



Exploring Our World



Monument Valley



French Quarter



Navajo people



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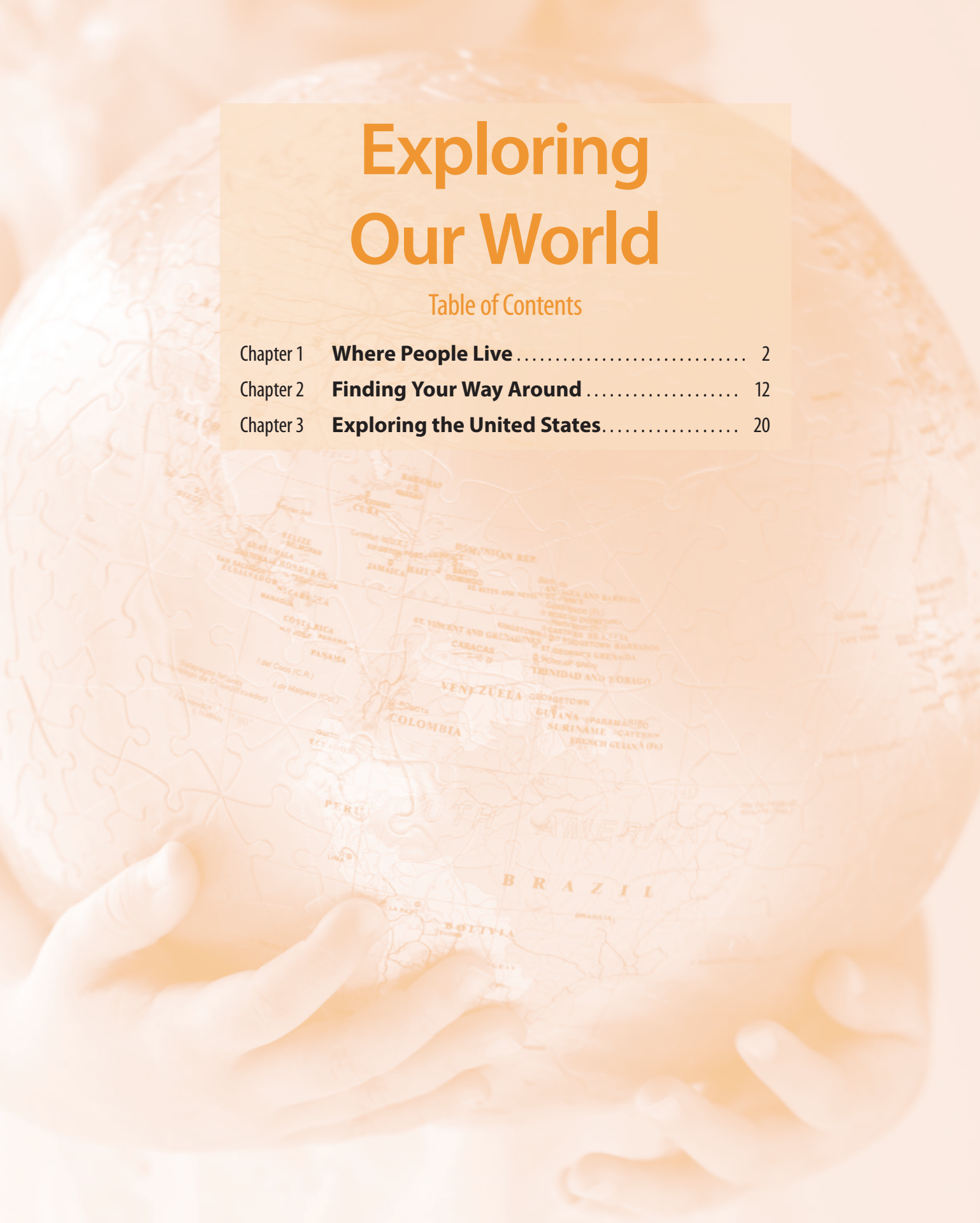
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ISBN: 979-8-88970-007-4

Exploring Our World

Table of Contents

Chapter 1	Where People Live	2
Chapter 2	Finding Your Way Around	12
Chapter 3	Exploring the United States	20

