

# Notes Log: Summarization: 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>

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<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> North America's location, vegetation zones, and natural resources have influenced its development.</p>	
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Completely surrounded by water, North America has five vegetation zones determined by climate and geography. These zones range from desert to rainforest and contain some unique plants and animals. Improvements in shipbuilding and ocean navigation eventually brought settlers to the continent. North America's rich natural resources encouraged economic development and the establishment of towns and businesses along waterways.</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:

- identify and explain the geographic factors responsible for the location of economic activities in places and regions;
- identify geographic factors such as location, physical features, transportation corridors and barriers, and distribution of natural resources that influence a society's ability to control territory; and
- explain the impact of geographic factors on economic development and the domestic and foreign policies of societies.

SOURCE: TEA, 2010.