

# What is a MAP CHALLENGE?

This **Map Challenge** is a special workshop, challenging you to learn more -- taking you through the labeling of this map in detail!

A **Map Challenge** helps you really get involved when completing our maps!



Wherever you see Earthworm, our mascot, at his computer, you will find some fun additional activities!

# MAP CHALLENGE!

Expanded Map Workshops for Map of the Month's Individual maps

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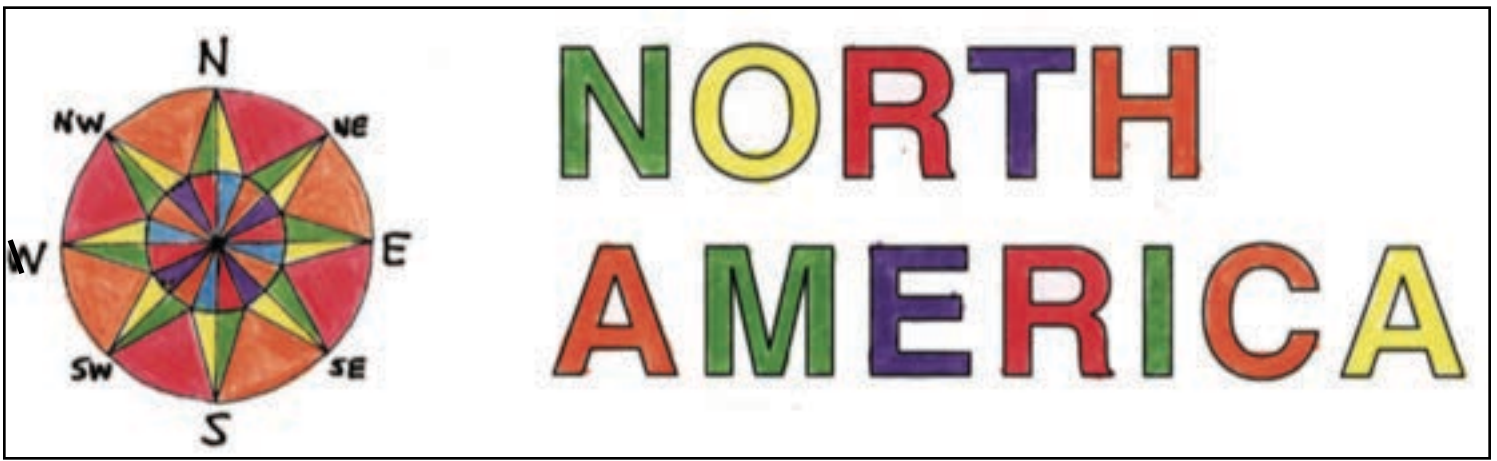
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We are excited that you are starting to work on one of our favorite maps: NORTH AMERICA.

LET'S GET STARTED!

**TITLE:** A great place to start!

Color in the letters of "NORTH AMERICA" in a decorative way that pleases you. The colors and pattern choices are endless. Here we have made ours multicolored!



Another important part of this map is the COMPASS ROSE.

The map feature called the COMPASS ROSE will help you with the directions around the map. It is also a great decoration for your map.

1. Label the FOUR CARDINAL DIRECTIONS on the map:

**NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST**

Remember these by the phrase:

**NEVER EAT SOUR WORMS!**

2. In between the Cardinal Directions are FOUR INTERMEDIATE DIRECTIONS:

**Northeast Southeast Northwest Southwest**

Abbreviations are:

**NE SE NW SW**



# COMPARE AND CONTRAST: LABELING ISLANDS!



Two islands that are part of North America are very different in size! Each of them must be labeled in a different way.

FIRST-- Locate this area, at left, on your map!  
Find the island of GREENLAND!  
Find the island of BERMUDA!

