climate
Biome	A region of the world with a similar climate



Lesson activity idea

- Task 1: Use ICT to research the climate of a region in America.
- Task 2: Decide what you would take in your suitcase to this region.
- Task 3: Explain which place/climate you would choose to live in.



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Lesson 4: Comparing Places



WALT

K - Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom.
S – Explain the differences between human and physical geographical features.

Stem Sentence

Human and physical features are things that you can see all around you.

Key Vocabulary

Human Geography	Something that is built by humans and would not have existed in nature without humans.
Physical Geography	Physical geography is the study of the Earth's natural features, such as mountains, rivers, deserts and oceans.
Death Valley	Death Valley is a desert valley in Eastern California.



Human Geography



Physical Geography

Death Valley



Comparing Places

Lesson activity idea

Research a region in North America and create a presentation about its human and physical geographical features.

Region	
Human Geography	Physical Geography
People/Population/Language	Rivers/Lakes
Types of Houses	Land Formation
Land Is Used For...	Mountains/Volcanoes
Economic Activity (How does the region make money? What does it trade? What types of businesses are in the area?)	Plants/Biomes

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Lesson 5: Wonders

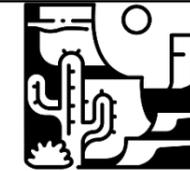


WALT

K – Understand similarities and differences of human and physical geography.
 S - I can use an atlas to locate the wonders of the world.

Stem Sentence

All but one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World have been destroyed



Natural Wonders

Key Vocabulary

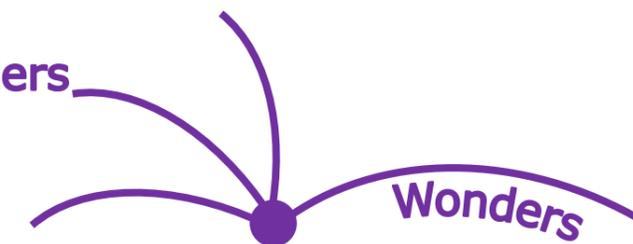
Ancient Wonders	impressive monuments created in the ancient world that were regarded with awe.
Natural Wonders	an impressive natural site or monument that was not made by or altered by humans



New Wonders



Ancient Wonders



Lesson activity idea

Design a wonder of the World including labels, location and a statement explaining why it is a wonder of the world

Success criteria	Self	Peer
You have designed your own wonder of the world		
You have included labels to explain your design		
You have given your wonder a name		
You have said where it will be located in the world		
You have written a statement to explain why you think it is a wonder of the world		

UKS2 Amazing Americas

Lesson 6: Assessment



WALT

I can show what I have learnt about America

Lesson activity idea

Create a knowledge organiser that shows my understanding of America.

Assessment

NORTH AMERICA KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Map and Overview

- North America is the world's third largest continent by area. It covers about 24.7 million km², which is about 16.5% of the earth's total land area.
- North America is the fourth most populous continent, after Asia, Africa and Europe. Its population is about 580 million people.
- North America is in the western hemisphere (apart from Hawaii and parts of Alaska) and the northern hemisphere.
- The first people reached America over a frozen crossing from Siberia in the last Ice Age, between 40,000 and 15,000 years ago.

Human Geography Features	
Population Densities	<p>The population density for North America is about 20 people per km². However, due to big cities in some areas (e.g. New York City) and extreme weather in others (e.g. northern Canada) people are not spread evenly.</p> <p>What? Parts of Central America and the Caribbean are also densely populated.</p> <p>Key Fact: The most densely populated country in North America is Bermuda.</p>
Manhattan, New York City	<p>Manhattan is the business and entertainment centre of New York City, the largest city in the US. Manhattan is mostly on an island, with many high rise buildings, e.g. the Empire State Building, surrounding Central Park.</p> <p>What? One WTC is the tallest building in Manhattan and the USA, at 344 metres.</p> <p>Key Fact: In 2001, the original World Trade Centre towers were destroyed by terrorists.</p>
Colonisation/ Languages	<p>Throughout the 16th-17th centuries, European settlers (mainly from Britain, Spain and France) colonised different parts of North America. Many native North Americans became displaced by the colonisers.</p> <p>What? The USA became independent from colonisers on July 4th, 1776.</p> <p>Key Fact: The languages spoken in North America are mainly as a result of colonisation.</p>
Sports/ Recreation	<p>North America is relatively unique in that sports that originated in the region (e.g. American football, baseball, basketball) are more popular than the global sports popular elsewhere (e.g. football/soccer, rugby, cricket).</p> <p>What? American football is the most popular sport in the USA.</p> <p>Key Fact: Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in North America.</p>
The Mexican Drug War	<p>This an ongoing conflict between the Mexican government and several of the large drug cartels. This has been in response to the excessive wealth, control, and violence of the cartels.</p> <p>What? Mexican cartels control 90% of illegal drugs entering the USA.</p> <p>Key Fact: The Mexican government declared the war in 2006.</p>

