

Notes Log: Summarization: Social Studies Sample

Topic/Title: North America's location, physical features, and distribution of natural resources		Pages: 70-83
Main Ideas	Notes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Arctic Ocean (north) to the Gulf of Mexico (south)Pacific Ocean (west) to the Atlantic Ocean (east)Unique plants (sequoia tree and saguaro cactus)Unique animals (bald eagle and alligator)Difficult for people to reach (early settlers and attackers during WWI and WWII)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Earliest settlers arrived 12,000 to 35,000 years agoIntroduced new plants and animals from home countriesUsed internal waterways (rivers) and Native American guides to travel throughout continent	
	Polar and tundra	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern Canada and AlaskaAbove freezing for only 2 months of yearPrecipitation from 4-20 inches/yearFrozen ground	
Improvements in shipbuilding and ocean navigation brought settlers to the continent.	Forest	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conifer (evergreen) and broadleaf trees cover Canada and the northwest, northeast, and southeast of the U.S.Precipitation from 10-80 inches/yearTemperatures middle to cold	
	Rainforest	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pacific coastPrecipitation up to 167 inches/yearTrees up to 300 feet tallGround covered in smaller vegetationOne acre of rainforest can have 6,000 pounds of moss and lichenTemperature moderate and rarely below freezing	
	Grassland	
Vegetation zones are determined by climate and geography.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Center of North AmericaPrecipitation from 15-30 inches/yearGrow grain and rice	
	Desert	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southwestern U.S.Precipitation less than 10 inches/yearPlants (shrubs, small trees, cacti) must survive harsh sun, high temperatures, and little rain	

Log continues on the next page.

<p>Rich natural resources have influenced North America's economic development</p>	<p>Natural resources in North America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmlands of midwestern U.S. and prairies in central Canada have rich soil • Forests in northwest, northeast, and southeast • Oil fields in Alberta, Texas, California, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Alaska, and Gulf of Mexico • Coal in western Canada, Appalachian Mountains, Illinois, Indiana, and Wyoming <p>Cities and businesses first grew around waterways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still used to ship resources • Supply drinking water, power, irrigation • Support fishing industry <p>Trade exceeds \$1 billion/day</p> <p>Must cooperate on national security, environment, air traffic, and fishing regulations</p>
<p>Main Idea of Section: North America's location, vegetation zones, and natural resources have influenced its development.</p>	
<p>Summary</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:
- (A) identify and explain the geographic factors responsible for the location of economic activities in places and regions;
 - (B) 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
 - (C) explain the impact of geographic factors on economic development and the domestic and foreign policies of societies.

SOURCE: TEA, 2010.