

Summer Assignment Geography Exercise – United States

- All Maps: Label the four Cardinal directions on all maps.
- U.S. Map 1: Label the 50 States
- U.S. Map 2: Label the bodies of water, include oceans (2), seas (1-2), gulfs (2), lakes (I can count 8 on that map, but not all are called lakes). Add a ninth lake at the top of Minnesota for the strange border. Shade or color bodies of water blue.
- U.S. Map 2: U.S. desert. Draw approximate boundaries, and label the four types of deserts. Shade or color each desert a different color.
- U.S. Map 3: Label the major rivers in the lower 48 states. Trace the approximate path of each river using a different color for each river (I know there are more rivers than colors, but do your best). Label these rivers: Arkansas, Colorado, Columbia, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Pecos, Platte, Red (Oklahoma), Rio Grande, Saint Lawrence. For California, try to draw the Sacramento & San Joaquin Rivers.
- U.S. Map 3 (print a second map): Label the major mountain ranges and shade these areas: Appalachian, Cascades, Rockies, and Sierra Nevada. Also label and shade the Adirondacks and Ozarks. Label areas where volcanoes are found.
- U.S. Map 3: Label the area of the United States known as the Great Plains. Draw a line for the continental divide.
- World Map 1: Label all the continents. Label the five oceans. Label the area of the Great Barrier Reef. Draw a line for the equator and the prime meridian. Label the Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere. Draw the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- World Map 2: Label these large islands (World's top six): Baffin, Borneo, Greenland, Madagascar, New Guinea, & Sumatra.
- World Map 2: Label the following seas: Arabian, Baltic, Bering, Black, Caribbean, Caspian, Coral, Japan (or East), Labrador, Mediterranean, North, Norwegian, Okhotsk, Philippine, Red, Scotia, South China, Tasman, Yellow. Label the following bays & gulfs: Aden, Alaska, Baffin, Bengal, Hudson, Mexico, Persian.
- World Map 3: Label and shade where the following rainforests are located: African (include Madagascar), Amazon, Australasian, Central American, Southern Asian. Darken the line for the equator. Label and shade the major deserts: Arabian, Atacama, Australian, Gobi, Kalahari, Namib, Sahara, Thar. Label the following mountains: Andes & Himalayas.
- World Map 4: Label as many countries you know without looking at any maps! Try to get at least ten countries. Twenty countries would be respectable.

General Questions:

1. What are the four seasons?
2. What are the four days that mark the change of seasons? Give the significance for each day.
3. Do the seasons occur simultaneously in the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere? Briefly explain.
4. Is day length the same all over the world? If not, briefly explain what factors are important for determining day length.
5. What direction does the sun rise? What direction does the sun set? What direction is the earth turning?
6. There are two continents that are right next to each other, name the two. What are the mountains that separate the two continents? Put the location of these mountains on one of your world maps.
7. Where is the “Ring of Fire?” Why do they call it the “Ring of Fire?” Draw and label the approximate location on one of your world maps.
8. Which ocean is the biggest? What are the two ways that oceans move?
9. On the globe, how do longitude & latitude lie? i.e. which runs horizontal and which runs vertical? What is the name given to 0° latitude? What is the name given to 0° longitude? What lies on either side of 0° latitude? What lies on either side of 0° longitude? Label these general areas on one of your world maps.
10. What latitudes are the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn? What is the significance of these two “lines.” Draw these lines on World Map 3.
11. Which Great Lake is the biggest? Are the Great Lakes connected to the ocean? If so, which ocean and how are they connected?
12. What and where is the tallest mountain in the world? How tall is it? What and where is the lowest terrestrial point in the world? What is its elevation? Indicate these two locations on one of your world maps.
13. What are the three longest rivers in the world? How long are they? Where are they located? What is the mouth of each river? Draw and label their approximate locations on one of your world maps.
14. What and where is the tallest mountain in the U.S.? What is its elevation? What and where is the tallest mountain in the lower 48 states? What is the lowest point of elevation in the U.S.? Indicate these three locations on one of your U.S. maps.
15. Which mountains in the U.S. are the oldest? How old are they? Which mountains are the youngest? How old are they?
16. What is the longest river in the U.S.? How long is it?