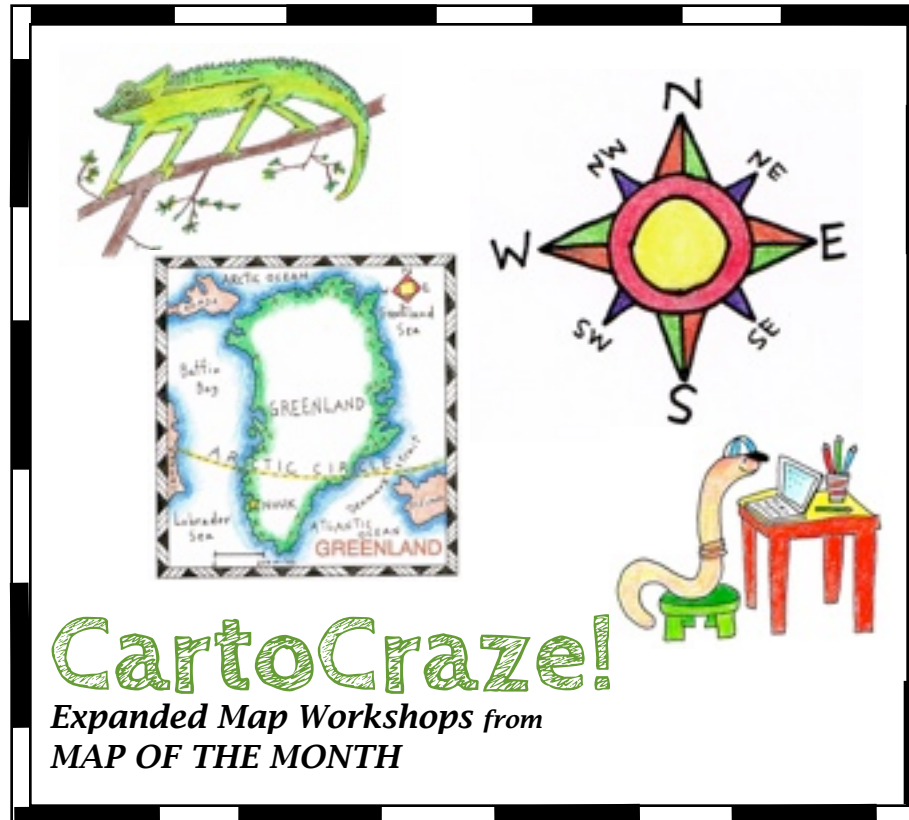


# SONORAN DESERT



**CartoCraze!**

*Expanded Map Workshops from  
MAP OF THE MONTH*

**CartoCraze!**

**Expanded Map Workshops**

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# DESERT

The surface of a desert can be formed of sand, ice, small stones or large rocks.

The definition of a desert is that it receives less than 10 inches of precipitation a year: that precipitation can be either rain or snow.

Deserts are the driest places on Earth. Even though we tend to think of deserts as torrid sand covered locations, these geographic areas can also be bitterly cold.

Humans have always found it challenging to live in desert environments, and have lived at the outer edges of many deserts where agriculture and raising of animals is possible. Often people who live in arid areas are forced to be nomads, moving from place to place to take advantage of seasonal weather. A surprising number of plants and animals have adapted to the harsh inhospitable conditions of both hot and cold deserts.

# DESERT TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

These terms and their definitions will help you to understand some of the aspect of desert areas.

**DESERT** A region that receives very low amounts of precipitation.

**HOT DESERT** A region with very high temperatures, a great deal of evaporation of moisture, and often high winds, conditions that are inhospitable for life.

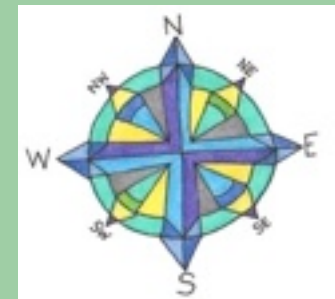
## COLD DESERTS

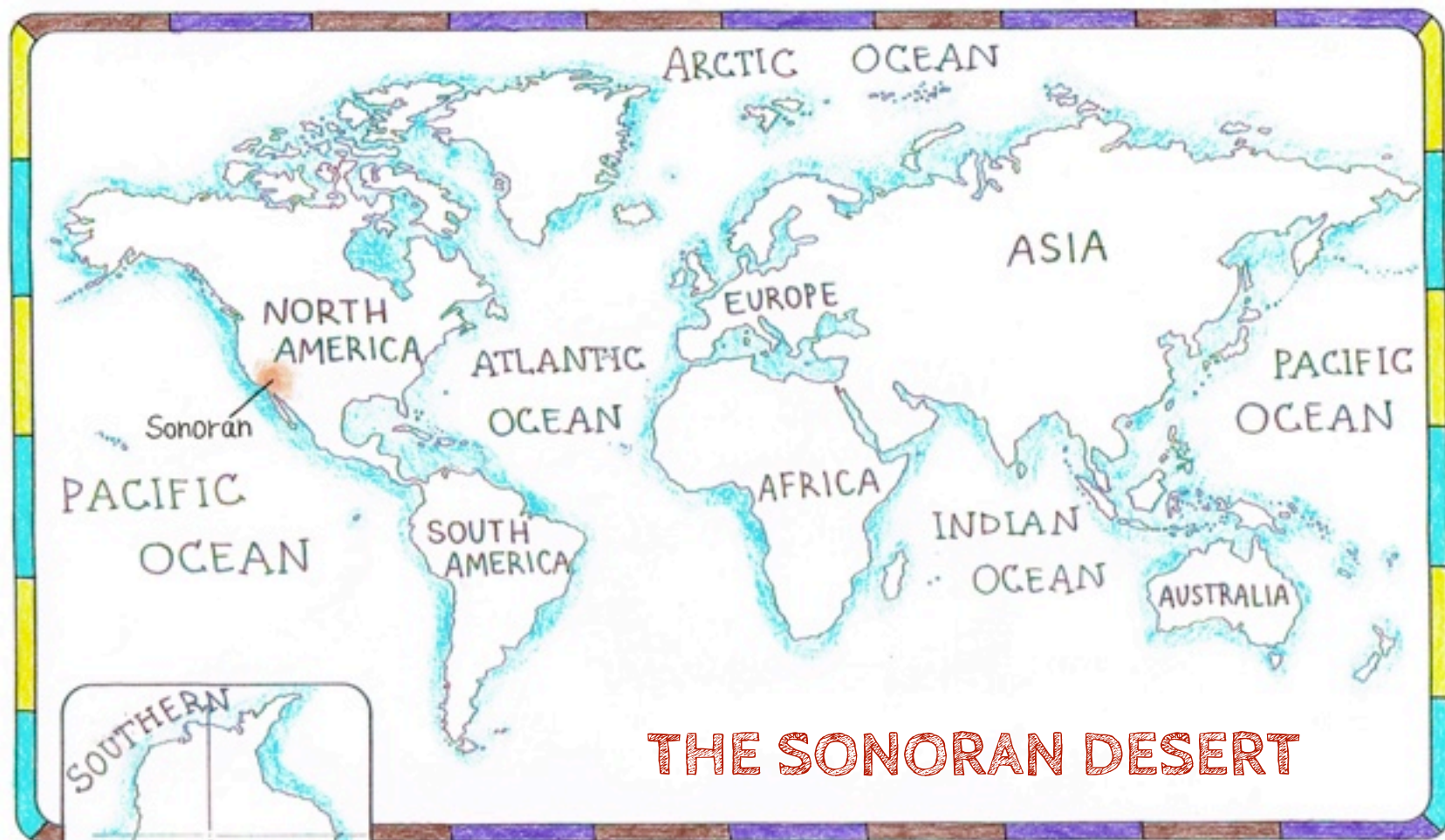
1. A **COLD DESERT** region is often separated from the ocean or body of water by a mountain range which blocks weather systems that produce moisture. The area beyond the mountain range remains very dry. Often this is called a "Rain Shadow" and can affect cold as well as hot deserts.
2. A **POLAR DESERT** has moisture carried away by high winds and there are snow dunes instead of sand dunes.

**SAND** Small dry particles of minerals and rock that are part of many hot deserts which form dunes.

**DUNE** Masses of sand or snow that are moved and shaped by weather, wind and gravity.

The following presentation is an introduction to the **SONORAN DESERT**, one of Earth's great deserts, with some information about mapping, geography, people and animals of its surrounding area.

