National Geography Standards

Teachers leading discussions while completing chapters and activities is a prerequisite for accomplishing the standards. Inquiry discussion is important: What do you know? How are things alike and not alike? Why do you think that?

National Standard 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire information.

This standard is addressed through the activities in a number of chapters.

National Standard 6: How culture and experience influence people’s perception of places and regions.

This standard may be addressed in Chapter 4 when students learn that the native American cultures varied, as did the cultures within the colonies.

National Standard 10: The characteristics, distributions, and complexity of Earth’s cultural mosaics.

Chapter 4 may be used for this standard. Chapter 18 could be used to address this standard through a student research of the cities of Miami, New York, New Orleans, and Los Angeles.

National Standard 13: How forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth’s surface.

Chapters 7 through 16 are appropriate to use to address this standard. Each chapter can be approached from a different viewpoint, with respect to the cause of the conflict and how it was resolved. Chapters 7 through 11 are particularly appropriate for this standard, because the conflicts occurred in the United States, and students can make comparisons as to the causes of the conflicts.
Chapter 1: Learning About the Physical Features of the United States

A. The Thirteen Colonies

Using Map 1 and an atlas, complete the following. You will need colored pens or pencils for this activity.

1. Locate each of the physical features below by placing the corresponding letter on the map in the correct location.

   a. Cape hatteras   G. Delaware Bay
   b. Chesapeake Bay   h. long island
   c. Potomac river   i. adirondack Mountains
   d. James river   j. Green Mountains
   e. hudson river   k. Connecticut river
   f. Cape Cod   l. appalachian Mountains
   M. Catskill Mountains
   n. lake Champlain
   o. Mt. Washington
   p. Susquehanna river
   q. Blue ridge Mountains

2. Trace over the dotted line.
3. Color the area between the dots and the coast green.
4. Label this area “atlantic Coastal Plain.”

Large parts of the Thirteen Colonies were located in the area known as the Atlantic Coastal Plain. In the north it is narrow, but it becomes wider as it extends south and west along the Gulf of Mexico. Along the coast, the elevation is 0 feet above sea level. Along the dotted line on Map 1, the elevation is 600 feet above sea level. Because it is so near the Atlantic Ocean, tides affect the rivers and low-lying plains near the coast. This was the region where many of the Europeans first settled because it was nearest to Europe and because of the Indian population inland. The colonists found the region swampy, and in summer, there were many insects. The ocean tides resulted in swampy areas where the water was very brackish. Many colonists became sick and died from the contaminated drinking water and disease-bearing insects.

5. The Atlantic Coastal Plain formed part of many of the original Thirteen Colonies. Circle the names of the colonies in the list below that are located on the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

   a) Virginia   b) Vermont   c) South Carolina   d) North Carolina   e) Georgia
Chapter 1: Learning About the Physical Features of the United States

A. The Thirteen Colonies (cont.)

Map 1
Chapter 1: Learning About the Physical Features of the United States

A. The Thirteen Colonies (cont.)

6. Trace over the dashed line on Map 1.
7. Color the area between the dotted line and the dashed line red.
8. Label this area “Piedmont Plateau.”
9. On the dotted line, write “Fall line.” This is the point where the rivers flow down from the Piedmont Plateau to the coastal plain.

This region is known as the **Piedmont Plateau**. It is a region that is higher than the coastal plain. The Piedmont Plateau is at an elevation of 600 to 1,000 feet above sea level. The Piedmont Plateau begins at the **Fall Line**, where the rivers drop down to the much lower coastal plain. The Piedmont is not affected by the tides, so the colonists found the drinking water to be much improved over that found on the lower coastal plain. This region was hilly and a much better place in which to live. Colonists who moved to the Piedmont Plateau were less likely to become sick from disease-carrying insects and contaminated water.

10. The **appalachian Mountains** are shown inside the closed line. Color the area inside the closed line orange.

11. **Using Diagram 1** below, complete the following.
   a. Color the region labeled “a” brown (elevation 3,000 to 5,000 feet).
   B. Color the region labeled “B” yellow (elevation 600 to 2,000 feet).
   C. Color the region labeled “C” green (elevation 400 to 0 feet).
   D. Color the region labeled “D” blue (elevation 0 feet = sea level).

Diagram 1

![Diagram 1](image)

**Scale:** 1 inch = 75 miles

e. The scale of the map is _______ inch equals _______ miles.

F. The elevation of the **atlantic Coastal Plain** is
   a) about the same as
   b) much higher than
   c) much lower than the Piedmont Plateau.

G. The **Fall line** is the point where the **atlantic Coastal Plain** meets the
   a) Piedmont Plateau
   b) appalachian Mountains
   c) Blue ridge Mountains.

h. When the colonists moved inland from the **atlantic Coastal Plain** to the Piedmont Plateau, they were moving to a
   a) lower elevation
   b) higher elevation.

i. The rising and falling tide from the **atlantic Ocean** most influenced the colonists who lived
   a) on the **atlantic Coastal Plain**
   b) on the Piedmont Plateau.
Chapter 1: Learning About the Physical Features of the United States

A. The Thirteen Colonies (cont.): Crossword Puzzle

Using the information you have learned in this section and other reference materials, complete the puzzle using the clues below.

