



Linked learning theme: North America – Adapt to survive

Autumn term, Year 6

Geography – North American Biomes

Questions

- What is a biome?
- How are plants and animals suited to their habitats?
- What different biomes can be found across North America?
- How does geographical location influence biomes?

Core knowledge

- A biome is an environment that is characterised by climate and vegetation.
- Location in the world in relation to the equator, tropics and artic/Antarctic circles largely determines the world's major climatic zones.
- Climate zones give rise to vegetation belts.
- The geographical location and topography of an area can be used to make predictions about biomes that will be found there.
- There are a number of different biomes in North America.
- Some biomes that can be found in the UK are also present in North America, such as urban sprawls and forests.
- Biomes have distinguishable characteristics and these can be used to identify deserts, tundra, urban sprawls, prairie and forests.
- Latitude and longitude can be used to locate any area of the world.
- 4- and 6-figure grid references can be used to locate points on a map.
- The Sonoran Desert in Mexico is a desert biome.
- New York City in USA is an urban sprawl.
- The lower areas of the Catskill Mountains in New York State, USA are a forest biome.
- Yoho National park in Canada is a tundra biome.
- Niagara Falls is the collective name for Horseshoe Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and American Falls.

Key skills

- Identify and locate Mexico, USA and Canada within an atlas.
- Locate New York, the Sonoran Desert, Niagara Falls, the Catskill mountains and Yoho National Park using an atlas.
- When looking at a map of the world, identify the Equator and Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and make reasoned judgements about the climate of locations in these areas.
- Identify the latitude and longitude of major cities and national parks in North America.
- Describe the features of a tundra, desert, urban sprawl and forest.
- Predict what the climate and vegetation of an area may be like based upon its geographical location and topography.
- Use 4- and 6-figure grid references to explain where different areas of North America are.
- Describe the relative location of North American cities in relation to each

other using the language of the 8 points of a compass.

Vocabulary

biome	forest	grid reference	population density
North America	urban sprawl	north	human features
city	latitude	south-west	physical features
state	longitude	north-east	
country	Equator	east	
climate	Northern	south-east	
vegetation	hemisphere	south	
tundra	Southern	west	
desert	hemisphere	north-west	
prairie	Tropic of Cancer		
	Tropic of Capricorn		

Learning outcomes

- I can locate the main countries and cities in North America.
- I can identify the position and significance of latitude and longitude, the prime meridian and time zones, Equator, N. and S. hemispheres, tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic circles.
- I understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the UK and a region of North America.
- I can describe key aspects of physical geography – biomes and vegetation belts.
- I can identify key aspects of human geography – types of settlement, economic activity including trade links, distribution of natural resources focusing on food, energy and minerals.
- I can use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
- I can use six figure grid references.