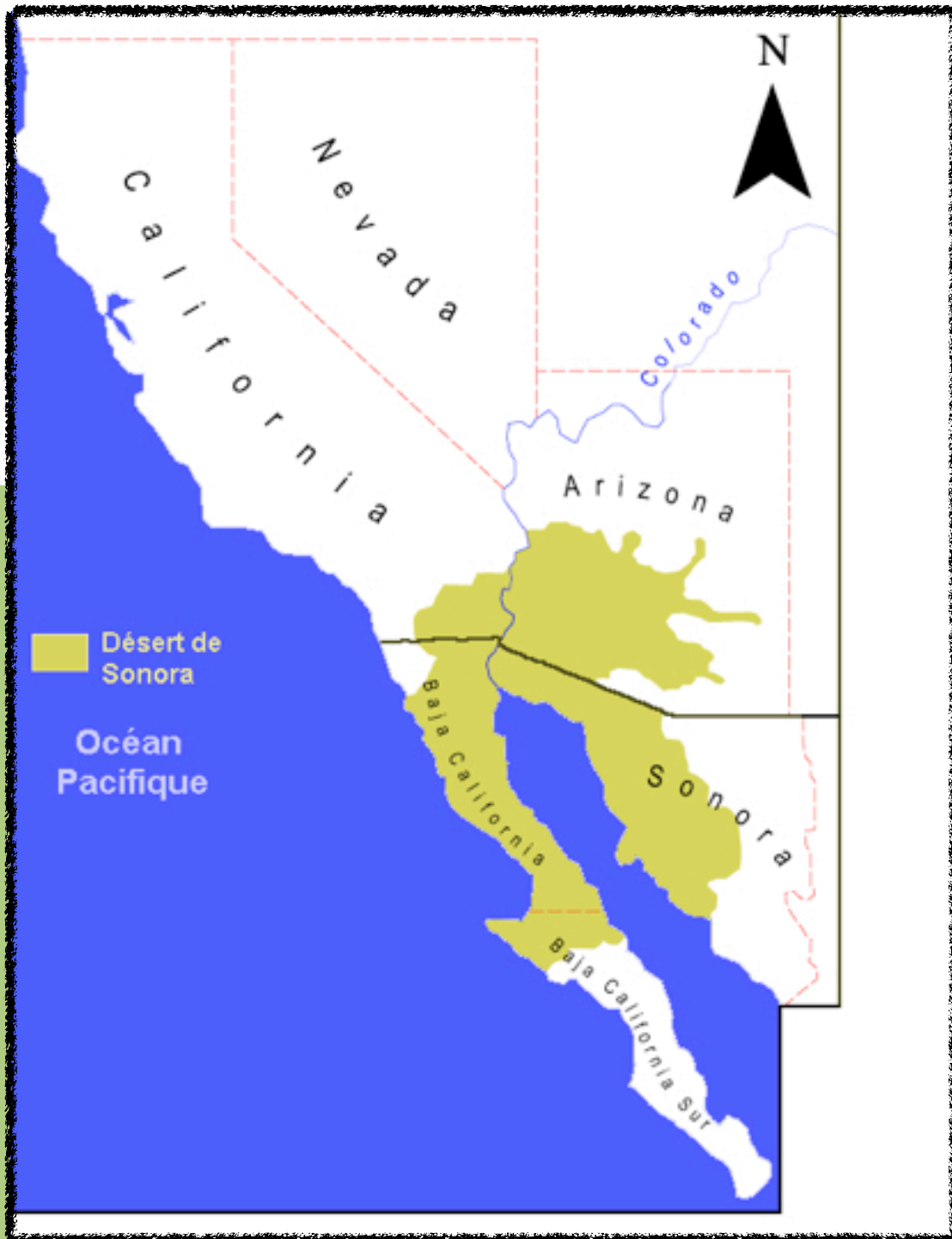




## THE SONORAN DESERT

The Sonoran Desert is the hottest desert in North America. It is located in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. It covers part of the American states of Arizona and California, as well as the Mexican states of Sonora, Baha California, and Baha California Sur. The smaller Colorado Desert is part of the Sonoran Desert, and is known for the unique vegetation and wildlife not found anywhere else in the world.

The Sonoran Desert is to the east of another desert, the Baha California Desert. To the north are deserts that are much colder, due to their higher elevations: these are the Mojave, Great Basin and Colorado Plateau deserts.



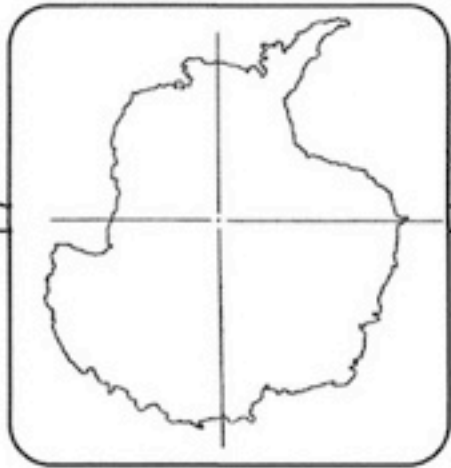
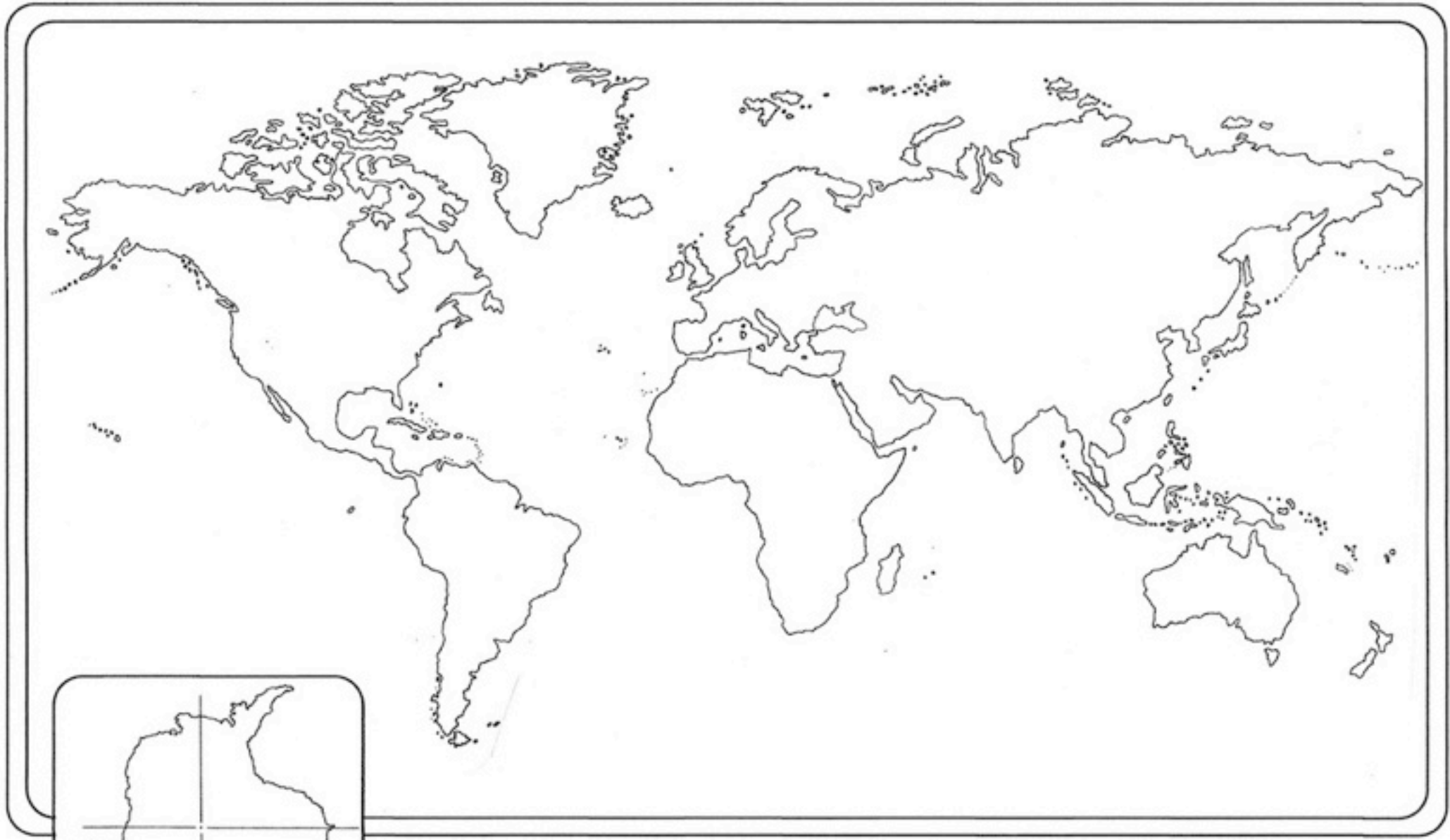
## ON THE MAP!



This map shows the outline of the Sonoran Desert with the US and Mexican States clearly marked.

The ocean and desert “KEY” are given in another language: can you pronounce these words, and what do they mean?

What river shown on the map intersects the Sonoran Desert?



DESERTS

# NEIGHBORS!



## Desert land in Sonora, Mexico

Where is Sonora on the map at left?