Countries of North America

Largest N. American countries

1. Canada – 9.96 million km²
2. USA – 9.83 million km²
3. Greenland (Den) – 2.16 million km²
4. Mexico – 1.96 million km²
5. Nicaragua – 130,375 km²

There are 23 countries in North America, and a further 9 states that are listed as dependencies of other nations.

Most populous N. American countries

1. USA – 320 million people
2. Mexico – 132 million people
3. Canada – 37 million people
4. Guatemala – 18 million people
5. Cuba – 11 million people

The United States

The United States is a large country made up of 50 states – including 48 on the US mainland, plus Alaska and Hawaii. It has the largest population of any country in North America, and the third largest population in the world. The USA is considered the richest and most powerful country in the world, at the forefront of world politics and economy.

Canada

Canada is the largest country by area in North America, and the second largest in the world (after Russia). As a whole, Canada is very sparsely populated – most of its population lives along the US border in the south, whilst very few people live in the central and northern areas of the country. Most of its land is dominated by forest and tundra.

Central America

Central America is the region found on the southern tip of North America, and contains many smaller nations: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. The countries have many cultural similarities, and Spanish is the main language in the region. The area is sometimes considered as its own microcontinent.

The Caribbean Islands

The Caribbean islands are a number of tropical islands based in the Caribbean Sea off North America. The sea is considered as a part of the Atlantic Ocean. It is bordered by Mexico and Central America. Cuba is by far the largest Caribbean island, with an area of 109,806 km². The Caribbean islands are sometimes referred to as the West Indies.

Physical Geography Features

The Mississippi River

The Mississippi River is the second-longest on the continent, with its basin including 32 states in the USA. North Americans have lived along the Mississippi River for thousands of years.

What? Along the river is amongst the most fertile soils in the USA.

Key Fact: The Mississippi serves as a boundary between several states.

The Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are a series of interconnected lakes across the USA-Canada border. They include Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. By area, they are the largest lake system in the world, and 2nd by volume.

What? Because of their great size and their waves, they are sometimes called inland seas.

Key Fact: Only Lake Balkas in Russia has a larger volume than the North American Great Lakes.

Animals

Due to the extreme latitudes of the continent, there are a wide variety of animals adapted to different climates in North America. The brown bear is one of the largest and most powerful carnivores, whilst the American alligator is a feared predator in South-Eastern USA.

Key Fact: American Alligator can attain lengths of longer than six metres – they are a serious threat to people.

Death Valley

Death Valley, located in eastern California, is one of the hottest places in the world. Its Badwater Basin is 68m below sea level, the lowest point on the continent.

What? It has an area of 7,800 km².

Key Fact: In 1913, the heat reached 54.1°C, the hottest ever recorded.

Hawaiian Islands

The Hawaiian Islands consist of 13 major islands, and many other smaller islets in the North Pacific Ocean. They are spread out over 2400km.

What? The islands are about 3,000km from base to tip (6,000km below the sea).

Key Fact: Mount Ido is the tallest mountain in the world – 10,000m from base to tip (6,000m below the sea).

Longest Rivers

- Colorado – 2,333km
- Arkansas – 2,364km
- Rio Grande – 3,034km
- Yubon – 3,190km
- Mississippi – 3,544km
- Missouri – 3,768km

Highest Mountains

- Forbes – 5,304m
- Popocatepetl – 5,462m
- Saint Elias – 5,489m
- Pico de Orizaba – 5,636m
- Mount Logan – 5,959m
- Denali – 6,190m