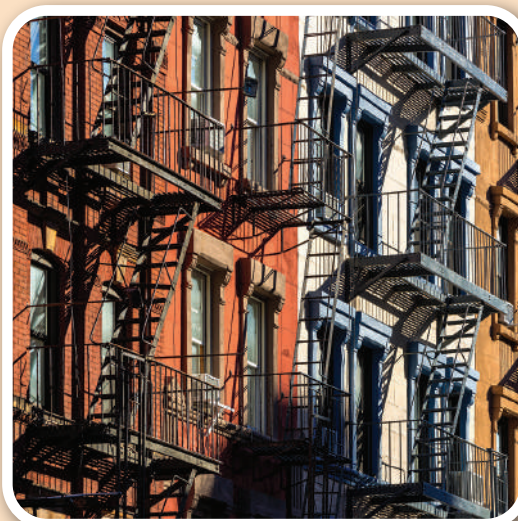


Where People Live

People live in many different places. Where do you live?



Do you live on a farm in the country?



Do you live in an apartment in the city?



Do you live in a house in a town?



Do you live in a houseboat on a river?



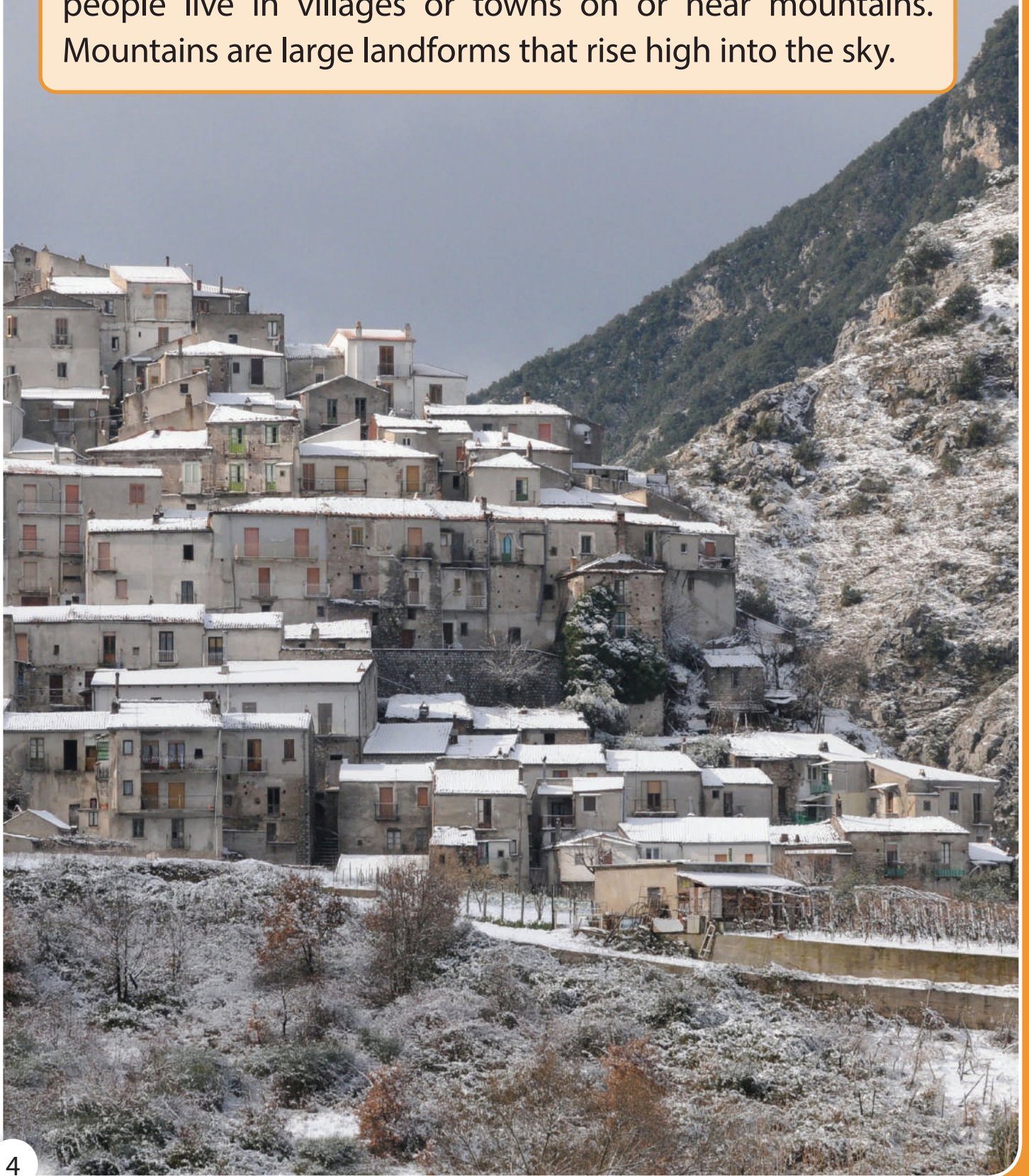
You may live in a neighborhood like this. Maybe you play outside with your friends.