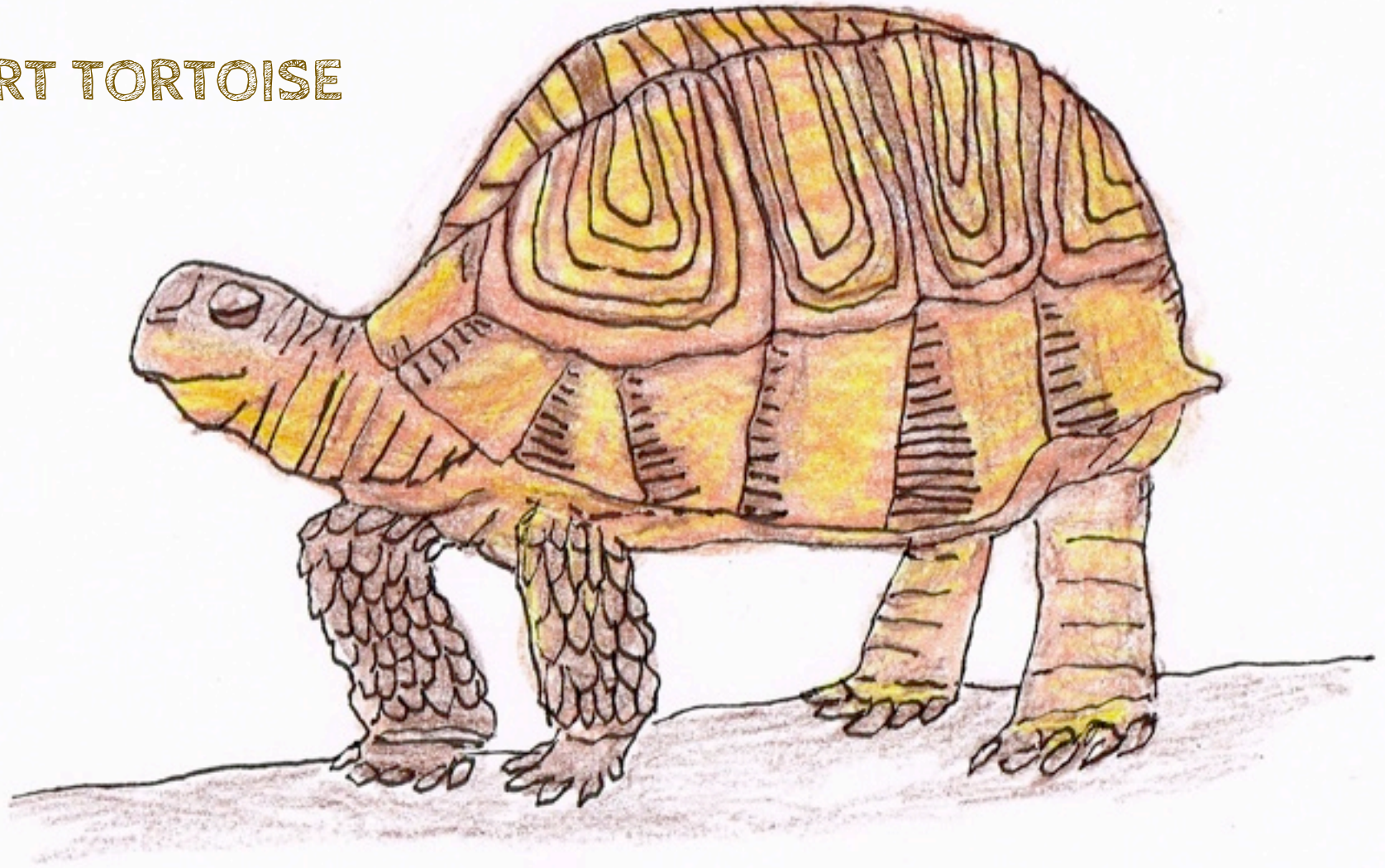
What are the states located on the large PENINSULA in western Mexico?

What American States can you see in the section of the USA at left?

The Sonoran Desert covers approximately 280,000 square kilometers: how many square miles is that?



## DESERT TORTOISE



Desert tortoises can be found in the western parts of the United States, mainly in the Sonoran Desert. These reptiles have been known to live up to 50 years in the wild. They live primarily in burrows, which are underground tunnels that they dig. Most of their lives are spent in these underground burrows in order to deal with the heat of the desert. Due to the lack of water in the desert, these tortoises can store large amounts of fluid in their bodies. They can actually survive up to a year without access to water. The tortoises forage in the spring and eat primarily grass and wildflowers. Since the 1950's, populations have decreased substantially, contributing to their vulnerable status.

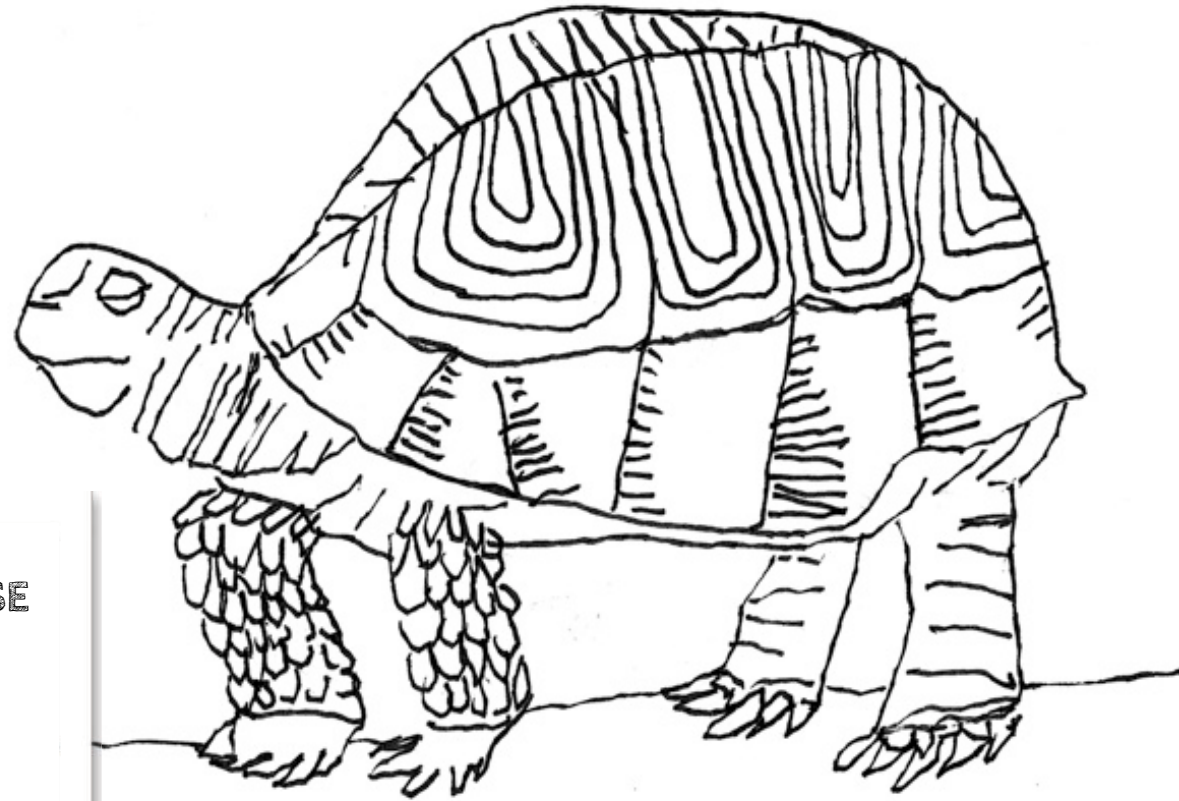
**DESERT  
TORTOISE  
SPELLING**

behavior  
composite  
inactive  
hibernation  
subterranean  
environment  
beneficial  
reliance  
calcium  
temperature  
tunnel  
herbivore  
slow  
burrow  
gravel  
shelter  
maturation

