

Guided Reading Activity



The United States West of the Mississippi River

Lesson 1 *Physical Features*

Essential Question: How does geography influence the way people live?

Physical Landscape

Directions: As you read the section, use your textbook to answer the following questions about the landforms that make up the United States west of the Mississippi River.

1. Are the Great Plains flat? _____

2. What makes the Rocky Mountains a cordillera? _____

3. What mountain range near the Pacific coast still has active volcanoes? _____

4. What is a plateau? _____

5. What landforms make up Alaska? _____

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



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Bodies of Water

Directions: Label each description with the correct body or bodies of water.

- _____ 1. This is an enormous salt-water ocean that borders the West Coast of the United States and includes ports in San Diego, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, Valdez, and Honolulu.

- _____ 2. This body of water borders Louisiana and Texas and includes ports in New Orleans and Houston.

- _____ 3. The largest salt lake in the Americas, this lake changes in size because of evaporation.

- _____ 4. This lake is located high in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. It is a popular place for boating and other types of water recreation.

- _____ 5. This lake was formed when the Hoover Dam was built on the Colorado River. It is also a popular recreation area.

- _____ 6. One of the most important rivers west of the Mississippi, this river begins in the Rocky Mountains and flows south and west to empty into the Gulf of California.

- _____ 7. Located north of the Colorado River, this river flows from the mountains into the Pacific Ocean.

- _____ 8. These two rivers run westward and feed into the Columbia River.

- _____ 9. These five rivers flow eastward, and four of them empty into the Mississippi River.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



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Climates of the Region

Directions: Use your textbook to decide if each statement is true or false. Write *T* or *F* in the blank. If a statement is false, rewrite it correctly.

_____ 1. The United States west of the Mississippi River has a common climate.

_____ 2. Because of the rain shadow caused by coastal mountain ranges, areas to the east are drier than the areas to the west of the mountains.

_____ 3. The Great Plains has three different climate types: semi-arid, humid continental, and humid subtropical.

_____ 4. Alaska has mostly cool and cold climates with temperatures warmer in the north and colder in the south.

_____ 5. The climate in Hawaii is mostly warm and dry.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



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Resources of the Region

Directions: Use your textbook to complete the webs by filling in the different kinds of resources found west of the Mississippi River.

