



CD-1551

SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITY BOOK

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Grades
5 - 8+

• LOCATION • PLACE • HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS
• MOVEMENT • REGIONS

- *North America*
- *Central and South America*
- *Europe*
- *Russia*
- *Asia and Africa*
- *Oceania, Australia, and Antarctica*
- *Maps, Terms, and More*

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Mark Twain Media/Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc.

Introduction

This book is designed to help students better understand the importance of geography and the world in which they live. Geography is important because it encompasses every aspect of our lives. National decisions are often made with geography in mind.

Today, in order for our students to achieve, students must have a global perspective in our ever-changing, ever-growing world. Without a basic knowledge of geography, citizens cannot make informed decisions when participating in the democratic process of our nation.

The study of geography is divided into five themes. Geographers use these five themes to study the world around us. The themes will be developed throughout this book. They are Location, Place, Human-Environment Interactions, Movement, and Regions. These themes were developed by the Joint Committee on Geographic Education of the National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers.

Location: where things are located on Earth, both in absolute and relative terms

Place: the physical and human characteristics that make a place distinct from all others

Human-Environment Interactions: how the land affects the people and how the people affect the land

Movement: how the movement of natural forces, people, goods, and ideas affect a place

Regions: what common physical and human characteristics link a place to other parts of the world



This resource focuses on areas of the world through the lenses of the five themes of geography. Students will be able to make the connections of location, place, interactions, movement, and regions with each specific world region. Using the five themes of geography, teachers can give students the opportunity to think globally and help prepare them for the diverse society in which we live.

United States and Canada: *Location*

The first of the five themes of geography is the study of location. There are two types of location. **Absolute location** is defined as the exact latitude and longitude coordinates on the earth's surface. It answers the question, "Where is it?", and gives the exact address of a particular place. **Latitude** lines are the horizontal lines north and south of the Equator. **Longitude** lines are the vertical lines measured east and west of the Prime Meridian. **Relative location** is describing a location in relation to other places. For example, if you describe the location of your home to a friend, you would not need to give the latitude and longitude coordinates. You would instead describe your home's location by identifying streets, buildings, and landmarks that are around your house.

To identify the absolute location of the United States and Canada, you would need to identify the general coordinates on a globe or a map. The United States and Canada span over many lines of latitude and longitude; therefore, it is necessary to determine a specific city or place.

For example, the absolute location of Houston, Texas, is 30 degrees North latitude and 95 degrees West longitude (30°N, 95°W). Quebec City, Quebec, has an absolute location of 47 degrees North latitude and 71 degrees West longitude (47°N, 71°W). The latitude is always written first, followed by the longitude.

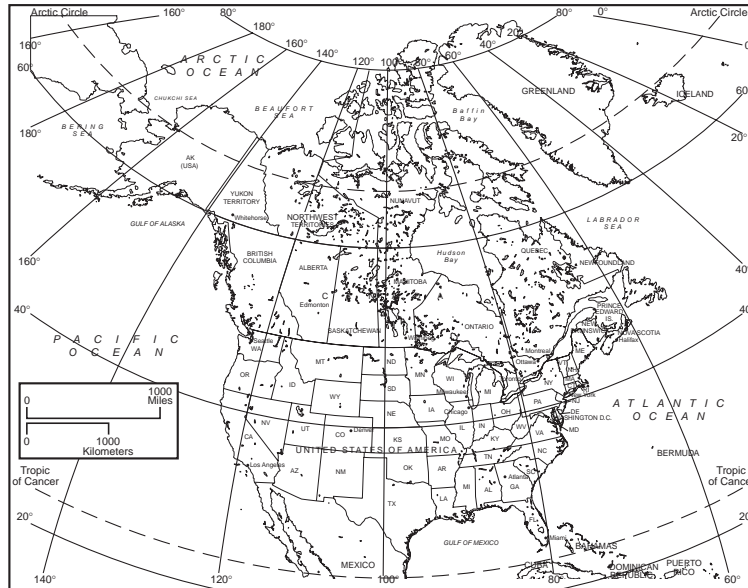
The relative location of the United States can be defined as being north of Mexico, south of Canada, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on its east coast and the Pacific Ocean on its west coast. Canada's relative location is identified as north of the United States, bordered by the Arctic Ocean in the north, the Pacific Ocean on the west, and the Atlantic Ocean on the east.



