



Y3 Knowledge Organiser *Ice, deserts & skyscrapers- a continent of contrasts*

Lines of Inquiry:

- What are the most important human (cities, land use & trade) & physical features (mountains, rivers, lakes) in North America?
- Which countries make up North America and what are they like?
- How does living in a city (e.g. N York) compare to living in our own area? (comparison) What systems are in place to improve cities? (diversity) (better sanitation, clean air, transport links, energy infrastructure) and how do city resources effect population (e.g. rivers, airports)?

Main Foci:

Science: **N American animals**
Parts of plants
Geography: **North America**
Art: **N American art**
DT: **US recipes**

What should I already know

- The Earth is tilted on an axis, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres experience different types of weather at the same time of the year.
- How to locate a country using an atlas
- Map skills including continents, oceans, world map familiarity)
- Understand the difference between physical features (mountains, rivers) and human features (cities, land use), and foundational knowledge of climate zones.
- Understand basic geographical vocabulary like "continent" and "country."

Key facts

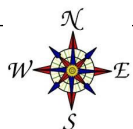
Some of the North American countries: Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, USA.

Key knowledge

The largest country in North America is Canada, but the United States of America has the largest population.

The most commonly spoken languages are English, French and Spanish.

North America has many amazing physical features, including Niagara Falls on the border of Canada and the USA.



Vocabulary- Geographical terms and processes

landscape	a large area of land. It is the "view" or "scenery" of a place.
mountain	a large, natural landform that rises steeply and significantly above the surrounding land.
rural	a large, natural landform that rises steeply and significantly above the surrounding land.
state	A specific region with its own government that is part of a larger country (e.g., California is a state in the USA).
urban	Anything to do with a city or town.

Vocabulary- Locational terms

latitude	the imaginary horizontal lines that circle the Earth, used to measure how far north or south a place is from the Equator.
longitude	the imaginary horizontal lines that circle the Earth, used to measure how far north or south a place is from the Equator.
Northern Hemisphere	"Hemi" means half, and "sphere" means ball, so it is the top half of the world.
North east	the direction on a compass that is halfway between North and East
North west	the direction on a compass that is halfway between North and West.
South east/ west	the direction on a compass that is halfway between South and east/ west
Western Hemisphere	It is the western half of the globe.
human features:	human features: features of a place that are a result of human activity, such as shops, farms, homes and roads
landscape:	landscape: what you can see when you look across an area of land
physical features:	physical features: natural features of a place, such as mountains, rivers and seas
state:	state: an area of land with its own government. There are 50 states in the USA

What will I Know by the end of the unit?

- How to locate North America on a map.
- Identifying the countries of North America.
- Exploring the Rocky Mountains range.
- The effects of the Mt St Helen's eruption.
- Comparing the landscapes of US states.
- Comparing New York with where we live.