

# NORTH AMERICA



**CLIMATE** The Arctic Circle is one of the coldest places on earth with winters reaching -30°C, although much of Canada is deciduous forest. Central U.S.A. consists of deciduous forest but also grassland, with very hot summers and cold winters whilst western Mexico and U.S.A. has a desert climate, reaching up to 45°C.

## LONGEST RIVERS

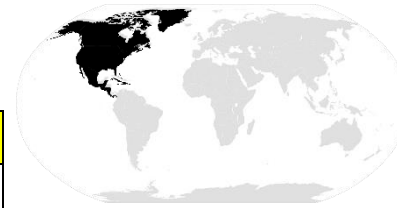
- Mississippi (U.S.A.) - 3778km
- Missouri (U.S.A.) - 3767km
- Yukon (Canada) 3190km

## TALLEST MOUNTAINS

- Denali (Alaska) 6190m
- Mount Logan (Canada) 5959m
- Pico de Orizaba (Mexico) 5636m





## LARGEST POPULATIONS

- U.S.A. (322 million people)
- Mexico (127 million people)
- Canada (36 million people)



**FACT BOX**  
To the east of Central America, between the Caribbean Sea and Mexican Gulf, are the Caribbean Islands consisting of Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas.

## Physical Features

<b>The Arctic Circle</b> 	One of the two polar circles on Earth. This one is in the north and consists of the Arctic Ocean and extends to Canada, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the U.S.A. (Alaska), Denmark, Iceland and Russia. Conditions are freezing cold creating large sheets of ice.
<b>The Grand Canyon</b> 	An enormous carved canyon in the ground formed by the Colorado River, which began 5-6 million years ago. It runs 1800m deep and 18 miles wide and is in Arizona in western U.S.A.
<b>The Rocky Mountains</b> 	'The Rockies' are a major mountain range, spanning 3000km, in the west running through Canada and the United States. The range offers dramatic wilderness, diverse wildlife/alpine lakes.
<b>Central America</b> 	There are 7 countries: Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Guatemala is famed for its ancient Mayan ruins. It is a significantly poorer region compared to the northern countries.

## Human Features

<b>The 50 States.</b> 	The United States of America has the largest economy in the world and, because of its enormous size, is divided into 50 different states. Each state has their own laws. This is why there are 50 stars on the national flag.
<b>Sports and Recreation</b> 	Sports in the U.S.A. define much of its culture and many sports are played exclusively to the country including American Football, baseball, ice hockey and basketball. Many more countries have since developed these too.
<b>Colonisation</b> 	When Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492, humans had been in North America for over 30,000 years. The Europeans settled on the land but disease and war meant most of the natives were killed. The U.S.A. declared its independence from Britain in 1776.

## Key Vocabulary

alpine	plants relating to high mountains
deciduous	trees which lose their leaves annually
Disney	Florida, U.S.A. is famous for its Disney parks
coniferous	trees which do not lose their leaves
countries	There are 38 countries and islands in North America
Everglades	tropical wetlands in southern Florida, U.S.A.
glacier	slow moving river of ice in the Arctic Circle
Great Plains	flat grasslands through central U.S.A. between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River
Inuit	native settlers from Alaska (Eskimos)
Panama Canal	man-made waterway to allow ships to cut through Central America rather than sail around the whole of South America
rainforest	much of Central America is covered in rainforest
swap	Atchafalaya Swamp is the largest in the U.S.A. and is in Louisiana near the Gulf of Mexico
tornado alley	large area of land near the Great Plains where tornados are very common
totem pole	monumental carving on trees by natives
tundra	an Arctic flat plain of land without trees

## FAUNA (ANIMALS)









Examples: bobcats, wolves, bald eagles, alligators, moose and grizzly bears (Central America - monkeys, sloths, toucans and sea turtles).

## FLORA (PLANTS)








Giant Sequoia Maple leaf Pine tree Oak tree Organ Pipe cactus Dogwood