Name: _____ Date: _____

United States and Canada: *Location—Activity*

Directions: Use the map of the United States and Canada, the Internet, or an atlas to answer the questions below.



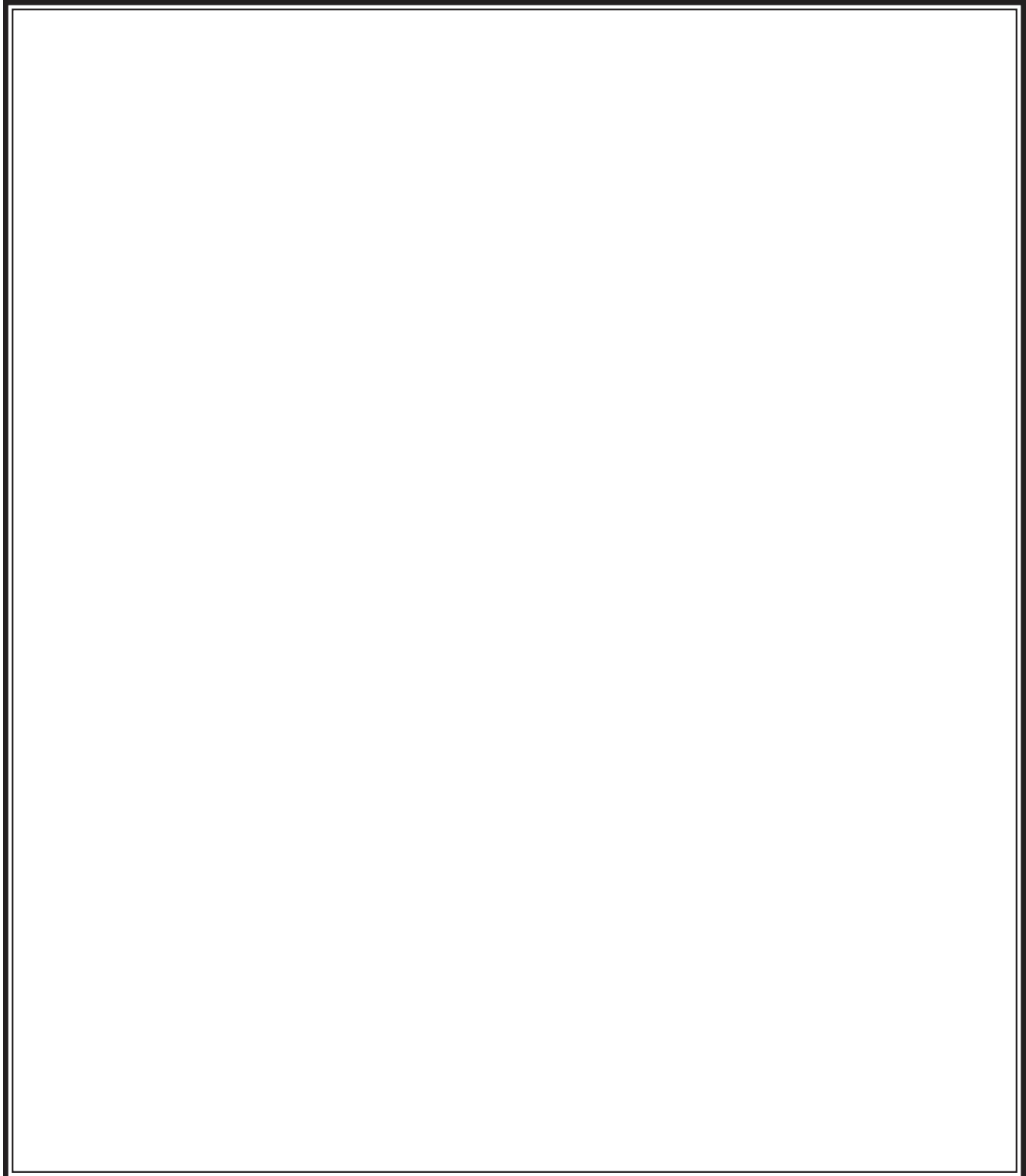
1. Identify the absolute location of the following cities:
 - a. Chicago, Illinois _____
 - b. Washington, D.C. _____
 - c. Los Angeles, California _____
 - d. Denver, Colorado _____
 - e. Atlanta, Georgia _____
 - f. Ottawa, Canada _____
 - g. Winnipeg, Canada _____
 - h. Montreal, Canada _____