You live in a U.S. state. A state is an area or place much larger than your neighborhood. Which state do you live in?



You also live in a country. A country is a place with a government and laws for all the people who live there. Countries have names. Do you know the name of the country you live in?

People live in all kinds of places around the world. Some people live in villages or towns on or near mountains. Mountains are large landforms that rise high into the sky.



Other people live on or near hills. Hills are like small mountains. Some people like to live high up on mountains or hills because of the beautiful views they have from their home.



The border where the land meets the ocean is called the coast. People often live on the coast so that they can enjoy the beach, the ocean views, and the seafood!



Islands are pieces of land surrounded by water. Islands can be in the ocean, a lake, or a river. Sometimes islands have their own special plants and animals.



For a long time, people all over the world have lived near lakes and rivers. Lakes and rivers have fresh water for drinking and fish for food. You can travel by boat on them, too.



Millions of people around the world live and work in cities. Cities are often busy places with lots of people, tall buildings, and traffic.



Other people live in the countryside far away from cities. The countryside has lots of open land and farms where food is grown and animals are raised.



There are places that are not super busy like a city or quiet like the countryside. These places are called suburban areas. In the suburbs, people live near one another but are usually not too far away from nature.



In this image of a suburban area, you can see that the desert and the mountains are close by.



Some people live in warm and sunny places, and some live in cool and snowy places. People in warm places wear clothes that help them stay cool. People sometimes swim when it is very warm outside.



People in cold places wear layers of clothing. Sometimes they build fires to stay warm.



Sometimes people move from one place to another. It can be for a new job or to be closer to family. Some may want to enjoy warmer or cooler weather. Others might simply want a change of scenery!

Finding Your Way Around

Maps are tools that help us understand our world.



Maps help us find our way around. They can help us find objects or places.



There are maps of different places. There are maps for all of the American states. This is a map of Louisiana.



This is a view of Louisiana's capital city, Baton Rouge, from the sky. A state capital is where the government of that state is located.



On a map, you can see all sorts of things. Maps show mountains. Maps show bodies of water, like lakes and rivers. Maps also show islands. On this map, the islands that make up the state of Hawaii are shown in a square at the bottom. The state of Alaska is also shown in a square. Hawaii and Alaska are part of the United States.