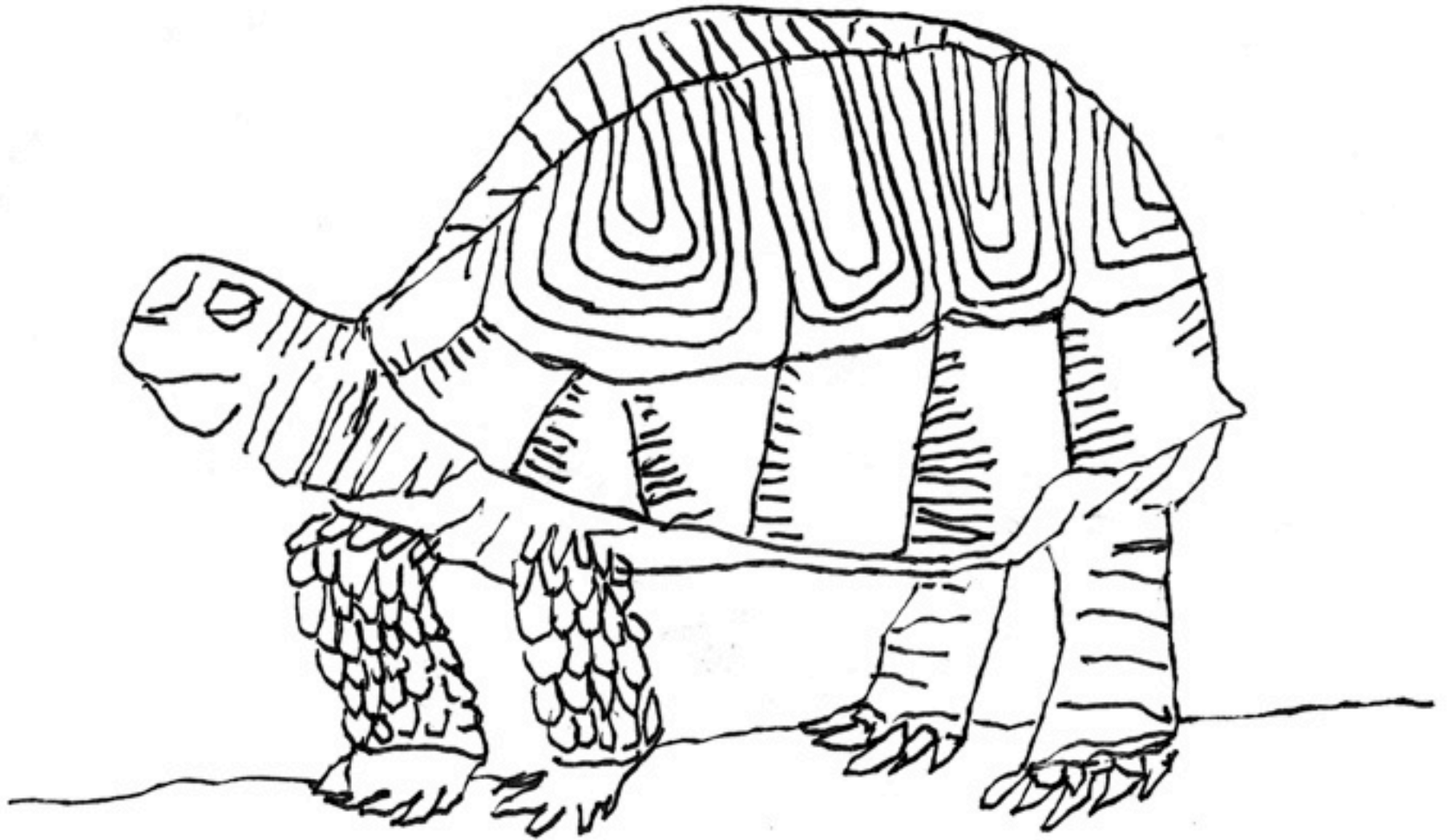


**DESERT TORTOISE  
VOCABULARY**

reptile  
herbivore  
subterranean  
underground  
shelters  
carapace  
grazing  
nests  
eggs  
den  
sniffing  
forage  
gentle  
foothills  
domed (shells)



**DESERT TORTOISE**



DESERT TORTOISE

**SMALL  
INSIDE  
LARGE!**

Smaller deserts within the larger Sonoran Desert each have their own characteristics.

The Yuha Desert is known for its endangered Flat Tail Lizard,  
The Yuma Desert has large sand dunes.

The Tonopah Desert bordered by the Big Horn Mountains  
The Gran Desierto de Altar has what is known as Star Dunes.  
The Colorado Desert has unique flora and fauna

## The Colorado Desert



Choose one of these smaller deserts within the Sonoran Desert and find out more about it. Write about it for presentation in your class!

# SONORAN FLORA!

The Saguaro Cactus is a plant that it is associated with the Sonoran Desert. It has branching “arms” that give it a distinctive look.



In this old photo we see some native Americans gathering the fruit of the Saguaro. Life in the desert was very harsh.



## MORE SONORAN FLORA!

Night-blooming  
cactus,

sacred datura,

and the creosote

bush....

just come of the flora  
to be found in the  
Sonoran Desert.



The photo below is of a JOSHUA TREE, a plant of the Sonoran Desert. A national park is named after this tree. Do some research to find out more about it, and the park that shares its name!



This photo shows an up-close detail of the surface of another type of cactus from the Sonoran Desert:

**The Organ Pipe Cactus.**

Research to find out what this cactus looks like and draw a picture of its unique structure!



**Research to find out some of the other qualities of this unique flora of the desert. What other kinds of native plants are unique to the Sonoran Desert.**

# SAME PLACE, DIFFERENT TIME!

The photo, above right, called **CACTUS, ARIZONA DESERT**, was taken by the American photographer Carleton Watkins in 1880. In his time, only rare individuals or professional photographers had cameras. They were large, bulky, hard-to-carry devices, with frames often made out of wood. Photos were taken with individual plates that had to be inserted carefully and awkwardly into the camera. The photos were developed in a darkroom and painstakingly printed. Black and white was the only option.

Today we can take very high quality color pictures with small devices -- even a tiny camera or a phone!

The photo at right, a very similar scene in the **Sonoran Desert near Maricopa, Arizona**, might have been taken with a pocket sized digital camera!





KANGAROO RAT



CACTUS WREN

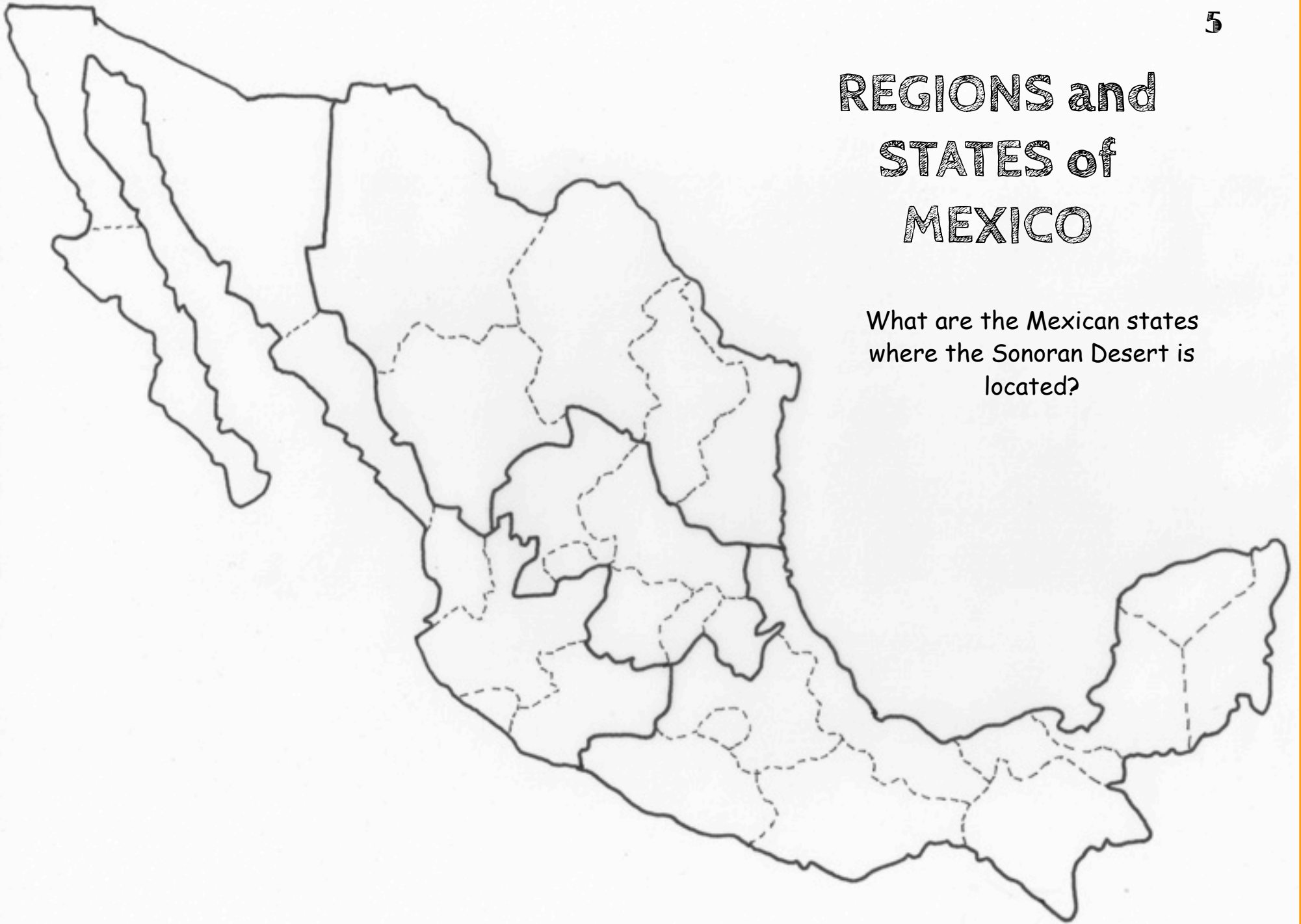


SPADEFoot TOAD

**SONORAN  
DESERT  
CREATURES!**

# REGIONS and STATES of MEXICO

What are the Mexican states  
where the Sonoran Desert is  
located?