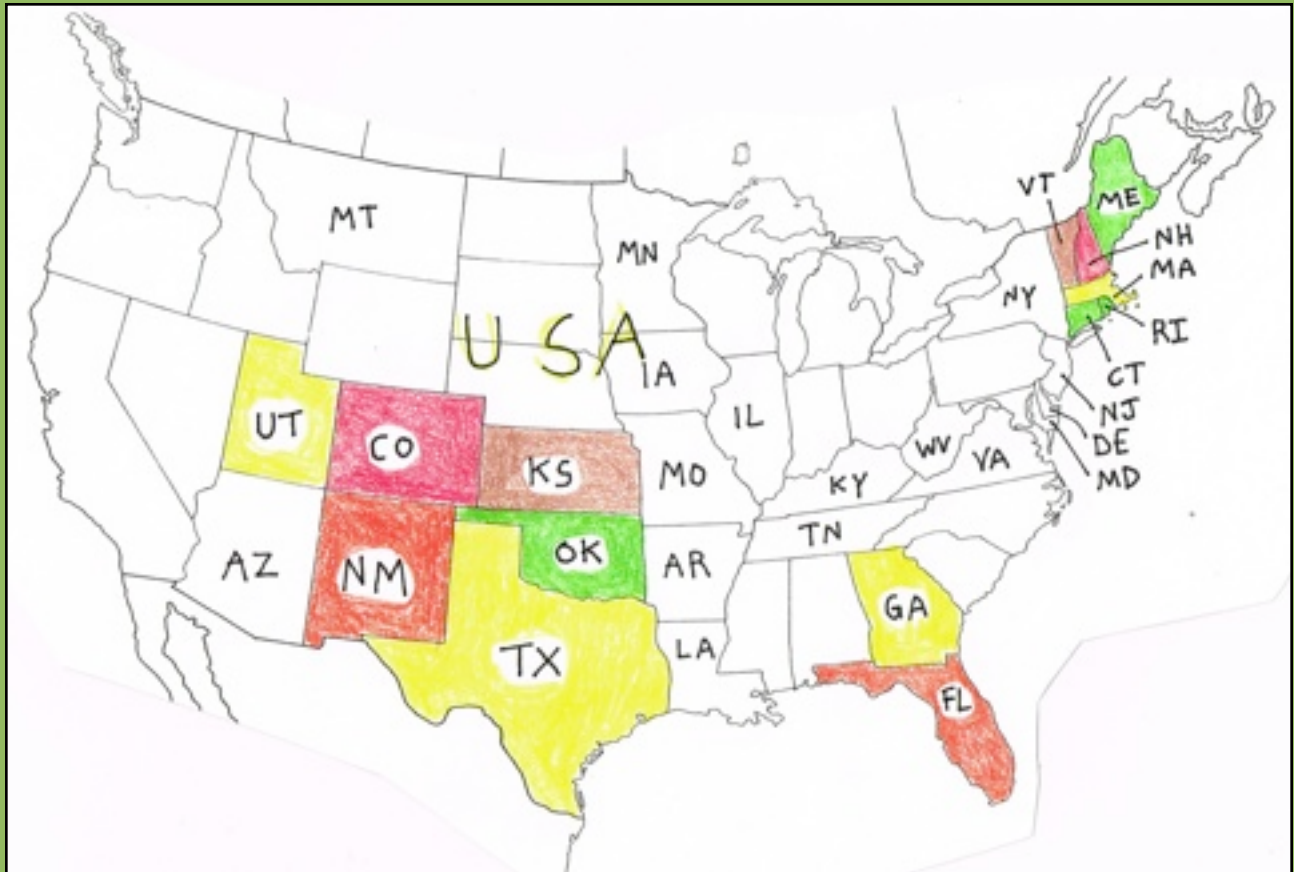


GREENLAND is so big that it can be labeled right on the island. Shade the blue outline around it!



BERMUDA is so small that you must write its name alongside the island. Just a little blue is needed for BERMUDA!

# LABELING USA STATES!



A good way to start working on this map of NORTH AMERICA is to start labeling the USA states. All USA states, except for Hawaii (HI) are shown on this North America map.

**STATE NAMES:** In the USA, political divisions are called STATES. We suggest using the two-letter abbreviation for each state.

**LETTERING:** Use capital letters. Keep your lettering as level and even as possible: this will make the map easier to read.

**LEADER LINES:** Some of the smaller states in the Northeast might be too small to label directly, so you can use a leader line to label. Draw a line from the state out to the side and then write the state name at the end of this leader line.

**COLORING:** When you color the state, avoid coloring on the lettering! This also makes your map easier to read!

# LABELING CANADA!

**POLITICAL DIVISIONS:** In CANADA, the political divisions are called Provinces and Territories.

## LETTERING:

When labeling these areas, use **CAPITAL** letters.

Try to make the lettering **LEVEL** when possible.

Depending on the shape of the area, you may have to write the letters in a **VERTICAL**, or up and down, way. See **SASKATCHEWAN**!

**SPELLING!** Be careful of your spelling! Some of these names are a bit tricky!



# LABELING MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA!

**COUNTRIES** When labeling these countries on your map, use **CAPITAL** letters.

**LETTERING** Try to make the lettering **LEVEL** when possible.

**LEADER LINES** The smaller countries on the map are too small to label directly, so you can use a leader lines to label. Draw a line from the country out to the side and then write the country name at the end of this leader line.

