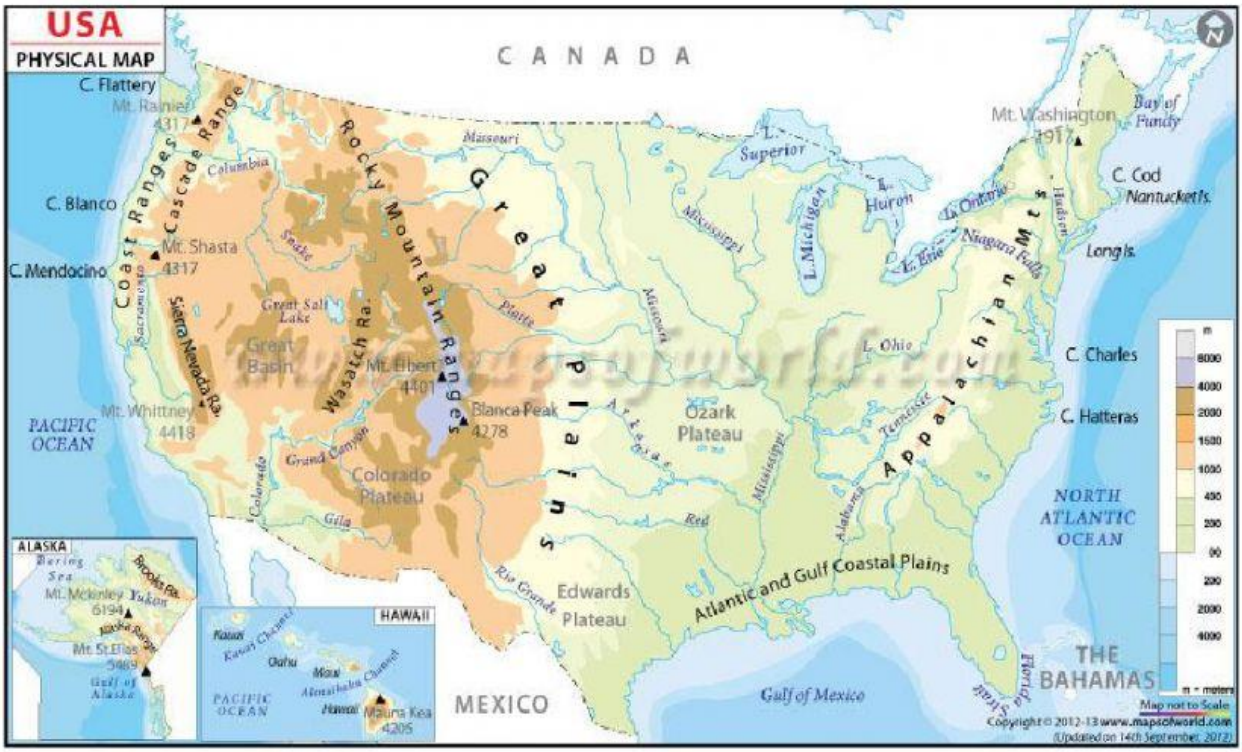
The Relief of the USA

1. Match these words to their definitions:

coastline	a line which marks the limits of an area
plateau	characteristic of or resembling a marsh; waterlogged
slope	a narrow valley between hills or mountains, typically with steep rocky walls and a stream running through it
canyon	an area of fairly level high ground.
gorge	a cascade of water falling from a height, formed when a river or stream flows over a precipice or steep incline
waterfall	sharing a common border; touching
boundary	a surface of which one end or side is at a higher level than another
marshy	altitude, height
contiguous	the land along the coast
elevation	a deep gorge, typically one with a river flowing through it

2. Study the Map of the USA and then fill in the text to describe its territory:



volcanic ***decrease*** ***east*** ***sandy*** ***Central*** ***canyons*** ***wide*** ***rises*** ***rocky*** ***plain*** ***massive*** ***displays*** ***west*** ***height*** ***coastal***

Approaching the USA from the _____ or south you are met by a low-lying coastal plain, which extends as far as 320 km inland. The shores are mostly marshy or _____, with some good beaches south of New York. However, once you go further north beyond New York, the relief becomes mountainous and the coastline _____.

Inland from the eastern coastal _____ and parallel to it is the Fall Line, where rivers flowing to the Atlantic Ocean drop over waterfalls. To the _____ its elevation increases to about 2000m in the Appalachian Mountains.

To the west of the Appalachians, the heights _____ again into a plateau. Further west, they extend as far as 1600 km. These are the _____ plains and the Great Plains. They stretch from Canada in the north to the Gulf Coast in the south, but to the west the land _____ again, reaching elevations of around 2000 metres.

Parallel to the Great Plains are the Rocky Mountains, the most impressive and _____ of the mountain ranges in the contiguous USA. They are made up of some 39 named mountains. Their _____ is only surpassed by the Sierra Nevada Mountains which, together with the _____ Cascade Mountains, enclose within their 'stone walls' high plateaus broken by deep _____ cut by rivers.

On the western side of the Sierras, a _____ basin, contains the Central Valley of California which continues northwards to the Willamette Valley.

The Pacific Coast _____ the Coast Ranges with average heights of 2000 metres. There is no inland _____ plain like in the east and south, but mostly rocky cliffs ending abruptly in the ocean.

3. Based on the map and on the reading text, complete the following table with the correct information.

Mountains	Name		Description	Highest peak
Old			- running almost parallel with the eastern coastline	Mt Mitchell - 2037m
	_____ Plateau		- situated at the meeting point between the Coastal and Central Plains	823m, 853m
New	The Rocky Mountains			Mt Elbert – 4399m
	The Pacific Coastal Ranges	The Cascade Range		Mt _____ – 4392m
		Sierra Nevada	- situated between the Central Valley (to the west) and the Great Basin	Mt _____ – 4418m
		_____	- situated along the coast, form the Canadian border to Mexico	Thompson - 2744m
Plateaus	The Intermontane Basin	Columbia		/
			- in the centre	/
			- in the south	/
Plains				
Low			- run along the eastern and southern coastlines and gradually widen from north to south	/
	The Central Plains			/
High			- are a vast area that stretches from Canada in the north to Mexico in the south and with the Rocky mountains as their western boundary.	/

Rainier Whitney	Ozark	The Coastal Range
- situated in the north	- between the Great Plains (east) and the Intermontane Basins (west)	The Appalachian Mountains
Great Basin	- in the north	Colorado
- are situated south of the Great Lakes region, stretching from the western slopes of the Appalachians to the Great Plains. The scenery is almost level with some rolling hills.	The Great Plains	The Coastal Plains