

River Bank Primary Knowledge Organiser Geography	Year 3	Summer 1	North America
Physical geography of the North America		Map of the North America	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Third largest continent</b> - In the north it stretches half way around the world from Greenland to the Aleutians: in Panama's narrowest part it is just 50km across</li> <li>- <b>Five physical regions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>mountainous west</b> -<b>The Rocky Mountains</b>, North America's largest chain, as well as many high volcanoes in Mexico and volcanic mountain ranges in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. This area also has <b>temperate rain forest</b> – biome unique to this area – with high volume of precipitation, cold winters and mild summers. The major <b>desert</b> regions are in this area. The richest deposits of oil and natural gas are in the west</li> <li>• <b>The Great Plains</b> – located in the middle of the continent. This region is called "Breadbasket of North America" as it has deep rich soil and lots of grain is grown there. The grassland or prairie regions make up the largest biome in North America – extreme weather patterns prevent the growth of large plants there.</li> <li>• <b>The Canadian Shield</b> – raised but relatively flat plateau in eastern, central and northwestern Canada. It has rocky landscape and lots of lakes. <b>Tundra</b> is a common biome.</li> <li>• <b>Eastern region</b> – includes <b>Appalachian Mountains</b> and <b>Atlantic coastal plains</b>. Wetland areas (e.g. The Florida Everglades) are a common biome</li> <li>• <b>The Caribbean</b> – <b>more than 7000 islands</b>. Some islands have relatively flat and sandy terrain while others are rugged, mountainous and volcanic. Coral reefs are common in the Caribbean.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>All the major types of biomes</b> in the world are found in North America e.g. desert, grassland, tundra, coral reefs</li> <li>- Natural wonders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Copper Canyon</b> in Mexico</li> <li>• <b>Denali</b> – the highest mountain of the continent – 6194m in Alaska</li> <li>• <b>Yellowstone National Park</b> with some of the world's most active geysers</li> <li>• <b>The Great Lakes</b> – largest area of freshwater on Earth</li> <li>• <b>The Mississippi River</b> – 3730km long – one of the longest river systems in the world</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
Human geography		Key words	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- America is named after Italian navigator <b>Amerigo Vespucci</b></li> <li>- Many early North American civilizations (e.g. <b>Maya</b> and <b>Aztec</b> in modern day Mexico) were scientifically and agriculturally advanced. They built the first cities on the continent.</li> <li>- In northern part of the continent indigenous tribes lived nomadic lifestyles following favourable weather patterns, natural agricultural cycles and animal migrations.</li> <li>- After America was discovered many European countries wanted to claim and colonize it. Colonizers in the present-day U.S. pushed native populations to the west. As a result, many native communities were exterminated and large indigenous territories reduced to isolated reservations</li> <li>- In Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, native populations were more fully integrated into the political and social systems</li> <li>- Present day North America is home to the citizens of <b>Canada</b> (capital Ottawa), the <b>United States</b> (capital Washington), <b>Mexico</b> (capital Mexico City), <b>Greenland</b> (belonging to Denmark), <b>Costa Rica</b> (capital San Jose), <b>Guatemala</b> (capital Guatemala City), <b>Panama</b> (capital Panama City) and many other countries</li> <li>- Tourism is an important part of North America's economy, especially for the small island nations of the Caribbean Sea because of the tropical environment and coral reefs</li> <li>- North America has a multicultural history – immigrants from Europe, Asia, Africa and South America were coming to the United States and Canada for hundreds of years and have contributed to the development of the continent</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Biome</b> – community of animals and plants with relatively uniform climate</li> <li><b>Climate</b> – all weather conditions for a given location over a period of time</li> <li><b>Colonize</b> – to establish control of a foreign land and culture</li> <li><b>Geyser</b> – natural hot spring that sometimes erupts with water or steam</li> <li><b>Human geography</b> – study of the way humans interact with their environment</li> <li><b>Immigrant</b> – person who moves to a new country or region</li> <li><b>Indigenous</b> – characteristic to or of a specific place</li> <li><b>Natural resource</b> – a material that humans take from the natural environment to survive, to satisfy their needs or to trade with others</li> <li><b>Permafrost</b> – permanently frozen layer of the Earth's surface</li> <li><b>Physical geography</b> – study of the natural features and processes of the Earth</li> <li><b>Plateau</b> – large region that is higher than the surrounding area and relatively flat</li> <li><b>Prairie</b> – large grassland</li> <li><b>Reservation</b> – land in the U.S. reserved for the political, cultural and physical use of Native American tribes and nations</li> <li><b>Tundra</b> – cold, treeless region in Arctic and Antarctic climates</li> <li><b>Weather pattern</b> – repeating or predictable changes in the Earth's atmosphere, such as winds, precipitation and temperatures.</li> </ul>	

1. Which ocean is west of North America?  
a) Atlantic Ocean                      b) Pacific Ocean                      c) Indian Ocean                      d) Southern Ocean
2. How many states are there in the United States?  
a) 13                      b) 25                      c) 50                      d) 7000
3. What is the capital city of Canada called?  
a) Ottawa                      b) Washington                      c) New York                      d) San Jose
4. What is the mountain range in the west of the North America called?  
a) The Rocky Mountains                      b) The Appalachians  
c) The Alps                      d) The Mississippi
5. How many islands are there in the Caribbean?  
a) 50                      b) over 3000                      c) over 6000                      d) over 7000
6. What is a prairie?  
a) person who moves to a new country or region                      b) cold treeless region  
c) large grassland                      d) natural hot spring
7. What is the highest mountain in North America called?  
a) Amerigo Vespucci                      b) Denali                      c) Aztec                      d) Copper Canyon
8. What country lies south of the United States?  
a) Mexico                      b) Canada                      c) Cuba                      d) Greenland
9. What do we call the land in the USA where Native American tribes live?  
a) tundra                      b) permafrost                      c) reservation                      d) geyser
10. What country does Greenland belong to?  
a) Denmark                      b) USA                      c) Canada                      d) Mexico