**AGAIN--** Be careful of your spelling! Some of these names are also a bit tricky!





The Pacific Ocean and the Arctic Ocean are connected by the Bering Strait which runs between Alaska and Russia.

## LABELING THE ARCTIC OCEAN, other NORTHERN bodies of water and neighboring islands

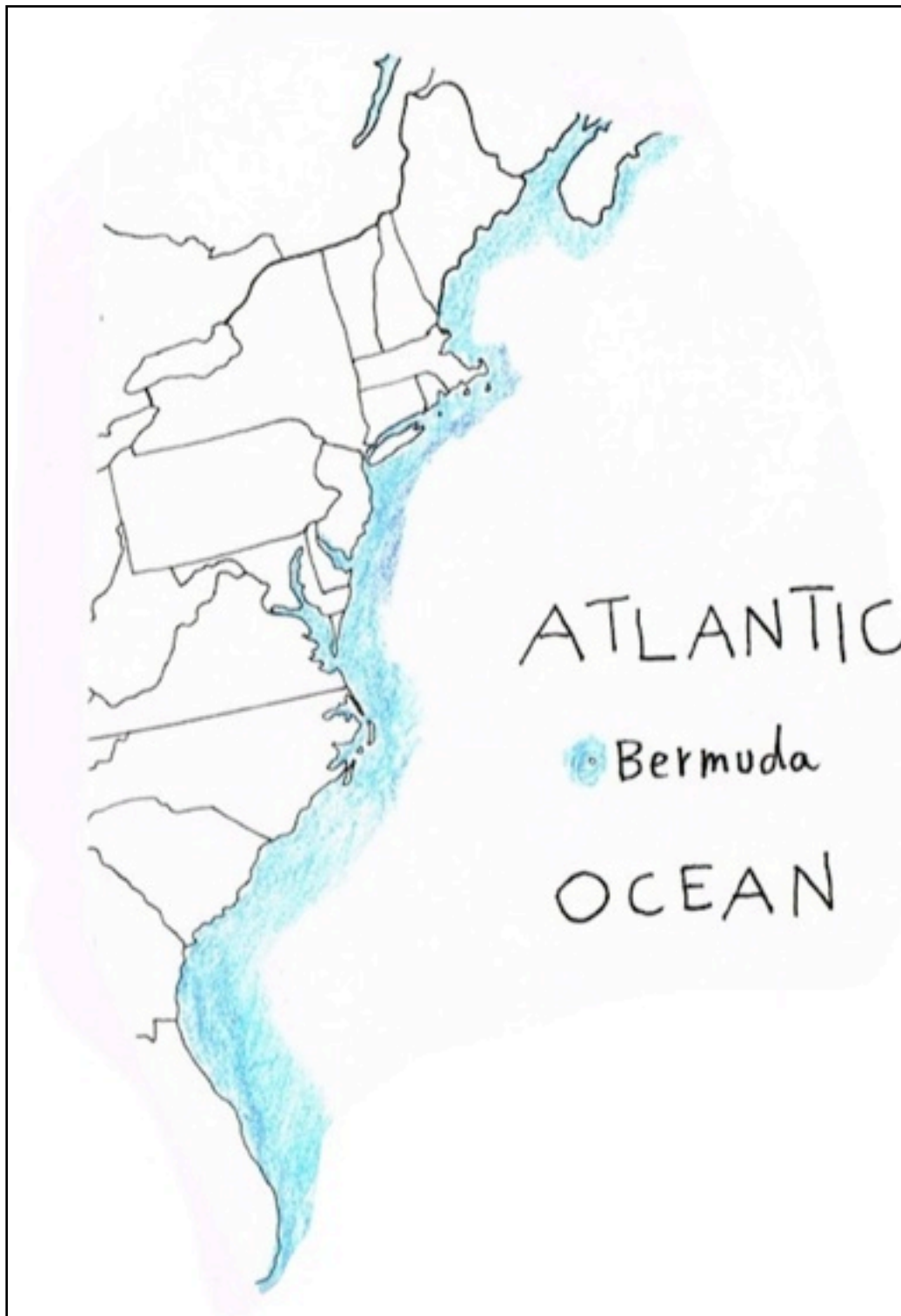
### LETTERING:

The **ARCTIC OCEAN** should be labeled using **CAPITAL LETTERS**.

When labeling islands and smaller bodies of water on your map, use **LOWER CASE** letters.