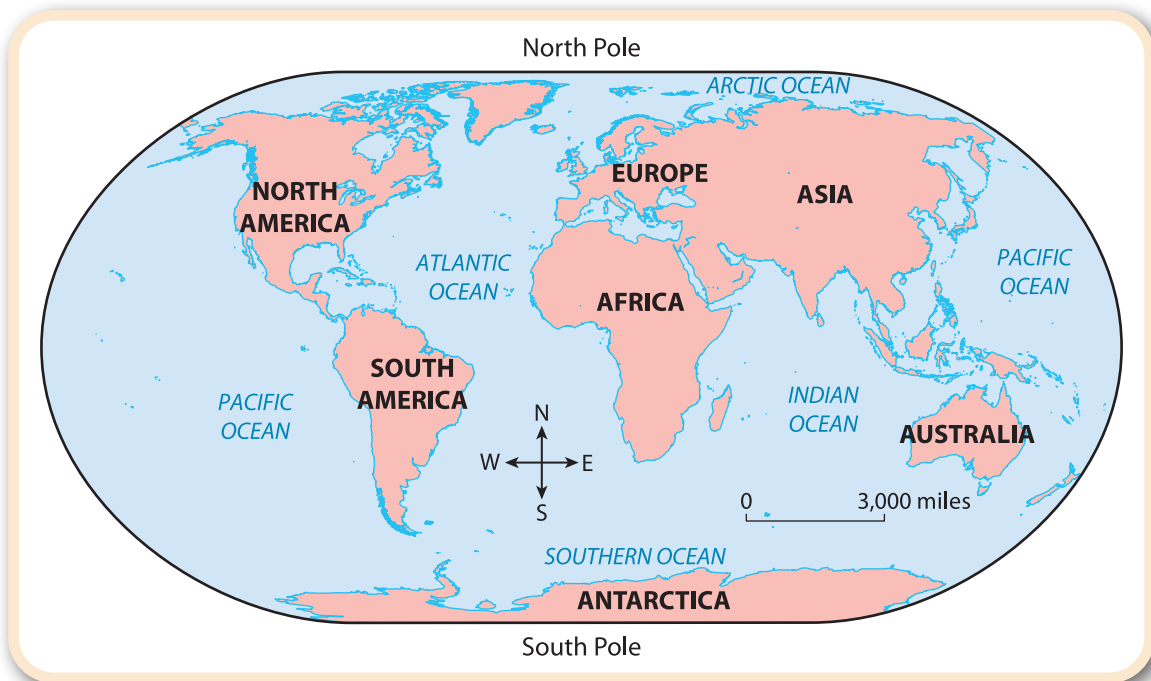


The map shows where the Rocky Mountains are. The Rocky Mountains stretch across 3,000 miles (4,828 km).

Here you can see the Rocky Mountains.



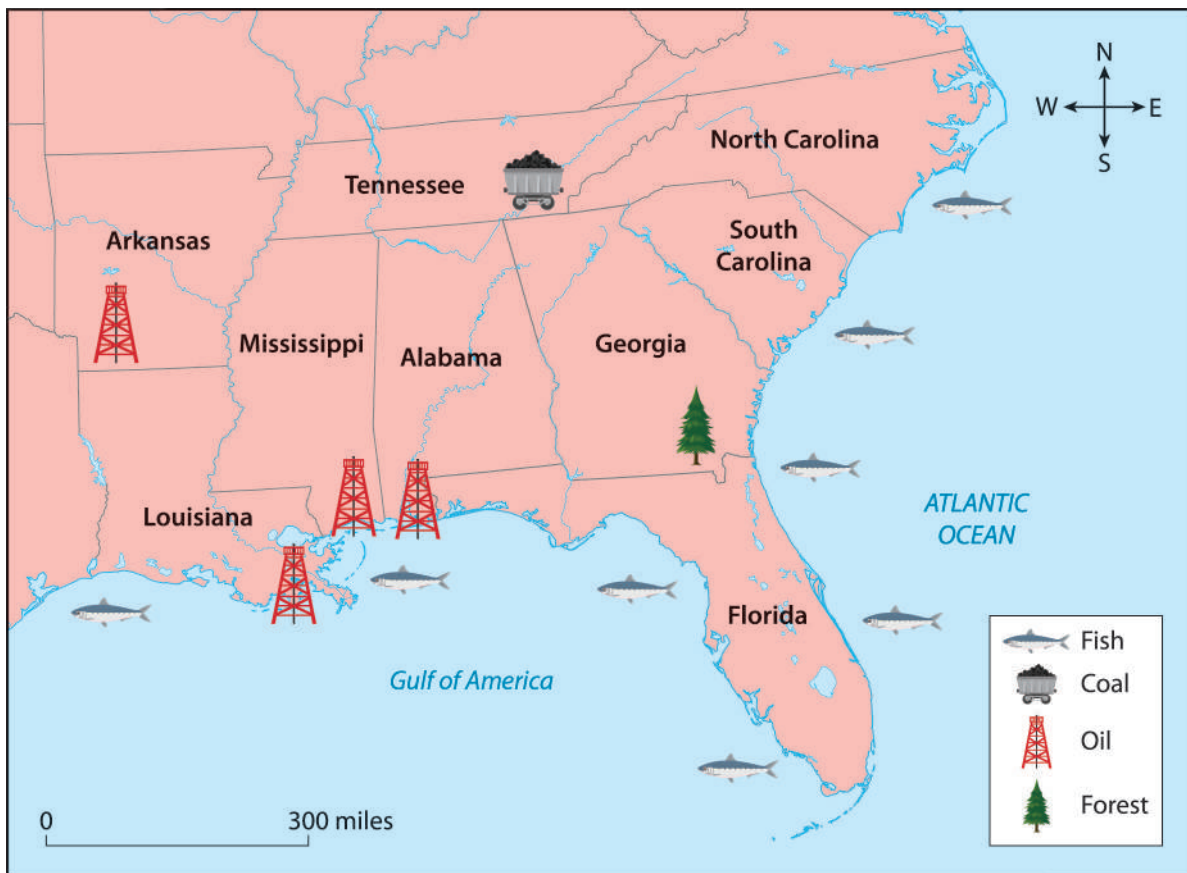
There are many countries in the world. Most countries are found on large areas of land we call continents. There are seven continents. You can see the seven continents on this map of the world. The United States of America is on the continent of North America.



