



Unit of work  
 Is North America just one big country?

Year group  
 5

Prior learning:

- Our world is made up of 7 continents
- America is a large country
- Different countries around the world are very different and very similar to the UK

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus North and America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)
- understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

Knowledge/ Skills

Facts
1. North America is the third largest continent after Africa and Asia. It lies between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. North America includes the Greenland ice sheet and the islands of northern Canada. It also incorporates the Caribbean.
2. 23 countries make up the continent - Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Jamaica, St Vincent, Nicaragua, Panama, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, United States of America.
3. Canada, the USA and Mexico are the three largest countries in North America. North America has some of the world's largest cities including Mexico City, Los Angeles and New York.
4. Niagara Falls, is a city in Ontario, Canada famous for the waterfalls of the same name, linked with the U.S.A. by the Rainbow Bridge.
5. The city is built along the Niagara Falls waterfalls and the Niagara Gorge on the Niagara River, which flows from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.
6. The region includes 12 cities and towns in southern Ontario. Among the 12 local towns and districts there is an urban-rural mix, with St. Catharines and Niagara Falls being the two largest urban areas, and Wainfleet and West Lincoln being primarily rural.
7. Niagara has four seasons of differing climate. The city of Niagara Falls has a humid continental climate. Winters are cold, with a January high of -0.4 °C and a low of -7.8 °C. Summers are warm to hot, with a July high of 27.4 °C and a low of 17 °C.
8. Niagara Falls is a freshwater biome. This means that it has a very low salt concentration and has a large community of plants and animals.
9. Hydroelectricity is one of Niagara Falls' most important products. Together, power plants on both the American and Canadian sides of the Falls have the capacity to produce up to 2.4 million kilowatts of electricity. Under an international treaty, the flow of water over Niagara Falls is reduced during the night to allow more of the water to flow into the intakes used for power generation. This plan ensures that the Falls' natural beauty remains unaffected during prime viewing hours.

Vocabulary and definitions

biome	a natural area of the living world which has its own climate, vegetation and animals
city	a large town. London is a city.
climate	the general weather conditions that are typical of a place
coastal	an area of land close to the sea
compass points	any of the main points of a compass: north, south, east, west, north-east, north-west, south-east, south-west
continent	a very large area of land that consists of many countries. Europe is a continent.
country	an area of land that is controlled by its own government.
earthquake	a shaking of the ground caused by movement of the Earth's crust
equator	an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth at an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole.
desert	a large area of land, usually in a hot region, where there is almost no water, rain, trees, or plants (vegetation)
farm	an area of land used to produce crops or to breed animals and livestock.
harbour	a sheltered port so that boats can be left there safely
human features	features of land that have been impacted by human activity
landscape	everything you can see when you look across an area of land, including hills, rivers, buildings, trees, and plants.
mountain	a very high area of land with steep sides
physical features	natural features of land
port	a harbour area where ships load and unload goods or passengers
river	a large, natural stream of fresh water that flows into the sea or a lake.
tectonic	relating to the structure of the Earth's surface or crust.
tourist	a person who is visiting a place for pleasure and interest, especially when they are on holiday.
trade	the activity of buying, selling or exchanging goods and services.
weather	any of the main points of a compass: north, south, east, west, north-east, north-west, south-east, south-west
vegetation	plants, trees or flowers
village	a small group of houses, perhaps with a few shops. Great Cornard is a village.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

- Locate continents of North and South America on a map/globe and name some countries
- Use eight points of a compass
- Read four and six figure grid references to describe a location



<p><b>Physical features</b></p>	<p>Sierra Nevada mountain range</p>  <p>Mojave Desert</p>  <p>California lies on the edge of a tectonic plate; earthquakes occur there. The climate varies depending on where in the state you are in.</p>
<p><b>Human Features</b></p>	<p>There are many cities in California - famous ones include Los Angeles and San Francisco. There are many places of interest in California, including the Golden Gate Bridge and the Hollywood sign. This means that there are lots of <b>tourists</b>.</p>  <p>The biggest trades in California are technology, farming and entertainment California has nearly 40 million people living there.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● population density</li> </ul>	<p>The measurement of the total number of people in an area – total population ÷ total land area in km<sup>2</sup>.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● plateau</li> </ul>	<p>A large region that is higher than the surrounding area and is relatively flat.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● erosion</li> </ul>	<p>The act in which earth <u>is worn</u> away, often by water, wind or ice.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● flood plain</li> </ul>	<p>An area of low-lying ground next to a <u>river which</u> is likely to flood.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● levee</li> </ul>	<p>An embankment built to prevent the overflow of a river.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● arable farming</li> </ul>	<p>Farming that involves plants or crops</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● pastoral farming</li> </ul>	<p>Farming that involves animals</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● drought</li> </ul>	<p>A long period where there is little or no rain.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● population distribution</li> </ul>	<p>The pattern of where people live; <u>sparsely</u> populated places contain few people; <u>densely</u> populated places contain many people.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● canyon</li> </ul>	<p>A deep narrow valley with steep sides</p>