**ABBREVIATION:** We have used the abbreviation "Isl." for "Island" when there is a small amount of space.

**COLOR:** Shade around the islands and coastlines with **BLUE!**



## LABELING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, and island of Bermuda

### LETTERING:

The **ATLANTIC OCEAN** should be labeled using **CAPITAL LETTERS**.

When labeling the island of Bermuda, use use **Lower Case** letters, with the first letter capitalized.

**COLOR:** Shade around the islands and coastlines with **BLUE!**



## LABELING THE PACIFIC OCEAN,

### LETTERING:

The **PACIFIC OCEAN** should be labeled using **CAPITAL LETTERS**.

When labeling small bodies of water, like the Gulf of California, use **Lower Case** letters, with the first letter capitalized.

**COLOR:** Shade around the coastlines with **BLUE!**

# NORTH AMERICA NEIGHBORS!

## BODIES OF WATER

There are many bodies of water that surround the continent of North America. There are some details about the larger ones.

### FAST FACTS!!!

#### THE PACIFIC OCEAN:

#### to the west of North America

- \* The Pacific Ocean is the largest of all the oceans in the world. Half of the ocean water in the world is in the Pacific Ocean.
- \* When you look at a map of North America, the Pacific Ocean borders Canada, the United States, Mexico, and Central America, to the west.
- \* The Pacific Ocean is divided by the equator into two sections, the North Pacific Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean.
- \* Unlike the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean doesn't have as many smaller connected seas and bodies of water.
- \* The Pacific Ocean is also the deepest ocean in the world. The average depth of the Pacific is about 3800 meters.

The temperatures of the Pacific waters are dependent on the location. The water temperature increases in areas closer to the equator and colder in areas closer to the poles.

Choose one of the above FAST FACTS. Do some research to learn a little more about it, and write a small essay!



# FAST FACTS!

## TO THE EAST: THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

- \* The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest ocean in the world.
- \* When looking at a map of North America, the Atlantic Ocean borders these countries:
  - Canada
  - United States
  - Mexico and Central America to the east.
- \* The Atlantic Ocean is divided by the EQUATOR into two sections:
  - North Atlantic Ocean
  - South Atlantic Ocean.
- \* There are a number of large bodies of water that are connected to the Atlantic Ocean. Some of the larger ones are:
  - Caribbean Sea
  - Gulf of Mexico
  - Hudson Bay
- \* To the north, the Atlantic Ocean connects to the Arctic Ocean.
- \*
- \* To the south, the Atlantic meets the Southern Ocean.
- \* The climate of the land that borders the Atlantic Ocean is dependent upon ocean currents and winds.

Choose one of the above FAST FACTS. Do some research to learn a little more about it, and write a small essay!



# How are the oceans connected?

When you look at a map, you can see that all the different oceans of the world are all connected. When looking at North America, you can see that all three oceans the border the continent are connected by small pathways.

## PANAMA CANAL

One way that the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans are connected is by the Panama Canal. The Panama Canal is located in the Central American country of Panama and is a channel of water that is man-made, cut across pieces of land in the narrow strip at the center of the country of Panama.

The Panama Canal was built in the early 1900's. The canal was a huge project, started by the French and completed by the United States. The canal allows ships to pass from one large ocean to another, safely and quickly. The canal allows ships to avoid navigating the long journey around the southern tip of South America.



The land where the canal is built is known as an **ISTHMUS**: it is a narrow strip of land connecting two larger areas of land, with bodies of water to either side.



## ALASKA COAST

### LETTERING:

The **PACIFIC OCEAN** should be labeled using **CAPITAL LETTERS**.

When labeling smaller bodies of water on your map, use **Lower Case** letters, with the first letter capitalized.

**COLOR:** Shade around the islands and coastlines with **BLUE!**



## LABELING THE ARCTIC OCEAN, other NORTHERN bodies of water and neighboring islands

**LETTERING:** The **ARCTIC OCEAN** and the large island of **GREENLAND** should be labeled using **CAPITAL LETTERS**.

When labeling islands and smaller bodies of water on your map, use **Lower Case** letters, with the first letter capitalized.

**ABBREVIATION:** We have used the abbreviation "Isl." for "Island" when there is a small amount of space.

**COLOR:** Shade around the islands and coastlines with **BLUE!**



## RIVERS!

With pencil, draw in these rivers on your map. When you have drawn them in, you can shade over the lines with **BLUE**.

1. MISSISSIPPI RIVER
2. OHIO RIVER
3. MISSOURI RIVER
4. YUKON RIVER

Label other rivers on your map if you like!

