US GEOGRAPHY Physical features

Read the text.

The mainland of the United States sits in the northern hemisphere entirely in the continent of North America.

The US is flanked on the East by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the West by the Pacific Ocean. The United States shares a Northern border with Canada. Mexico lies to the South of the United States. Lands on the West coast of the United States lie along the Western Coastal Range, followed by the taller Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Mountains further inland. East of the Sierra Nevada Mountains lies the Great Basin, a vast desert area including all of Nevada, half of Utah, and portions of Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, and California.

Continuing Eastward, the Rocky Mountains stretch for 3,000 miles, all the way from Canada down to New Mexico. The middle of the United States is primarily prairie and grasslands known as the Great Plains. The Great Plains is an area of high, flat land bordered on the West by the Rocky Mountains. The Central Plains lie further to the East. Both areas are rich in mineral resources and have a large portion of the country's agricultural land. Together they make up over one million square miles of land.

South of the plains lies the Gulf Coastal Plain, which borders the Gulf of Mexico to the South.
It extends from Texas eastward into Florida and is characterized by low-lying forests, grasslands, wetlands, and marshes.

The Eastern part of the United States is dominated by the Appalachian Mountains, which are around 480 million years old! This system of mountains runs from New England down to Georgia. As mentioned before, the Pacific Ocean borders the West Coast, and the Atlantic Ocean borders the East Coast.

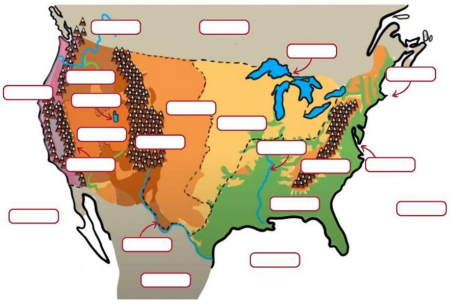
There are several peninsulas, barrier islands, and archipelagos along the East Coast. One of the most famous peninsulas is Cape Cod, in Massachusetts. Another important feature is the Chesapeake Bay, located in the mid-Atlantic region. The Chesapeake Bay runs along the coast of Maryland and Virginia and is an important area for seafood production.

One of the major bodies of water in the United States is the Great Lakes which are located in the northern part of the Great Plains. There are five Great Lakes: Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario. To the west, the Great Salt Lake in Utah is the largest in the entire Western Hemisphere.

There are several major rivers in the United States. The Mississippi River runs north to south, in the middle of the plains, and became an important transportation hub throughout US history. The Rio Grande serves as a natural border between the United States in Texas, and Mexico to the South. The Columbia River, in the Northwestern United States, originates from the Rocky Mountains and forms a natural border between the states of Washington and Oregon.

based on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3qZPw25Npk&ab_channel=Instructomania

Basing on information from the text, label the map.



Atlantic Ocean	Coastal Range	Gulf of Mexico
Appalachian Mountains	Colombia River	Mexico
Canada	Great Basin	Mississippi River
Cape Cod	Great Lakes	Pacific Ocean
Cascade Mountains	Great Plains	Rocky Mountains
Central Plains	Great Salt Lake	Rio Grande
Chesapeake Bay	Gulf Coastal Plain	Sierra Nevada Mountains

US GEOGRAPHY Who lives in the USA?

Read the text and answer the following questions

Prior to the 15th Century, approximately ten million Native Americans were living in the area that is now the United States. Today, Native Americans make up less than two percent of the population of the United States. That decline was caused primarily by warfare and disease, both brought by the Europeans.

The Spanish arrived in North America in the 16th Century, followed by the British, French, and Dutch. The Spanish settled in Florida, California, and the Southwest, while the rest fought primarily over lands in the eastern half of today's United States.

Many Europeans came to North America for economic opportunities or to escape religious persecution back home. Initially, mostly Protestant Christian groups, such as Puritans and Quakers colonized the US, establishing cultural values and a strong work ethic that would become the backbone of American culture and success.

Enslaved people from Africa soon made up a large portion of the colonial population, particularly in the British colonies. Over 12 million enslaved Africans were estimated to have been brought over to the area that is now the United States.

Voluntary immigration continued to be a large factor in the population growth of the United States. Immigrants came from Western Europe first, then Southern and Eastern Europe, as well as Asia.

Today the population of the United States is diverse in every way, including race, class, national origin, ethnicity, language, and religion. While America still struggles with equality and inclusion for all, the idea that all men and women are created equal is a banner from which Americans have derived and continue to fight for their cultural values.

1. Native Americans' population grew smaller because of
- economic reasons
- Europeans fighting them off
- illnesses which they contracted

2. Which nations did not settle in the West?
- the French
- the Spanish
- the Dutch

3. What was the most important contribution of the Protestants to the American culture?
- agricultural skills
- religious values
- orientation on labor

4. African immigrants came to America because
- they were transported by force
- they seeked spiritual freedom
- they looked for better life conditions

5. What word describes the American populations with its multiple races, ethnicities, languages, religions, etc...?
- equality
- internationality
- diversity

6. What belief lies at the foundation of American society?
- People are alike regardless of gender
- Cultural differences are of highest value
- Everyone has to struggle in the same way

based on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3qZPw25Npk&ab_channel=Instructomania

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