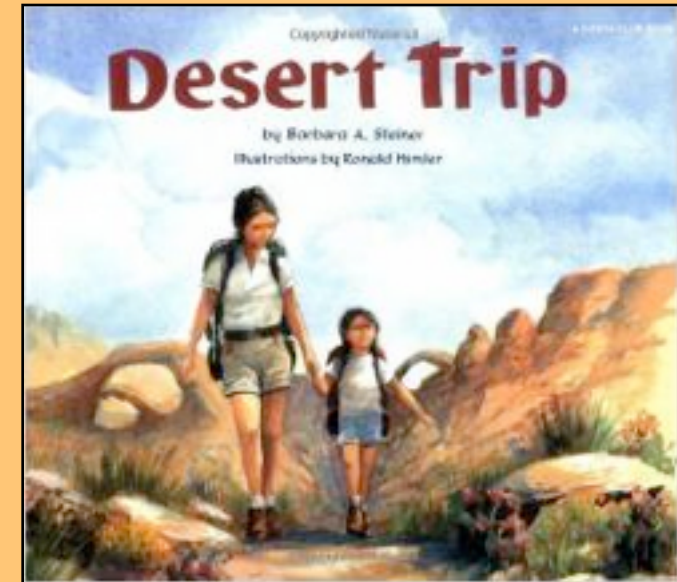
# REGIONS and STATES of MEXICO



D.F. = DISTRITO FEDERAL



# DESERT READING!



A girl and her mother plan a walking trip through the southwestern desert of the United States.

## Lloyd Alexander

### The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

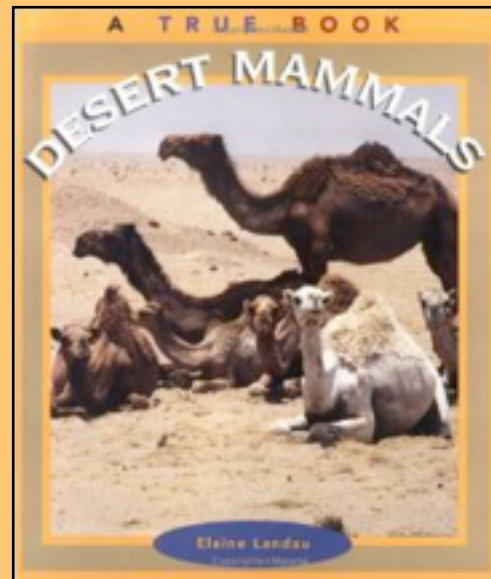
BY THE AUTHOR OF THE CHRONICLES OF PRYDAIN

### The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

by Lloyd Alexander

The young adventurer Carlo Chuchio encounters many curious people while seeking hidden treasure on the Road of Golden Dreams in the desert.

With Baksheesh, the world's worst camel-puller, Carlo leads a caravan through the realm of Keshavar and risks his life for a prize that may not even exist.



### DESERT MAMMALS

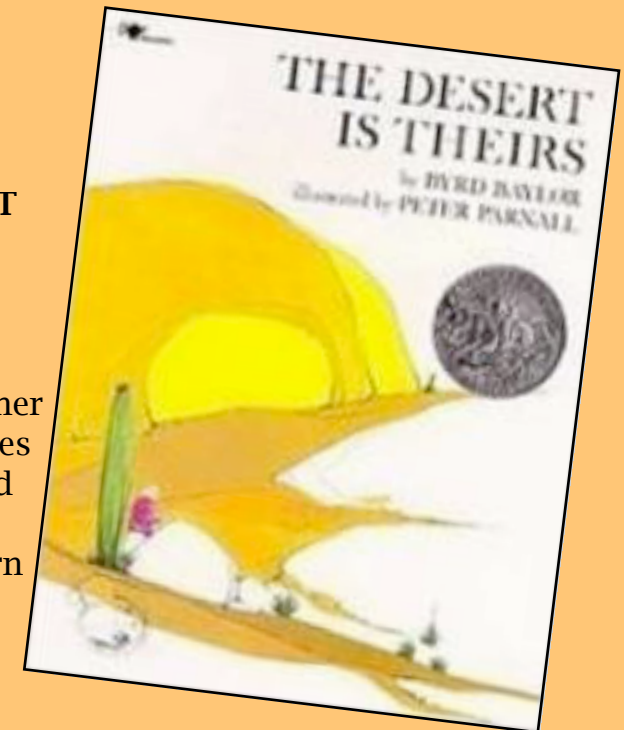
by Elaine Landau

Students can learn more about all the animals that thrive in desert environments.

### THE DESERT IS THEIRS

by Byrd Baylor

A prize-winner that describes the flora and fauna of the southwestern American desert.



# Map of the Month

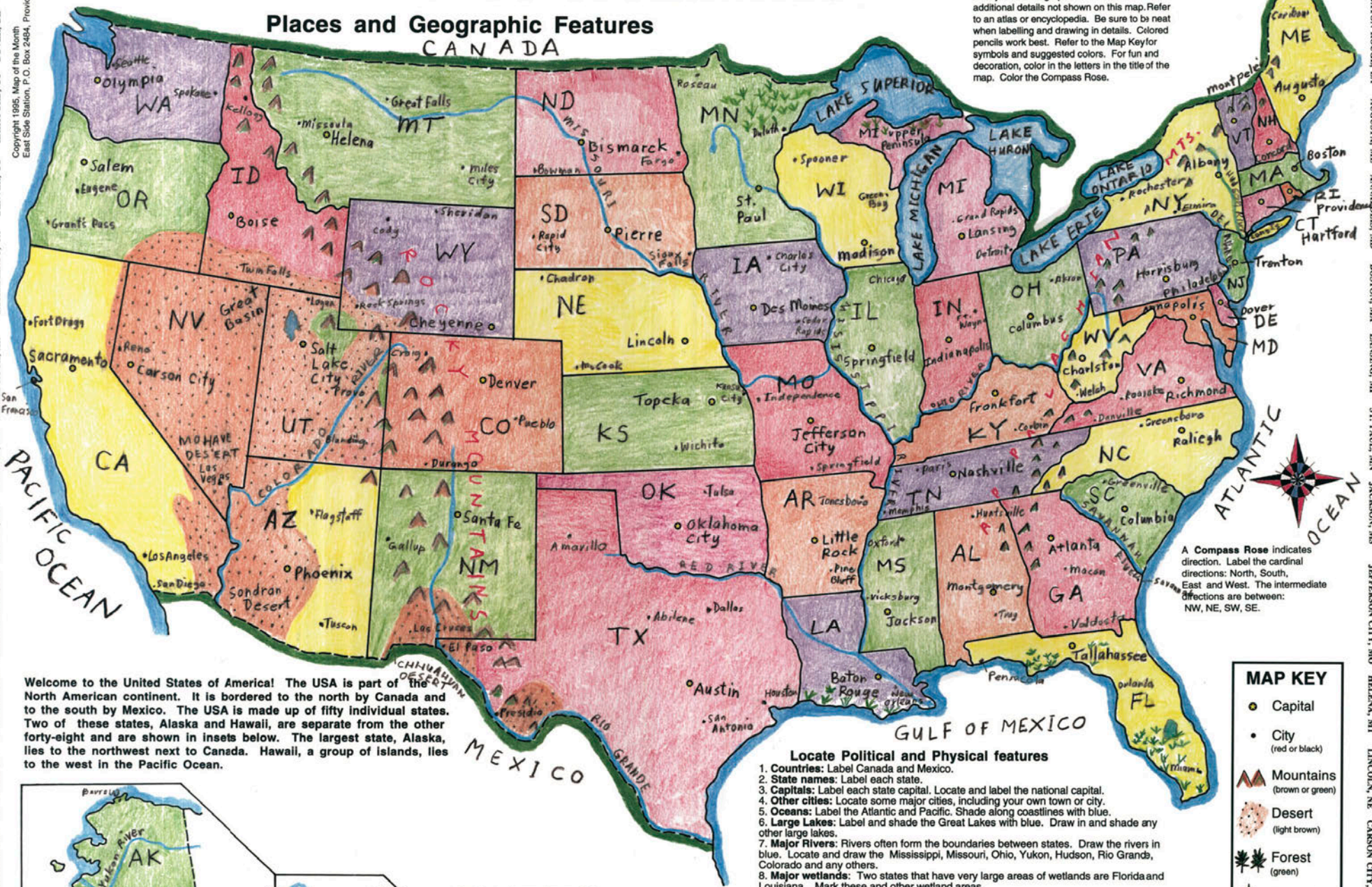
# United States of America

## Places and Geographic Features

CANADA



Your job as cartographer is to fill in some additional details not shown on this map. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Be sure to be neat when labelling and drawing in details. Colored pencils work best. Refer to the Map Key for symbols and suggested colors. For fun and decoration, color in the letters in the title of the map. Color the Compass Rose.



A Compass Rose indicates direction. Label the cardinal directions: North, South, East and West. The intermediate directions are between: NW, NE, SW, SE.

Welcome to the United States of America! The USA is part of the North American continent. It is bordered to the north by Canada and to the south by Mexico. The USA is made up of fifty individual states. Two of these states, Alaska and Hawaii, are separate from the other forty-eight and are shown in insets below. The largest state, Alaska, lies to the northwest next to Canada. Hawaii, a group of islands, lies to the west in the Pacific Ocean.



On the main map, the scale is one inch equals about 150 miles. Because of space limitations, these insets are not drawn to the same scale as the main map. Look at a globe and you'll see that Alaska is much bigger than Texas!

