Chapter 4

The United States and Canada: Physical Geography

Section 1- Physical Features
Major Landforms

- US and Canada 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