

U.S. History to 1865 Study Guide

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS OF LEARNING - 2015 CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

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STANDARD USI.2A --- CONTINENTS & OCEANS

The student will use maps, globes, photographs, pictures, or tables to

- a) locate the seven continents and five oceans

Continents are large land masses surrounded by water.

Continents

- North America
- South America
- Africa
- Asia
- Australia
- Antarctica
- Europe*



Oceans

- Atlantic Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Arctic Ocean
- Indian Ocean
- Southern Ocean

*Note: Europe is considered a continent even though it is not entirely surrounded by water. The land mass is frequently called Eurasia

STANDARD USI.2B GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

- b) locate and describe the location of the geographic regions of North America: Coastal Plain, Appalachian Mountains, Canadian Shield, Interior Lowlands, Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, Basin and Range, and Coastal Range.

Geographic regions have distinctive characteristics.

Geographic regions' locations and physical characteristics

Coastal Plain

- Located along the **Atlantic Ocean** and **Gulf of Mexico**
- **Broad lowlands** providing many **excellent harbors**

Appalachian Highlands

- Located west of the Coastal Plain, extending from eastern Canada to western Alabama; includes the Piedmont
- **Old, eroded mountains** (oldest mountain range in North America)

Canadian Shield

- Wrapped around the Hudson Bay in a **horseshoe shape**
- **Hills worn by erosion** and hundreds of **lakes** carved by glaciers

Interior Lowlands

- Located west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the Great Plains
- **Rolling flatlands** with **many rivers**, broad river valleys, and grassy hills

Great Plains

- Located west of the Interior Lowlands and east of the Rocky Mountains
- **Flat lands** that gradually increase in elevation westward; **grasslands**



Rocky Mountains

- Located west of the Great Plains and east of the Basin and Range
- **Rugged mountains** stretching from Alaska almost to Mexico; high elevations
- Contains the **Continental Divide**, which determines the **directional flow of rivers**

Basin and Range

- Located west of the Rocky Mountains and east of the Coastal Range

- Varying elevations containing isolated mountain ranges and **Death Valley**, the **lowest point** in North America

Coastal Range

- Located along the Pacific Coast, stretching from California to Canada
- **Rugged mountains** and **fertile valleys**
- Includes the **Sierra Nevada** and the **Cascades**

STANDARD USI.2c

WATER FEATURES

c) locate and identify the water features important to the early history of the United States: Great Lakes, Mississippi River, Missouri River, Ohio River, Columbia River, Colorado River, Rio Grande, St. Lawrence River, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Gulf of Mexico.

The United States has access to numerous and varied bodies of water.

Bodies of water support interaction among regions, form borders, and create links to other areas.

Major bodies of water

- Oceans: **Atlantic, Pacific**
- Rivers: **Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Columbia, Colorado, Rio Grande, St. Lawrence**
- Lakes: **Great Lakes**
- Gulf: **Gulf of Mexico**



Trade, transportation, exploration, and settlement

- The **Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts** of the United States have provided access to other parts of the world.
- The **Atlantic Ocean** served as the highway for explorers, early settlers, and later immigrants.
- The **Ohio River** was the **gateway to the west** prior to the Louisiana Purchase.
- Inland **port cities** grew in the Midwest along the **Great Lakes**.
- The **Mississippi and Missouri** rivers were used to **transport farm and industrial products**. They created **links** to United States ports and other parts of the world.
- The **Columbia River** was explored **by Lewis and Clark**.
- The **Colorado River** was explored by the **Spanish**.
- The **Rio Grande** forms the **border with Mexico**.
- The **Pacific Ocean** was an early exploration destination as a **route to Asia**.
- The **Gulf of Mexico** provided the French and Spanish with **exploration routes to Mexico** and other parts of America.
- The **St. Lawrence River** forms part of the **northeastern border with Canada** and connects the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

STANDARD US1.2D

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

d) recognize key geographic features on maps, diagrams, and/or photographs.

It is important to recognize key geographic features on maps, diagrams, and/or photographs.

Landforms and water features set the stage for and influence the course of events in United States history.

Key geographic features

- **Water-related**
 - Lakes
 - Rivers
 - Tributaries
 - Gulfs and bays
- **Land-related**
 - Mountains
 - Hills
 - Plains
 - Plateaus
 - Islands
 - Peninsulas

Geographic features are related to

- patterns of **trade**
- the locations of **cities and towns**
- the **westward (frontier) movement**
- **agricultural** and **fishing** industries.