### Locate Political and Physical features

1. Countries: Label Canada and Mexico.
2. State names: Label each state.
3. Capitals: Label each state capital. Locate and label the national capital.
4. Other cities: Locate some major cities, including your own town or city.
5. Oceans: Label the Atlantic and Pacific. Shade along coastlines with blue.
6. Large Lakes: Label and shade the Great Lakes with blue. Draw in and shade any other large lakes.
7. Major Rivers: Rivers often form the boundaries between states. Draw the rivers in blue. Locate and draw the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Yukon, Hudson, Rio Grande, Colorado and any others.
8. Major wetlands: Two states that have very large areas of wetlands are Florida and Louisiana. Mark these and other wetland areas.
9. Deserts: The southwest USA has more dry arid land than any other area. Locate and draw in one or more of these areas.
10. Mountain ranges: Two major mountain ranges are the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains which span many states. Draw and shade them lightly so you don't cover up other important features.

### MAP KEY

- Capital (red or black)
- City (red or black)
- ▲ Mountains (brown or green)
- ◼ Desert (light brown)
- 🌳 Forest (green)
- 🌿 Wetland (green)
- 🌊 River (blue)

# MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

## Places and Geographic Features

Welcome to Mexico and Central America! This area of land is part of the North American continent. Mexico is a large country to the south of the United States. Central America is a region which lies to the south of Mexico and is made up of seven smaller countries. Central America, a narrow strip of land called an isthmus, links the North and South American continents. This land bridge also separates the Atlantic Ocean to the east from the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Between 1904 and 1914, the Panama Canal was built. This man-made water way links the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Previous to the building of this 51 mile long canal, ships were forced to travel around the southernmost tip of South America.

There are a wide variety of land types in this region. In Mexico, there are many mountains, a large desert in the north, and more temperate regions along the Gulf of Mexico and on the Yucatan Peninsula. In both northern and southern Central America, there are large mountainous areas, including active volcanoes. On the Caribbean side of Mexico and Central America, there are dense tropical rainforests. Along the Pacific coast are some low-lying semi-tropical areas.



Some words on this page are highlighted. Can you define these terms?

MAP KEY	
	Capital (black)
	City (red or black)
	Mountains (brown or green)
	Desert (light brown)
	Rainforest (green)
	River (blue)

**Boundary Lines:**  
Why are they drawn differently?  
A solid line shows a coast or shoreline.  
Political boundaries between states and countries are usually shown with broken lines.

### Earthworm's Cartographic Activities

Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details not shown on this map. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Refer to the Map Key for symbols and suggested colors. Be neat when labeling and drawing in details. Colored pencils work best. Shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

**Countries:** Fill in the remaining letters for each country name.

**Capitals:** Locate the capital symbol for each country and fill in the remaining letters for each capital city.

**Cities:** Locate and label two other cities in each country.

**Oceans:** With blue, shade along coastline areas. Label the following bodies of water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of California, Gulf of Honduras, Mosquito Gulf and Gulf of Panama.

**Lakes:** Label and shade Lake Nicaragua with blue. Add Lake Managua.

**Rivers:** Locate and shade the Rio Grandé. Add others.

**Panama Canal:** Locate, draw and label this man-made waterway.

**Mountains:** Locate and draw in Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental, Sierra Madre Del Sur, and Central American Highlands.

**Desert:** Using the symbol in the Map Key, shade the desert regions of northern Mexico.

**Rainforest:** Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw the rainforests of this region.

**Latitude line:** With a sharp pencil, draw in the Tropic of Cancer.

**Compass Rose:** This feature indicates direction. Label the cardinal directions: North, South, East and West. Label the intermediate directions: NW, NE, SW, and SE.

**Decoration:** Color the title of the map, the Compass Rose, and our mascot Earthworm.

### Map of the Month

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Providence, RI 02906-0484  
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# California The Golden State

Some words on this page are highlighted.  
Can you define these terms?

Welcome to California! The state of California is located on the west coast of the United States of America. California is bordered to the north by the state of Oregon and to the east by the states of Nevada and Arizona. California shares its southern boundary with the country of Mexico. To the west lies the Pacific Ocean. In terms of land area, California follows Alaska and Texas as the third largest state. California stretches for almost 800 miles north to south and about 400 miles wide at its widest point. After the most recent 2000 census, California had a population of 33,871,648 people, the highest population of any state in the USA.

California has a variety of different land types as well as climates. The topography includes mountain ranges, valleys, low-lying grasslands, and deserts. Generally speaking, the northern part of the state is moist and cool, with much rainfall. Moving south, the land gets drier and hotter and there is less rain. In the very south, much of the land is hot desert, with little rainfall.

## Earthworm's Tips on Cartography

As Student Cartographer, you will be finishing this map. Here are some hints to help you along the way!

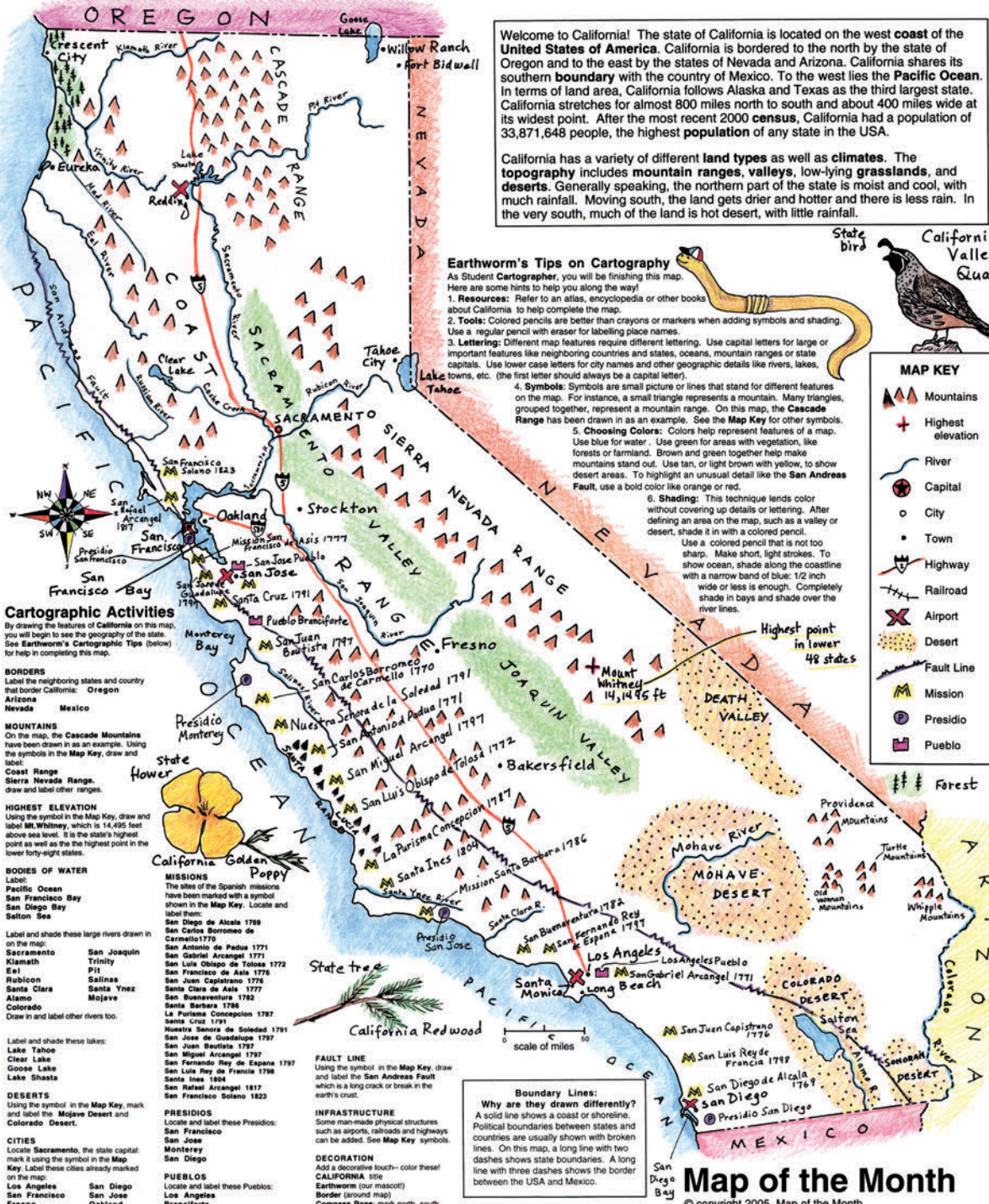
- Resources:** Refer to an atlas, encyclopedia or other books about California to help complete the map.
- Tools:** Colored pencils are better than crayons or markers when adding symbols and shading. Use a regular pencil with eraser for labeling place names.
- Lettering:** Different map features require different lettering. Use capital letters for large or important features like neighboring countries and states, oceans, mountain ranges or state capitals. Use lower case letters for city names and other geographic details like rivers, lakes, towns, etc. (the first letter should always be a capital letter).
- Symbols:** Symbols are small pictures or lines that stand for different features on the map. For instance, a small triangle represents a mountain. Many triangles, grouped together, represent a mountain range. On this map, the Cascade Range has been drawn in as an example. See the Map Key for other symbols.
- Choosing Colors:** Colors help represent features of a map. Use blue for water. Use green for areas with vegetation, like forests or farmland. Brown and green together help make mountains stand out. Use tan, or light brown with yellow, to show desert areas. To highlight an unusual detail like the San Andreas Fault, use a bold color like orange or red.
- Shading:** This technique lends color without covering up details or lettering. After defining an area on the map, such as a valley or desert, shade it in with a colored pencil. Use a colored pencil that is not too sharp. Make short, light strokes. To show ocean, shade along the coastline with a narrow band of blue: 1/2 inch wide or less is enough. Completely shade in bays and shade over the river lines.