2. Find which cities match the following latitude and longitude coordinates.
 - a. 40°N, 74°W _____
 - b. 47°N, 122°W _____
 - c. 43°N, 88°W _____
 - d. 25°N, 80°W _____
 - e. 53°N, 113°W _____
 - f. 43°N, 79°W _____
 - g. 44°N, 63°W _____
 - h. 60°N, 135°W _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

United States and Canada: *Location—Geoquest*

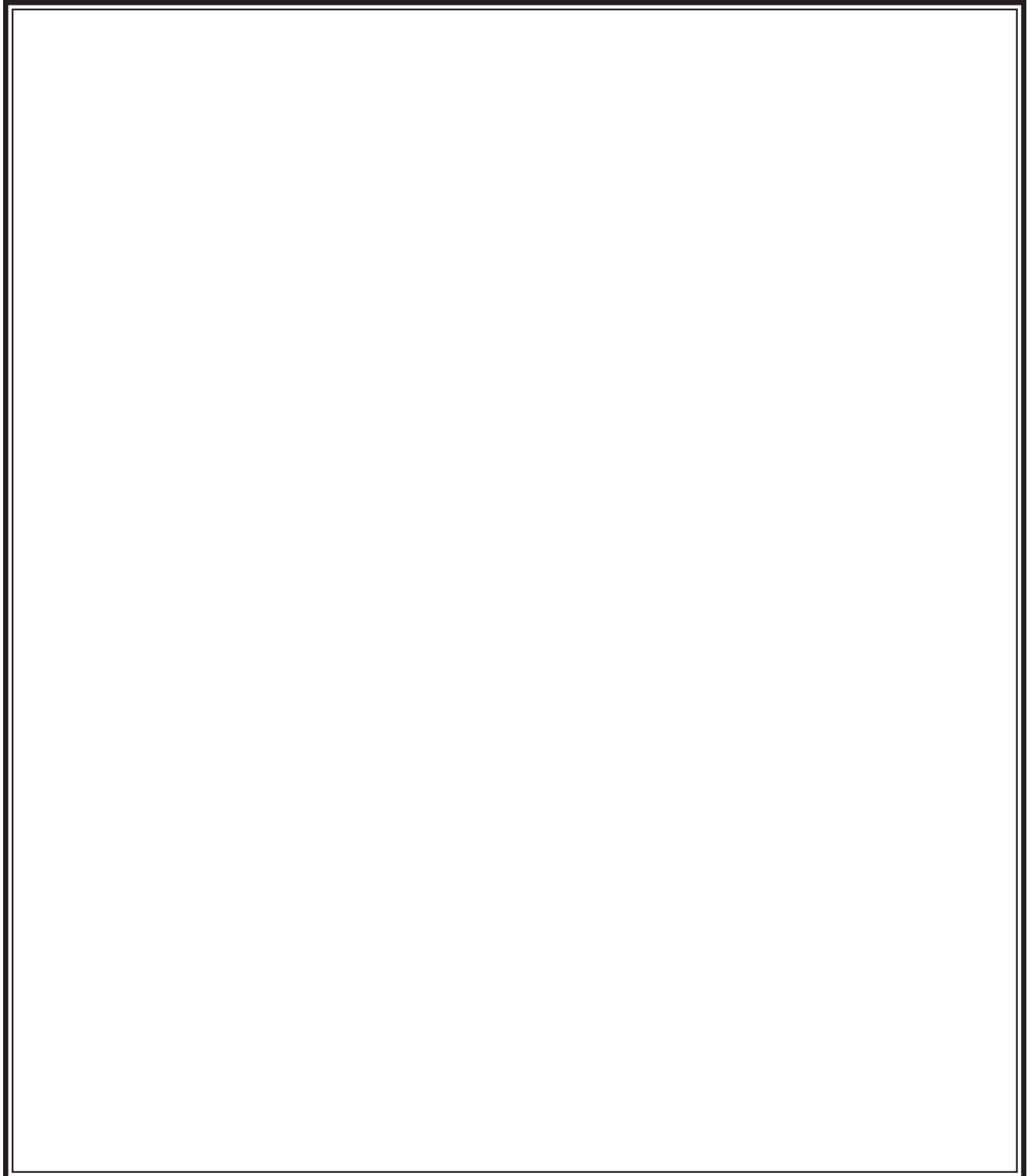
1. Identify the absolute location of your hometown or city. Create a map including a map key and a map title.