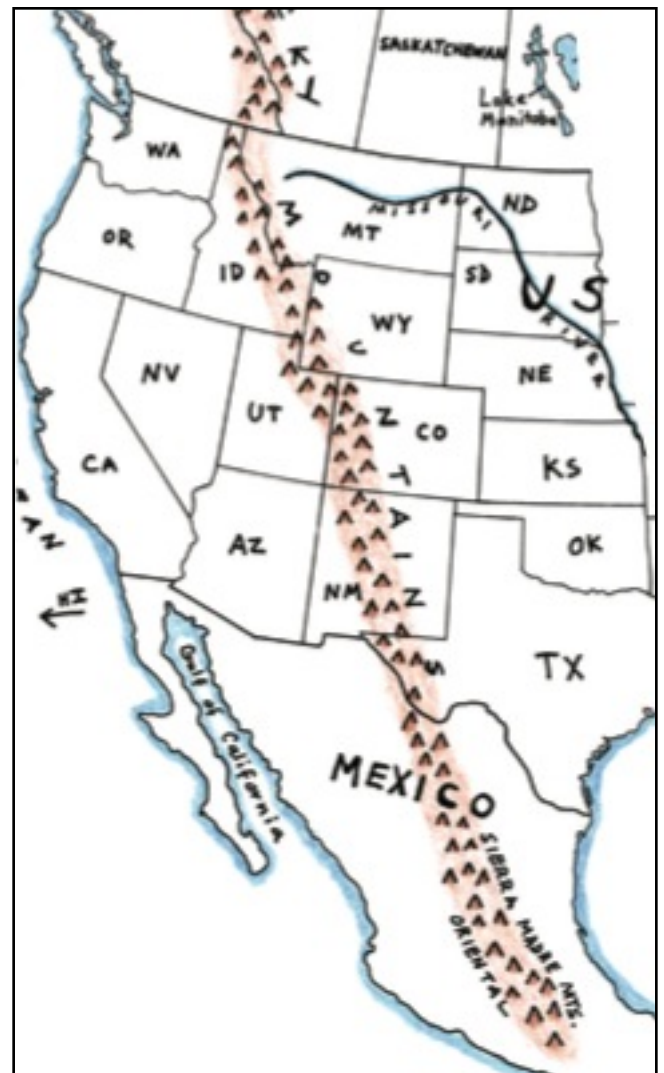
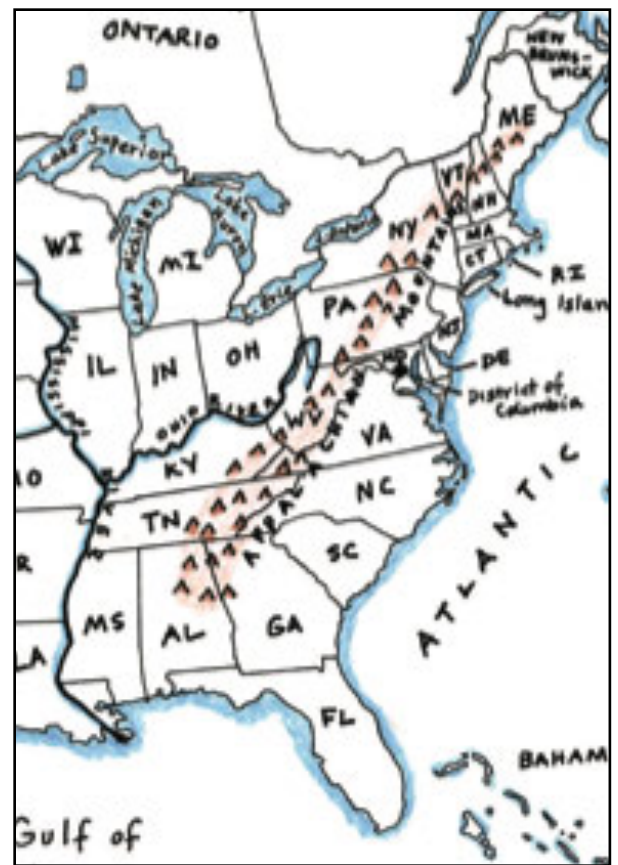


## MOUNTAIN RANGES

With pencil and the triangular shape shown in the **MAP KEY**, draw in these **TWO MAJOR** North American **MOUNTAIN RANGES**:

1. ROCKY MOUNTAINS
2. APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

When you have drawn them in, you can shade over the lines with **BROWN**.