State bird  
California Valley Quail

## MAP KEY

- Mountains
- Highest elevation
- River
- Capital
- City
- Town
- Highway
- Railroad
- Airport
- Desert
- Fault Line
- Mission
- Presidio
- Pueblo
- Forest



## Cartographic Activities

By drawing the features of California on this map, you will begin to see the geography of the state. See Earthworm's Cartographic Tips (below) for help in completing this map.

**BORDERS**  
Label the neighboring states and country that border California: Oregon, Arizona, Nevada, Mexico.

**MOUNTAINS**  
On the map, the Cascade Mountains have been drawn in as an example. Using the symbols in the Map Key, draw and label: Coast Range, Sierra Nevada Range.

**HIGHEST ELEVATION**  
Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw and label Mt. Whitney, which is 14,494 feet above sea level. It is the state's highest point as well as the highest point in the lower forty-eight states.

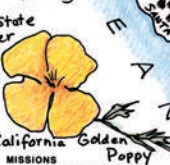
**BODIES OF WATER**  
Label: Pacific Ocean, San Francisco Bay, San Diego Bay, Salton Sea.

Label and shade these large rivers drawn in on the map:  
Sacramento, Klamath, Eel, Rubicon, Santa Clara, Alamo, Colorado.  
Draw in and label other rivers too.

Label and shade these lakes:  
Lake Tahoe, Clear Lake, Goose Lake, Lake Shasta.

**DESERTS**  
Using the symbol in the Map Key, mark and label the Mojave Desert and Colorado Desert.

**CITIES**  
Locate Sacramento, the state capital; mark it using the symbol in the Map Key. Label these cities already marked on the map:  
Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Fresno, Oakland.  
Add others, including your city or town.



State flower  
California Golden Poppy



State tree  
California Redwood

**MISSIONS**  
The sites of the Spanish missions have been marked with a symbol shown in the Map Key. Locate and label them:  
San Diego de Alcalá 1769  
San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo 1770  
San Antonio de Padua 1771  
San Gabriel Arcángel 1771  
San Luis Obispo de Tolosa 1772  
San Francisco de Asís 1776  
San Juan Capistrano 1776  
Santa Clara de Asís 1777  
San Buenaventura 1782  
Santa Barbara 1786  
La Purísima Concepción 1787  
Santa Cruz 1791  
Nuestra Señora de Soledad 1791  
San José de Guadalupe 1797  
San Juan Bautista 1797  
San Miguel Arcángel 1797  
San Fernando Rey de España 1797  
San Luis Rey de Francia 1798  
Santa Inés 1804  
San Rafael Arcángel 1817  
San Francisco Solano 1823

**PRESIDIOS**  
Locate and label these Presidios:  
San Francisco  
San Jose  
Monterey  
San Diego

**PUEBLOS**  
Locate and label these Pueblos:  
Los Angeles  
Fresno  
Oakland  
San Jose

**FAULT LINE**  
Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw and label the San Andreas Fault which is a long crack or break in the earth's crust.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Some man-made physical structures such as airports, railroads and highways can be added. See Map Key symbols.

**DECORATION**  
Add a decorative touch—color these! CALIFORNIA title, Earthworm (our mascot), Border (around map), Compass Rose: mark north, south, east and west.

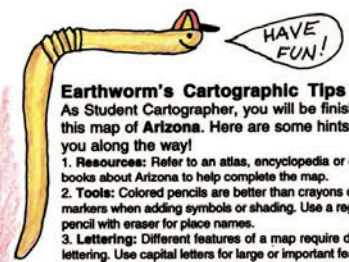
**Boundary Lines:**  
Why are they drawn differently?  
A solid line shows a coast or shoreline. Political boundaries between states and countries are usually shown with broken lines. On this map, a long line with two dashes shows state boundaries. A long line with three dashes shows the border between the USA and Mexico.

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## Map of the Month

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# ARIZONA The Grand Canyon State



- Earthworm's Cartographic Tips**  
As Student Cartographer, you will be finishing this map of Arizona. Here are some hints to help you along the way!
- Resources:** Refer to an atlas, encyclopedia or other books about Arizona to help complete the map.
  - Tools:** Colored pencils are better than crayons or markers when adding symbols or shading. Use a regular pencil with eraser for place names.
  - Lettering:** Different features of a map require different lettering. Use capital letters for large or important features like neighboring states, mountain ranges or state capital. Use lower case letters for city names and less prominent geographic details, like rivers, lakes, towns, etc. (the first letter should always be a capital letter).
  - Symbols:** Symbols are small pictures that stand for different features on the map. For instance, a small triangle represents a mountain. Many triangles, grouped together, represent a mountain range. On this map, some of the Black Mountains have been drawn in as an example. See the Map Key for additional symbols.
  - Choosing colors:** Use colors that help represent features of a map. Use blue for water and green for areas with much vegetation, like forests or farmland. Brown and green used together help make mountains stand out. Choose a bold color like red or orange to highlight the dotted lines indicating parks or reservations. Use a pale color, like yellow, to fill in these areas. Use tan to shade desert areas.
  - Shading:** This technique lends color without covering up details or lettering. After defining an area on the map, such as a mountain range, shade it with a colored pencil that's not too sharp. Make short light strokes. With blue, completely shade in lakes and shade over river lines.

Welcome to Arizona! The state of Arizona is located in the Southwest region of the continental United States. Arizona is bordered to the north by the state of Utah, Nevada and California lie to the west. Arizona shares its eastern boundary with New Mexico. The country of Mexico lies to the south.

Two major topographical regions occur in Arizona: the Colorado Plateau, and the Basin and Range regions. Arizona is known for its arid climate and its ancient and dramatic rock formations.

The Colorado Plateau spans several western states. The northeast section of Arizona, two-fifths of the state, is part of the area. It is known for high elevations, deep cliffs and canyons. This is where the Grand Canyon is located, the largest canyon in the world. It is roughly 217 long, 4 to 14 miles wide and 1 mile deep. The Colorado River flows through the canyon. Also in this area are the Navajo Canyon and Dettl Canyon. There are many high peaks in this region of the state, ranging from 6,000 to over 12,000 feet in elevation. In this area there are many extinct volcanic cones. The Painted Desert is a famous area full of brilliantly colored rocks.

The southeastern part of Arizona is in the Basin and Range region. This area has alternating mountain ranges and deep basins. The Mexican Highland section fills most of the east. The Gila Desert, in the southeast part of the state, is formed of lower ranges and basins. This area is filled with ancient rock formations and the majestic saguaro cactus.

In terms of land area, Arizona is ranked sixth of the fifty states. Arizona stretches for about 389 miles from north to south and about 337 miles wide from east to west at its widest points. At the time of the 2000 United States census, Arizona had approximately 2,673,400 residents.

Some words are highlighted. Can you define these words?

**Cartographic Activities** By drawing the features of Arizona on this map, you will begin to see the geography of the state. See Earthworm's Cartographic Tips (at top right) for help in completing this map.

**BORDERS**  
Label the neighboring states and country that border Arizona:  
Utah California  
New Mexico Nevada  
Label the corner of the state of Arizona, which is part of the Four Corners area. Here the four states of Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado meet.

Label the border where the country of Mexico meets the state of Arizona.

**MOUNTAINS**  
Some of the Black Mountains are drawn in on the map. Using the symbol in the Map Key, complete this range and draw in other mountains in the state too.

**HIGHEST ELEVATION**  
Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw and label Humphrey's Peak, which is 12,833 feet above sea level. It is Arizona's highest point.