ACROSS
5. river that flows into the Chesapeake Bay
6. Mountains in New York
8. The colony farthest south
11. Coastal plain that extends from New York south to the Gulf of Mexico
14. river that flows into Long Island Sound
15. river that flows into the Delaware Bay

DOWN
1. State bordered by the Connecticut river on the east
2. Famous lake between Vermont and New York
3. Where the Atlantic Coastal Plain meets the Piedmont Plateau (two words)
4. Mountains in North Carolina and Virginia
7. Famous cape in Massachusetts (two words)
9. Plateau between the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Mountains
10. Famous cape near North Carolina
12. river in New York
13. Mountains in Vermont
Chapter 1: Learning About the Physical Features of the United States

B. Between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River

as the Thirteen Colonies grew in population, many people began to think about settling in the land west of the Appalachian Mountains. Until the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, this region belonged to the French. The British won the French and Indian War, so they gained control of all the land in North America between the Atlantic and the Mississippi River, except for Florida, which belonged to Spain.

After the Revolutionary War, when the United States gained its independence from Great Britain, settlers were free to move into the area between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River.

Using Map 2, complete the following. You will need colored pens or pencils for this activity.

1. At the end of the Revolutionary War, the United States included the region numbered 2 on the map. Color this region yellow.
2. Great Britain still controlled the region numbered 3. Color this region blue, and label the region “Great Britain.”
3. Spain controlled the region numbered 4. Color this region red, and label it “Spanish-controlled.”

Map 2
Chapter 1: Learning About the Physical Features of the United States

B. Between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River (cont.)

Using Map 3, complete the following.

1. Label the region with the number 1 as “Appalachian Mountains.” Use upside down V’s to indicate mountains.
2. Label the region with the number 2 as “Cumberland Plateau.” Use (                ) to indicate the plateau region.
3. The number 3 locates the Ohio river. Label it.
4. The number 4 locates the Mississippi river. Label it.
Discovering the World of Geography: Grades 5–6

Chapter 1: Learning About the Physical Features of the United States

C. From the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean

Using Map 3 and an atlas, complete the following. Write the number from the map that indicates each feature on the blank beside the feature.

1. Mt. Rainier ______
2. Mt. Hood ______
3. Mt. Shasta ______
4. The Cascade Mountains ______
5. The Sierra Nevada ______
6. The Columbia River ______
7. The Snake River ______
8. The Great Salt Lake ______
9. The Coast Ranges ______
10. Salton Sea ______
11. Great Central Valley of California ______
12. The Missouri River ______
13. The Mississippi River ______
14. The Great Basin ______
15. The Colorado River ______
16. The Rio Grande ______
17. The Mojave Desert ______
18. The Mississippi Delta ______
19. The Quachita Mountains ______
20. The Great Plains ______

D. Alaska and Hawaii

Alaska

Using Map 4 and an atlas, complete the following. You will need colored pens or pencils for this activity.

1. The number locating the Brooks Mountain range is the number ______.
2. The number locating the Alaska Mountain range is the number ______.
3. Use a blue line to show the Yukon River.
4. The symbol ( ) locates a very high mountain. The mountain is
   a) Mt. Everest    b) Mt. Whitney    c) Mt. McKinley.

Hawaii

Using Map 5 and an atlas, complete the following.

5. The number 1 locates the island ____________________.
6. The number 2 locates the island ____________________.
7. The number 3 locates the island ____________________.
8. The number 4 locates the island ____________________.
9. The symbol ( ) locates two famous volcano peaks.
   The volcanic peaks are Mauna __________ and Mauna __________.
Chapter 1: Learning About the Physical Features of the United States

D. Alaska and Hawaii (cont.)

Map 4

Map 5
Chapter 1: Learning About the Physical Features of the United States

E. Reviewing Physical Features of the United States: Crossword Puzzle

Complete the puzzle using the clues below and an atlas.

ACROSS
1. Washington, D.C., is located on this river.
5. Great lake between New York and Canada
6. Famous river valley in New York
7. Mountains in New York
10. Mountains in Tennessee and Virginia
13. River that forms the border between Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky
16. The Potomac river flows into this bay.
17. River that begins in Minnesota and flows south to the Gulf of Mexico
19. River that begins in Montana and flows through North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, and into the Mississippi at St. Louis
21. Famous canyon in Arizona

DOWN
2. Cape in Massachusetts
3. River that forms the boundary between Mexico and Texas
4. The ocean into which the Columbia River flows
8. The state in which Mt. Rainier is located
9. This state is made up of over 100 volcanic and coral islands.
11. Great lake between Michigan and Wisconsin
12. Mountain chain that runs south from Canada through Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado
14. The state in which Mt. Whitney is located
15. Mountain chain in Oregon and Washington
18. Famous inland sea in California
20. State where the Great Salt Lake is located
22. In area, this is the largest state.