This map also shows oceans. There are five oceans. The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest ocean in the world. The West Coast of the United States is next to the Pacific Ocean.



Some maps tell us where we can find natural resources, like forests for wood or oceans for fish. We use these resources to build homes and feed ourselves. Coal and oil are also natural resources.



Maps can even show us information about the weather. This information helps us prepare for what's to come.



Many maps have small pictures called symbols. They are like secret map codes. There are symbols for towns, cities, mountains, rivers, highways, and even train tracks. The area on a map that tells you about the symbols is called the key.

MAP KEY

== Highway

• City

★ Capital City

✈ Airport



Forest



Railroad



Mountain



River

Symbols help us understand what's on the map. They also help us find the things we are looking for.



You use maps more often than you might realize. Sometimes maps are made of paper that you can hold. Have you ever been to the zoo? Some places, like the zoo, give you maps to help you find your way around.



Sometimes you may see a map on a computer or a phone.

Some maps can even be seen on a GPS device or phone in your car!



This is a globe. A globe is different from a map. It is a round model of our world, which we call Earth. Earth is round, you see! The farthest northern point on Earth is called the North Pole. The farthest southern point on Earth is called the South Pole.



Exploring the United States

As you have learned, the United States is part of North America. Are you ready to take a trip and explore the United States? Let's go!



The United States has many sights to see and explore. Look at this map. There are big cities, mountains, and rivers. Can you point out where you can find these?

The United States



Washington, D.C., is the capital of the United States. The city sits next to the Potomac River, close to Maryland and Virginia. Can you find Washington, D.C., on the map?



New England is a region of the United States. It has beautiful coastlines to explore. There are fishing villages in New England, too.



In New England you will also find mountains to climb and lakes to swim in!



The United States has many big cities, like New Orleans in Louisiana. In cities like New Orleans, there is always something to do. Many people live in New Orleans. There are tall buildings where people work, shops where they buy things, and parks where they play.



Other parts or regions of the United States, especially the Midwest, have lots of land that is used to grow food. Do you like corn? It's grown on farms in many places, like the state of Iowa.



The Midwest also has dairy farms and fields full of cows. The milk from these cows is used to make delicious food like ice cream and cheese.



The southern United States is usually warmer than the northern part of the country. Lots of people choose to vacation or live in Florida. Florida is a state that stretches out like a long finger into the ocean.



There are tall, sometimes snowy mountains in the United States, like the Rocky Mountains in the western part of the U.S. Do you remember seeing them on the map?



Rivers like the Colorado River flow through the United States. Some people use these rivers for fishing or boating.



Deserts in the United States, like Monument Valley, have long stretches of sand and beautiful stone hills.



The Navajo people have lived in these deserts for many years. The desert is their home!



People in the United States live in different places, with different weather, and in different kinds of homes. But we all live as part of one country—the United States of America.



Then

The Thirteen Colonies



Now

The United States





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