# Sierra Madre Oriental

The *Sierra Madre Oriental* mountain range is located in the Northeastern part Mexico. The mountain range begins at the Rio Grande River at the border of Mexico and the United States and the Southeastern Mexican state of Puebla. Some consider the *Sierra Madre Oriental* to be a continuation of the *Rocky Mountain Range* located in the United States.

The *Sierra Madre Oriental* extends about 700 miles. The mountains in this particular mountain range are typically about 7,000 feet above sea level but some can reach elevations over 10,000 feet.

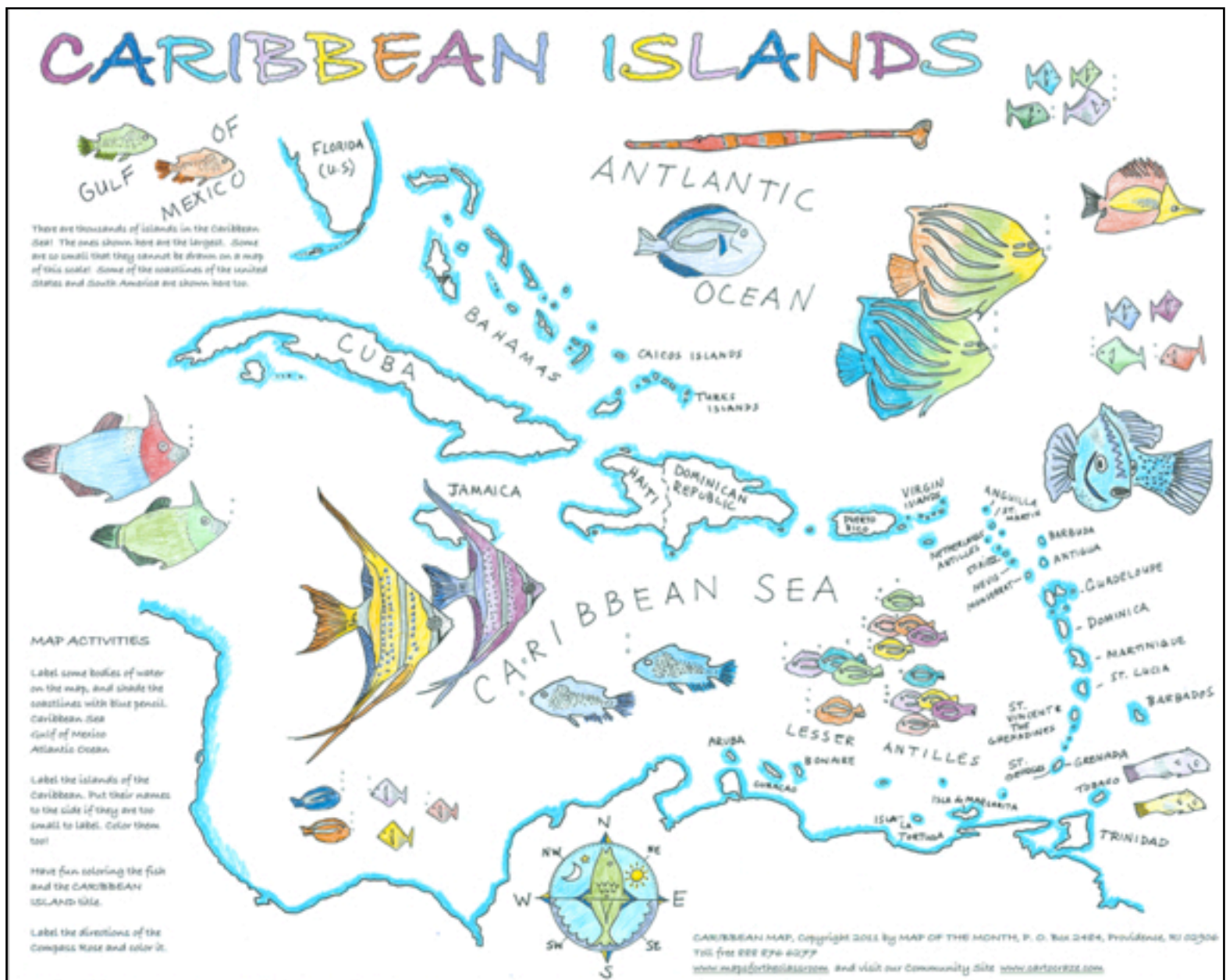
The lower levels of the *Sierra Madre Oriental* receive lots of rain which means that there are many tropical plants. In terms of wildlife, there is a large variety of animals that live along the mountain range, especially birds.



