

# U.S. History to 1865 Study Guide

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS OF LEARNING - 2015 CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Reformatted version created by SOLpass - www.SOLpass.org

## 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 USI.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.