A large, empty rectangular box with a double-line border, intended for the student to draw a map of their hometown or city. The box is completely blank, providing space for the student's drawing and any accompanying map key or title.

Name: _____ Date: _____

United States and Canada: *Location—Geoquest (cont.)*

2. Identify the relative location of your home in relation to your school. Create a map that includes a map key and a map title.

A large, empty rectangular box with a double-line border, intended for the student to draw a map showing the relative location of their home to their school. The box is currently blank.

United States and Canada: *Place*

What makes the United States and Canada unique?

The second theme of geography is **place**. Every place on earth has its own special characteristics that make it unique. To gain an understanding of each place, one must consider its physical characteristics and human characteristics. **Physical characteristics** can be identified as those things that are part of the natural environment. For example, climate, plants, animals, bodies of water, and mountains would be physical characteristics of place.

Human characteristics can be defined as the man-made features or the culture of a place. The architecture of buildings, canals, and bridges; religion; language; and government are examples of human characteristics of place. Both physical and human characteristics provide answers to the question, "What makes this place unique?" If we only look at physical characteristics, you would not have an accurate picture of a specific place. For example, if you identify a place as snowy, cold, and mountainous, you may be thinking of skiing in Vail, Colorado. However, you might be thinking of ice fishing in northern Canada. In order to correctly describe Vail, Colorado, you would have to describe human characteristics such as the English language, a democratic government, Colorado's state capital of Denver, and the local ski resorts.

It is important to note that this theme of place can change over time. Physical characteristics may change due to natural disasters, weathering, and human impact. The Grand Canyon in the western part of the United States or Mount Rushmore in South Dakota has changed over time due to the force of wind, weather, and water eroding away the rock. Furthermore, human characteristics can change as well, depending on factors such as governmental decisions, conflict, and technology. How have the physical and human characteristics of your town changed over the years?



Name: _____ Date: _____

United States and Canada: *Place—Activity*

Places, Places, and More Places

A. Using a map, identify five physical characteristics of the United States and Canada.

	United States	Canada
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____

B. Using the encyclopedia, the Internet, or a textbook, identify five human characteristics of the United States and Canada.

	United States	Canada
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____

C. Identify a physical characteristic (a.) and a human characteristic (b.) of the following places.

11. St. Louis, Missouri	a. _____
	b. _____
12. San Francisco, California	a. _____
	b. _____
13. Rapid City, South Dakota	a. _____
	b. _____
14. Halifax, Nova Scotia	a. _____
	b. _____
15. Ottawa, Ontario	a. _____
	b. _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