# Caribbean Sea

The Caribbean Sea is located in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Central America and the Caribbean islands. The Caribbean Sea is also one of the largest seas in the world and it borders 22 island territories and 12 countries.

The waters in the Caribbean Sea are warm compared to the north Atlantic. The temperature is usually between 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit. There are many tropical storms that pass through this body of water and sometimes these storms can travel up the east coast of the United States and become hurricanes.



# Caribbean Sea EXTRA CREDIT!



The Caribbean Sea is home to the **Mesoamerican Barrier Reef**, the second biggest coral reef in the world. About 9 percent of the coral in the world can be found in the Caribbean Sea.

The **Mesoamerican Barrier Reef** is about 600 mile long and runs along the coast of Mexico and several Central American countries. There are many different kinds of unique plants and animals that can be found along the coral reefs and throughout the sea.



Here is a picture of the **Splendid Toadfish**! Research and write about this creature: what is his story? Where does he live, what does he eat. Describe his body and how he lives!



# CONTINENTS OF THE WORLD

## And Other Geographic Features!

Welcome to the World! This simple map shows the outlines of the seven continents. The continents are all large masses of land, some connected, some isolated. For instance, Asia and Europe share one large mass of land. Australia and Antarctica are isolated pieces of land.

The continents are surrounded by huge areas of salt water called oceans. There are four major ocean areas, all connected. These large oceans contain smaller divisions, such as seas, gulfs, bays, or inlets. Fresh water lakes and rivers lie within or run through the continents.

The earth's surface is very irregular, not smooth like a ball. The shape and features of the land are called topography. For instance, mountain areas are high in altitude. Lower areas, like valleys and canyons, are close to or below sea level.

**MAP KEY**

- Mountains (Brown or green)
- River (blue)
- Latitude (dashed line)
- Longitude (dotted line)



### EARTHWORM'S MAP ACTIVITIES

Fill in the following details on this map. Be neat when labeling—use a sharp pencil. Try to write small, always print. When coloring your map, you'll find the colored pencils work better than markers or crayons. Show details of the land by using different symbols. See the Map Key for symbols.

- CONTINENTS**  
Label the continents with capital letters.  
NORTH AMERICA  
SOUTH AMERICA  
AFRICA  
EUROPE  
ASIA  
AUSTRALIA/Oceania  
ANTARCTICA
- OCEANS**  
Label the oceans with capital letters. Shade along coastlines with blue pencil.  
ATLANTIC  
PACIFIC  
ARCTIC  
INDIAN
- BAYS AND SEAS**  
Label these smaller sections of ocean.  
Hudson Bay  
Gulf of Mexico  
North Sea  
Arabian Sea  
Bay of Bengal  
South China Sea  
Tasman Sea  
Weddell Sea  
Red Sea  
Caribbean Sea
- RIVERS**  
Draw in and label these rivers. Add other rivers if you like.  
Mississippi  
Amazon  
Nile  
Volga  
Yangtze  
Murray  
Yukon
- MOUNTAIN RANGES**  
The Rocky Mountains have been drawn in already. Draw in and label these other mountain ranges.  
Appalachians  
Andes  
Alps  
Himalayas  
Great Dividing Range  
Transantarctic
- OTHER GEOGRAPHIC DETAILS**  
Draw in and label the following.  
Equator  
Tropic of Cancer  
Tropic of Capricorn  
Prime Meridian  
South Pole
- DECORATION**  
To add a decorative touch to your map, color the following.  
Continent title  
Earthworm (our mascot)  
Compass Rose  
Add North, South, East and West to the points of the Compass Rose.

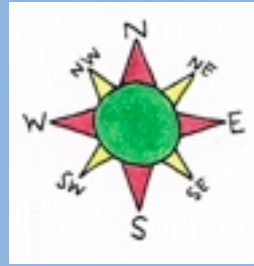


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Here is a map of the **CONTINENTS OF THE WORLD**.

Using **CARDINAL DIRECTIONS**, describe the location of **NORTH AMERICA**, in relation to the other continents:

- North America is \_\_\_\_\_ of the continent of **SOUTH AMERICA**.
- North America is \_\_\_\_\_ of the continent of **EUROPE**.
- North America is \_\_\_\_\_ of the continent of **ASIA**.
- North America is \_\_\_\_\_ of the continent of **ANTARCTICA**.
- North America is \_\_\_\_\_ of the continent of **AFRICA**.
- North America is \_\_\_\_\_ of the continent of **AUSTRALIA**.





## ON THE MAP!

This map above was the first North America map that labeled Louisiana, drawn by Louis Hennepin.

