

Chapter 4

The United States and Canada: Physical Geography

Section 1- Physical Features

Major Landforms

- US and Can cover most of _____
- to the east is the Atlantic, to the west is the Pacific
- to the north, Canada (_____ in the world) is bordered by the _____
- to the south, the US (3rd largest country) borders Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico
- US is 48 contiguous (_____) states and also includes Alaska and Hawaii (2400 miles SW of CA)
- US has _____ as Canada

Major Landforms

- Eastern Lowlands and Highlands
 - Along Atlantic and gulf coast- rocky and narrow in NE
 - _____ - fertile hilly area that stretches inland
 - Natural harbors led to excellent shipping
 - Urban and suburban communities of northeast form a megalopolis (_____)
 - Coastal plain along _____ is wider than Atlantic- large cities: Houston and New Orleans
 - _____ - west of lowlands- Canada to AL
 - Old- hence low and round- _____
 - Mount Mitchell- NC- 6,684 tallest
 - _____ led to industrial growth in late 1800s and early 1900s

Major Landforms

- Interior Lowlands

- _____ in the north

- Horseshoe-shaped- rocky hills, lakes, forests around Hudson Bay
 - Not farmable- poor soil and cold
 - Many minerals- iron, copper, nickel

- _____ - further south- hills, farmland, forests, etc

- Great Lakes and MS River
 - Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Toronto, etc

- Great Plains- west of MS River- rise in elevation toward west

- _____ - rolling inland grasslands with fertile soil
 - Once home of buffalo and Indians, now farmland (“_____”) and reserved of coal, oil, and natural gas

Major Landforms

- Western Mountains and Plateaus
 - _____ - group of mountain ranges that run side by side west of Great Plains
 - _____ on the eastern side- AK to NM
 - Sierra Nevada, Cascades, Coast Range, and Alaska Range- on Pacific side of cordillera
 - _____ - Alaska Range- 20,320 feet
 - Between mountains are _____
 - Canyons in the south- Grand Canyon of Colorado River
 - In Pacific Ocean- 8 large and 124 small islands make up Hawaii- created by _____ extend over 1500 miles

Bodies of Water

- The Great Lakes

- _____ (wide/deep enough for ships to move through them)
- Great lakes- caused by ancient glaciers- connected to St. Lawrence River
- _____
- _____ - important to Canada
 - Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa along it
- 1900- St. Lawrence Seaway avoided rapids of river to connect Great Lakes to Atlantic

Bodies of Water

- The Mississippi River
 - _____ in North America-
2350 miles- MN to Gulf
 - Shipping corridor
 - Major waterway for central US- drains all/part of
31 states- 1.2 million square miles



Bodies of Water

- The Continental Divide

- Highest ridge in the Rockies

- (_____)

- East of Divide- rivers flow to Arctic, Atlantic, Mississippi River, and Gulf

- West of Divide- rivers flow to Pacific

- Northeast of Rockies- _____ in
Canada- Great Slave Lake to Arctic Ocean

Natural Resources

- Energy and Mineral Resources
 - Oil and natural gas- _____ has most of both, _____ has oil
 - US uses 3x the _____ it produces
 - Canada exports oil and natural gas to US
 - Comes from _____ mixed with sands, costly to produce
 - _____ Appalachian Mtns, WY, British Columbia
 - 400 years worth, but very polluting

Natural Resources

- _____ power- fall line from eastern highlands to lower Atlantic plain
 - Niagra Falls for US and Canada- Niagara River forms border between Canada (Ontario) and US (NY)
- Mineral resources-
 - iron ore- eastern Canada, northern US
 - Rockies- gold, silver, copper
 - Canadian Shield- iron ore, copper, nickel, gold, uranium
 - Created a manufacturing region in southern Ont. and Queb.

Natural Resources

- Soil, Timber, and Fish
 - Certain regions are great for farming
 - Central Lowlands- corn
 - Great Plains- wheat
 - NW- dairy, fruits, veggies
 - CA- 200 different crops
 - British Columbia- fruits and vegetables on irrigated land
 - US was mostly _____ covered- today <50%
Canada, <33% of US
 - Still a strong industry in _____
 - Fishing a major resource of coastal areas- Atlantic overfishing a problem