United States and Canada: *Place—Geoquest*

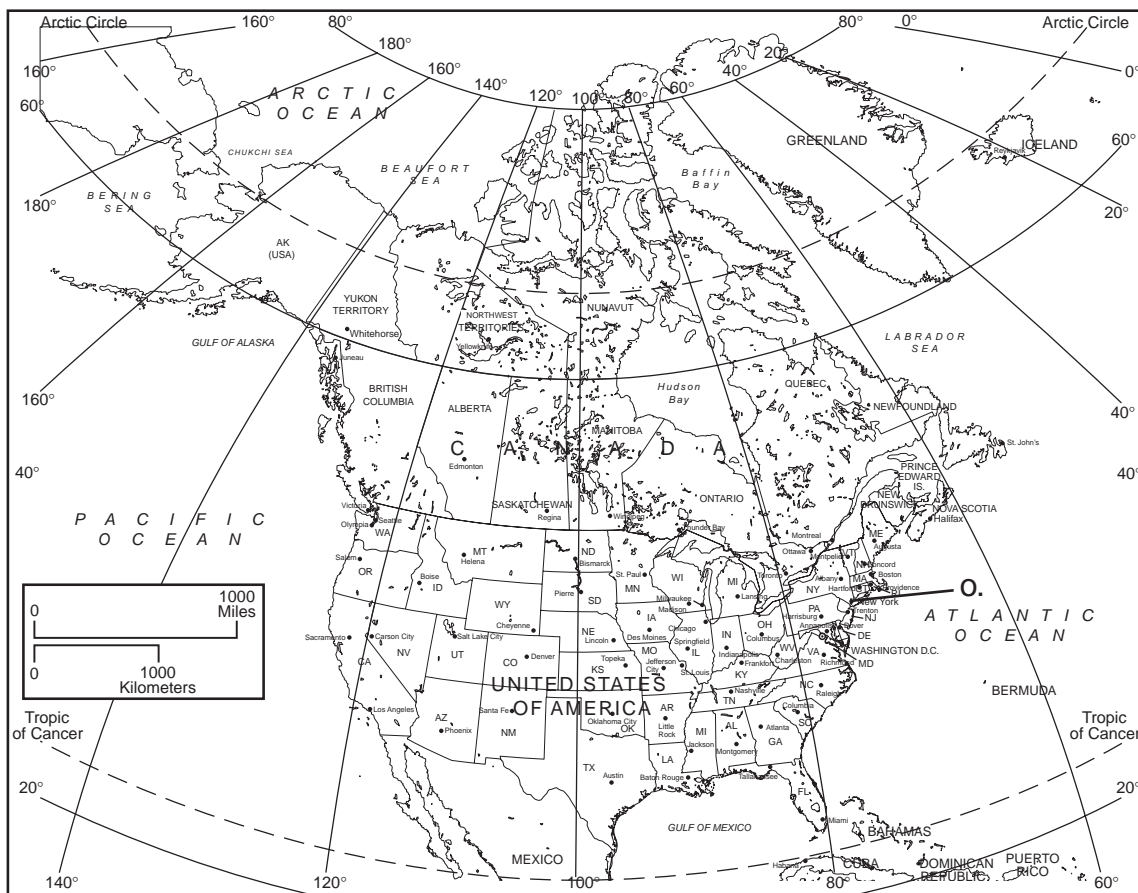
Take the Geoquest Challenge!

1. You are a travel agent. Create a travel brochure that describes a specific place using physical and human characteristics.

2. Research the following places using the Internet, an atlas, or other resources to see what makes them unique. List them on your own paper.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yosemite b. The White House c. The Golden Gate Bridge d. Niagara Falls e. Carlsbad Caverns f. Chateau Frontenac g. Hudson Bay h. The Citadel 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. St. Lawrence River j. Parliament Hill k. Pacific Rim National Park l. Grand Canyon m. Mount Rushmore n. Disney World o. Statue of Liberty (see example)
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3. Using a red pen or pencil, locate and label the above 15 places on the map. Use the corresponding letter to label the location. (Use a connecting line, if necessary.)



United States and Canada: *Interactions*

The third theme of geography is **human-environment interactions**. This theme deals with how humans affect our environment and how the environment affects human life. For example, humans have cut down forests for the lumber industry in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. This has resulted in the destruction of animal habitats within the forests. On the other hand, lumber is a much-needed resource for human-kind. Another example of how humans have negatively impacted their environment would be the oil spill from the tanker *Exxon-Valdez*. This incident resulted in the contamination of many miles of Alaskan shoreline. Oil coating the ocean water destroyed the habitats of many fish, birds, and other animals.



The Alaskan Pipeline

Humans can also positively affect their environment. One example includes recycling, which allows people to reuse materials instead of wasting valuable resources. Substances like plastic, aluminum, and newspaper can be recycled to be used again. People also create forest preserves and natural wildlife refuges to protect precious animal and plant life.

The environment, or physical surroundings, is an important factor in the lifestyle of people. The climate where you live usually determines the way you live. For example, a Canadian living in the northern Rocky Mountains would be wearing a heavy winter coat, but someone living on a beach in Miami, Florida, may only be wearing a swimming suit. Likewise, because it is so hot and dry, and there is little water in Arizona, fishing would not be a dependable occupation as it is in Nova Scotia.

Name: _____ Date: _____

United States and Canada: *Interactions—Activity*

Directions: Think about your environment. How is your environment different from the following two areas of North America? Fill in examples on the chart below.

	Your City _____	New Orleans, Louisiana	Vancouver, British Columbia
Summer Climate			
Winter Climate			
Physical Environment			
Types of Housing			
Foods			
Clothing			
Transportation			
Crops Grown			
Industry/ Products			