

Summer Term	Lostwithiel Primary School	YEAR 6 - Conkers Class
Human and Physical Geography - North America	Geography Knowledge Organiser	

Prior Learning

- Children will have previously studied South America and the Earth's structure, including tectonic plates (Year 3) and Rivers (Year 4/5)
- The children will have studied various physical features in the UK, Europe and South America

Physical Geography Key Learning

- North America is the third largest continent. It has coasts on the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and is connected to South America by land.
- The Grand Canyon, in northern Arizona, is 1800m deep in places.
- It was formed by the Colorado River cutting down through rocks that were being pushed up by the moving plates of the Earth's surface. Two plates pushing upwards against each other, has formed the Colorado Plateau.
- The source of the Colorado River is melting snow in the Rocky Mountains, northern Colorado. The river flows southwest through Utah and into northern Arizona, where it runs through the Grand Canyon. It then flows south, through California and into Mexico. Over millions of years, it has cut more than 1600km of rock.



Human Geography Key Learning

- North America - fourth largest population. The land itself has a major impact on how the population settled across it. Biggest cities: Mexico City, New York, Los Angeles.
- The Colorado River is the most regulated river in the world. Artificial dams have been built to reduce the flow of water in some areas while increasing it in others.
- Families first began settling around the Grand Canyon in the 1880s, quickly realising that tourism was going to be very profitable.
- In 1901, the Grand Canyon Railway was opened to make travel easier. Hotels and visitor facilities were also built which greatly increased visitor numbers.



Geographical Skills

Locational knowledge - name and locate places in the USA, key human and physical features and characteristics of the USA.

Place knowledge - understanding geographical similarities and differences between the UK, and the USA.

Physical geography - describe the distribution of different environments in the USA, understand how climatic conditions are different across the country.

Human geography - describe and understand the different types of human settlements in the USA and how different landscapes support human activity.

Geographical skills and fieldwork - use maps to locate states, cities, towns and key locations explored.

Key Vocabulary

canyon	A deep, narrow valley with steep sides.
climate	Long term weather patterns in an area.
delta	A landform that forms at the mouth of a river, where the river flows into an ocean or sea, estuary, lake or reservoir.
Flood plain	An area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river, formed mainly of river sediment and subject to flooding.
Gorge	A deep, narrow valley with steep sides, usually smaller than a canyon.
plateau	A large region that is higher than the surrounding area and relatively flat.
Population density	Measurement of the number of people in an area.
Population distribution	The pattern of where people live. Sparse population - few people. Dense population - many people.

Linked documents: Class Overview, History Whole School Progression document and Class Medium Term Planning.