Louis Hennepin was born in Belgium, and become an explorer for the country of France. He was also a Catholic priest and missionary. He traveled throughout North America at the same time as the explorer LaSalle.

Later Hennepin wrote about areas in Canada, the Great Lakes and the upper Mississippi valley, where they had traveled. He was the first to report the area we know as Niagara Falls.



# OCEANS EXTRA CREDIT!

Choose one of these topics and make a report about it!



1.

There are many volcanic islands located in the Pacific Ocean. Research to find the names of some of three volcanoes in the Pacific Ocean. Where are they located -- how far from the North American continent? Are any of them active? In what kind of geographic area are they located?



2.

One of the big industries that is related to the Pacific Ocean is fishing because there are many different types of fish that live in these waters. Research to find out more about fishing in the Pacific Ocean. How is the fishing different in the Atlantic Ocean?

What is a commercial fisherman? What kinds of boats are used for commercial fishing? What kinds of fish are caught by fishermen in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans?



3.

Pollution is one of the major environmental concerns of the Pacific Ocean and it is not uncommon to see debris washed up on the shores of the Pacific. What is DEBRIS?

Research to find out what kinds of materials cause pollution in the Pacific. What kind of pollution damages the Atlantic coast: is it different from the Pacific?

What is being done to help the environment in the worst areas along both coasts? What can people do to help?



This was the first map ever made that is devoted to showing the PACIFIC OCEAN. In 1589 this map was made by the famous cartographer Abraham Ortelius. The name of the map is DESCRIPTIO MARIS PACIFICA, which means DESCRIPTION OF THE PACIFIC SEA. You can see that the shapes of the continents are not as we know them today! Old maps reflected what the mapmakers knew at the time, not accurate as maps are today.



## ON THE MAP!

Abraham Ortelius, at left, was a famous early map-maker. Where did he live and work? What were the years of his career as a cartographer?

Do some research to find some of this other maps! Which map is your favorite and why?



Make a list of the various kinds of decorations this artistic map maker used on his maps!

# GULF OF MEXICO

The Gulf of Mexico is an ocean basin that is part of the Atlantic Ocean. Sometimes the Gulf of Mexico is referred to as the “Third Coast” because after the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, it is the largest body of water that borders the United States. There are a number of different types of wildlife that can be found in the Gulf of Mexico. There are huge amounts of shellfish, finfish and shrimp that come from this body of water.



There are 33 different rivers in the United States that eventually lead to the Gulf of Mexico and this water in the rivers comes from 31 different states.



## QUICK QUESTION!

What are the FIVE STATES that border the GULF OF MEXICO?

# ON THE MAP!



This is a detail of the Hudson River, from a famous map called *Nova Belgica et Anglia Nova*, made in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in 1635.

In English, the title of this map was *New Netherland and New England*.

The cartographer, a Dutchman named Joan Blaeu, decorated his map with drawings of native animals. Here we can see beavers and a wild turkey, animals which still live in this area today.

Notice that this map is not oriented with NORTH at the top, which most maps are.

Compare this to a map of the Hudson River today, and see how the river is aligned on the map!



*Cartographer, Joan Blaeu*

# NORTH AMERICAN ANIMALS

## Raccoon

Raccoons are another type of animal that can be widely found throughout the continent of North America. Raccoons are located throughout the entire United States and Mexico and southern Canada. Raccoons are notorious for being animals that will eat almost anything. They are OMNIVORES that eat many different types of fruits and plants as well as animals that are found in the water, such as frogs and fish. Raccoons are nocturnal hunters and tend to hunt near bodies of water. They have very dexterous paws that allow them to grab easily. During the spring and summer, raccoons tend to eat a lot to build up lots of body fat. When the winter comes, they spend most of the time in their dens sleeping. Raccoons like to make their dens in fallen tree trunks, holes in trees and other enclosed areas.



Here is a list of other North American Animals! Choose one, or more and learn more about them!

Falcon

Beaver

Mountain Goat

Caribou

Prairie Chicken

Roadrunner

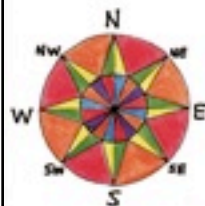
Porcupine

Squirrel

Wolverine

Red Fox





# NORTH AMERICA

## Map of the Month

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### 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

### DECORATIVE FEATURES

Color the Compass Rose and the Title.

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
- HAWAII
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- PUERTO RICO
- GREENLAND

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

- Try your best!
- VIKING 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.