**BODIES OF WATER**  
Label and shade these large rivers drawn in on the map:  
Gila River Salt River  
Colorado River (forms border of state)

**Lake Mohave Lake Mead**  
Lake Powell  
Draw and label other bodies of water too.

**DESERT**  
Using the symbol in the Map Key, outline the Gila Desert - also known as SONORAN

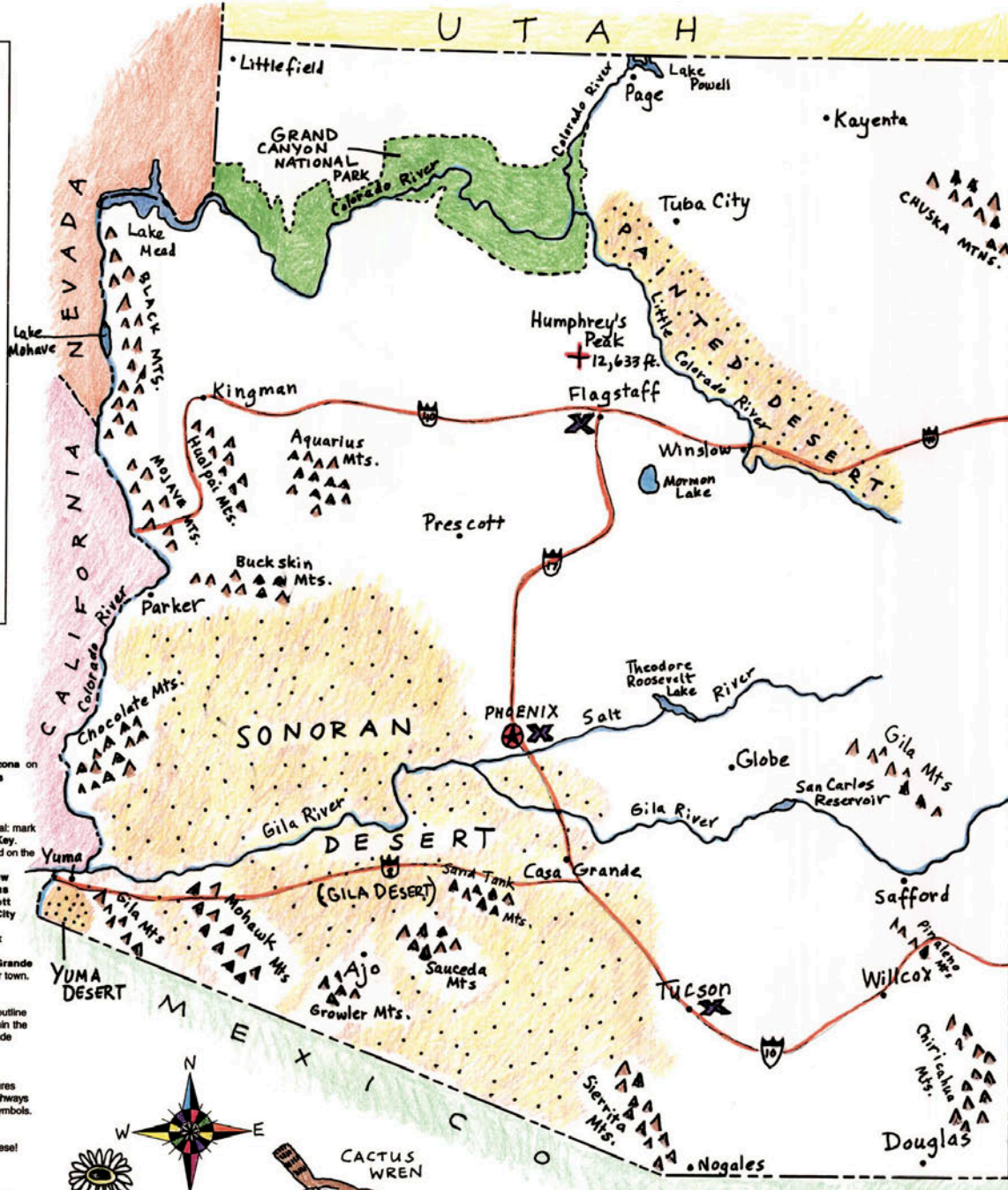
**CITIES**  
Locate Phoenix, the state capital: mark it using the symbol in the Map Key. Label these cities already marked on the map:  
Flagstaff Winslow  
Tucson Douglas  
Yuma Prescott  
Parker Tuba City  
Kingman Page  
Globe Wilcox  
Safford Ajo  
Casa Grande  
Add others, including your city or town.

**NATIONAL PARKS**  
Using the line in the Map Key, outline the Grand Canyon. Shade within the lines in light green. Draw and shade other national parks if you like.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Some man-made physical structures such as airports, railroads and highways can be added. See Map Key symbols.

**DECORATION**  
Add a decorative touch - color these!  
ARIZONA title  
Earthworm (our mascot)  
Border (around map)  
Compass Rose: mark north, south, east and west.

Draw these on your finished map:  
State Flower: saguaro cactus blossom  
State Bird: cactus wren



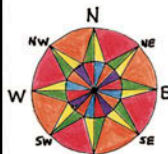
**Boundary Lines**  
A solid line shows a coast or a shoreline. Political lines between states and countries are often shown with broken lines. On this map, a line with two dashes shows state boundaries, and a line with three dashes shows the boundary with the country of Mexico.

**MAP KEY**

- ▲▲▲ Mountains
- + Highest elevation
- ~ River
- Capital
- City
- Town
- Ⓜ Highway
- ⓧ Railroad
- ✈ Airport
- ☉ Desert
- ⬢ National Park (outline)



**Map of the Month**  
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# NORTH AMERICA

## Map of the Month

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Visit us at [www.mapofthemoth.com](http://www.mapofthemoth.com)

### USA FEATURES

Label states and outline the regions. Each state name has an abbreviation that you can use. You may want to label other details, such as state capitals, major cities, large lakes, etc.

#### Northeastern states

CT Connecticut  
DE Delaware  
ME Maine  
MD Maryland  
MA Massachusetts  
NH New Hampshire  
NJ New Jersey  
NY New York  
PA Pennsylvania  
RI Rhode Island  
VT Vermont  
(DC District of Columbia)

#### Southeastern states

AL Alabama  
FL Florida  
GA Georgia  
KY Kentucky  
NC North Carolina  
SC South Carolina  
TN Tennessee  
VA Virginia  
WV West Virginia

#### South Central states

AR Arkansas  
LA Louisiana  
MS Mississippi  
OK Oklahoma  
TX Texas

#### Midwestern states

KS Kansas  
MN Minnesota  
IA Iowa  
MO Missouri  
IL Illinois  
WI Wisconsin  
MI Michigan  
OH Ohio  
IN Indiana  
ND North Dakota  
SD South Dakota  
NE Nebraska

#### Northwestern states

AK Alaska  
ID Idaho  
MT Montana  
OR Oregon  
WA Washington  
WY Wyoming

#### Southwestern states

AZ Arizona  
CA California  
CO Colorado  
NV Nevada  
NM New Mexico  
UT Utah

#### Pacific state

Draw an arrow in the direction of this state  
HI Hawaii

North America is the third largest continent in terms of land area. It is located in the northern and western hemispheres. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. To the north is the Arctic Ocean. The Caribbean Sea is to the southeast.

North America has three large countries: Canada, the United States and Mexico. In addition, the area known as Central America is made up of seven smaller countries. There are many small islands in the Caribbean; some are independent countries, others are territories of the US or European countries. The largest island in the world, Greenland, is a territory of the Scandinavian country of Denmark. Most geographers agree that the most southern point of the North American continent occurs at the Isthmus of Panama.

Within this continent, the climate varies from the northern arctic regions to the deserts of the American Southwest to the tropical areas of the American Southeast and the Caribbean.

There are many notable geographic features in North America. Many mountain ranges extend along the western areas from Alaska to Panama. In the east, the land tends to be lower in elevation. Here the most significant ranges are part of the Appalachian Mountains. There are also highlands in Labrador and the Baffin Islands. There are many large lakes and rivers in North America. The most obvious on the map are the Great Lakes, which are clustered around the northern border of the United States.

### ACTIVITIES

Label the physical and political features of North America.  
Color the countries, states and provinces with different colors.  
Color the bodies of water, including the oceans, a light blue.

### COUNTRIES and TERRITORIES

CANADA  
USA  
MEXICO  
BELIZE  
GUATEMALA  
EL SALVADOR  
HONDURAS  
NICARAGUA  
COSTA RICA  
PANAMA  
BAHAMAS  
CUBA  
JAMAICA  
HAITI  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
PUERTO RICO  
GREENLAND

The following islands are so small it may not be easy to label them!

Try your best!  
VIRGIN ISLANDS  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
GUADALUPE  
MARTINIQUE  
MONTSERAT  
DOMINICA  
ST. LUCIA  
BARBADOS  
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES  
GRENADA  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
ARUBA  
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES  
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

### BODIES OF WATER

Arctic Ocean  
Atlantic Ocean  
Pacific Ocean  
Gulf of Mexico  
Hudson Bay  
Labrador Sea  
Baffin Bay  
Beaufort Sea  
Gulf of Alaska  
Caribbean Sea  
Gulf of California

### Lakes

Lake Huron  
Lake Ontario  
Lake Michigan  
Lake Erie  
Lake Superior  
Great Bear Lake  
Great Slave Lake  
Lake Winnipeg

### Rivers

Draw in and label these major rivers: many run along state boundaries.  
Ohio River  
Mississippi River  
Missouri River  
Yukon River

### MOUNTAINS

Using the triangular symbol shown here, draw in and label these major ranges.  
Rocky Mountains  
Appalachian Mountains  
Sierra Madre Oriental

### CANADIAN PROVINCES

Label these provinces.  
Prince Edward Island  
New Brunswick  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Quebec  
Ontario  
Manitoba  
Nunavut  
Northwest Territories  
Yukon Territory  
British Columbia  
Alberta  
Saskatchewan  
Nova Scotia

### MAP KEY

• Capital  
• City  
▲▲▲ Mountains  
— River (blue)  
☀ Desert



Every state has official symbols, such as a state bird or state tree. Research the symbols for your state and draw them here.

### DECORATIVE FEATURES

Color the Compass Rose and the Title.