

# Notes Log: Identifying Main Ideas: Social Studies Sample

Topic/Title: North America's location, physical features, and distribution of natural resources	Pages: 70-83
<p><b>Main Ideas</b></p> <p>The waters surrounding North America isolated it for many years.</p> <p>Improvements in shipbuilding and ocean navigation brought settlers to the continent.</p> <p>Vegetation zones are determined by climate and geography.</p>	<p><b>Notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arctic Ocean (north) to the Gulf of Mexico (south)</li> <li>Pacific Ocean (west) to the Atlantic Ocean (east)</li> <li>Unique plants (sequoia tree and saguaro cactus)</li> <li>Unique animals (bald eagle and alligator)</li> <li>Difficult for people to reach (early settlers and attackers during WWI and WWII)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earliest settlers arrived 12,000 to 35,000 years ago</li> <li>Introduced new plants and animals from home countries</li> <li>Used internal waterways (rivers) and Native American guides to travel throughout continent</li> </ul> <p>Polar and tundra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Canada and Alaska</li> <li>Above freezing for only 2 months of year</li> <li>Precipitation from 4-20 inches/year</li> <li>Frozen ground</li> </ul> <p>Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conifer (evergreen) and broadleaf trees cover Canada and the northwest, northeast, and southeast of the U.S.</li> <li>Precipitation from 10-80 inches/year</li> <li>Temperatures middle to cold</li> </ul> <p>Rainforest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pacific coast</li> <li>Precipitation up to 167 inches/year</li> <li>Trees up to 300 feet tall</li> <li>Ground covered in smaller vegetation</li> <li>One acre of rainforest can have 6,000 pounds of moss and lichen</li> <li>Temperature moderate and rarely below freezing</li> </ul> <p>Grassland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Center of North America</li> <li>Precipitation from 15-30 inches/year</li> <li>Grow grain and rice</li> </ul> <p>Desert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southwestern U.S.</li> <li>Precipitation less than 10 inches/year</li> <li>Plants (shrubs, small trees, cacti) must survive harsh sun, high temperatures, and little rain</li> </ul>

*Log continued on the next page.*

<p>Rich natural resources have influenced North America's economic development.</p>	<p><b>Natural resources in North America</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Farmlands of midwestern U.S. and prairies in central Canada have rich soil</li><li>• Forests in northwest, northeast, and southeast</li><li>• Oil fields in Alberta, Texas, California, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Alaska, and Gulf of Mexico</li><li>• Coal in western Canada, Appalachian Mountains, Illinois, Indiana, and Wyoming</li></ul> <p>Cities and businesses first grew around waterways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Still used to ship resources</li><li>• Supply drinking water, power, irrigation</li><li>• Support fishing industry</li></ul> <p>Trade exceeds \$1 billion/day</p> <p>Must cooperate on national security, environment, air traffic, and fishing regulations</p>
<p><b>Main Idea of Section:</b></p>	
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	

## *Social Studies TEKS*

### **Grade 6**

(5) Geography. The student understands how geographic factors influence the economic development, political relationships, and policies of societies. The student is expected to:

(B) identify geographic factors such as locations, physical features, transportation corridors and barriers, and distribution of natural resources that influence a society's ability to control territory; and

(C) explain the impact of geographic factors on economic development and the domestic and foreign policies of societies.

SOURCE: TEA, 2010.