Walk On Water

St. Paul's C of E VA Primary and Nursery School
Knowledge Organiser

With God ALL THINGS ARE possible MATTHEW 19:26

Geography	Year 5	North America



North America — **third largest continent**. It is in the **northern hemisphere** and mostly within the **western hemisphere**. The 49 °N latitude forms a boundary between the two largest countries. These are the USA and Canada.

It is bordered by the **Artic Ocean**, the **Atlantic Ocean**, the **Pacific Ocean**, **South America** and the **Caribbean Sea**.

Rivers

There are hundreds of rivers. They are vital for **irrigation** for **agriculture**, **fishing**, the generation of **hydro-electricity** and as **navigation** routes for shipping. Rivers are sacred to the **Native American indigenous people**.

Major Rivers

Colorado — 1,450 miles long. Formed many canyons.

Most famous — Grand Canyon.



Mackenzie — Longest river in Canada. 1,200 miles long.

Missouri — Longest river in North America at 2,500 miles.

Ohio — Formed by a confluence.

St Lawrence — Forms natural border between Canada and the US.

Brazos, Churchill, Fraser, Columbia, Mississippi, Rio Grande, Yukon.

Diversity — **Tropical rainforests, savannah** and areas of **permanent ice cap**. Farmers harvest oranges, sugar cane, coffee, cocoa and bananas. Fruits, vegetables and cotton are predominant in the warm, **sub-tropical zones**. Cool zones are ideal for fruits such as apples and peaches. Also good for cattle and corn agriculture.

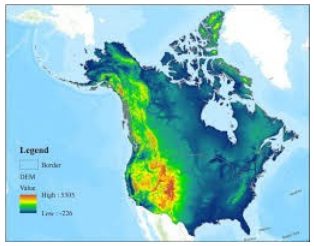
Mountains

Western coastline — **Rocky Mountain Chain** and **tectonic plate boundary**.

Mountains formed through process of **subduction**.

There is great **seismic activity** in this area as it is part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.

Topographic map shows the mountainous areas.



Major Mountain Ranges

Alaska Range — highest peak in North America

Coast Range Rocky Mountains — about 3,000 miles in length

Appalachian Mountains, Brooks Range, Cascades, Sierra Madres, Sierra Nevada.

Population

Europeans arrived in the 1500's and 1600's. Before then the population of North America consisted of **Native American tribes** and the **Aztec and Mayan civilisations.**

Europeans **colonised** much of North America and now the indigenous people are fewer.

Most Populous Cities

1. Mexico City, Mexico
2. New York City, USA
3. Los Angeles, USA
4. Chicago, USA
5. Toronto, Canada

Key Vocabulary

Latitude	The distance of a place from the equator
Lowlands	Areas of low, flat land
Agricultural	Relating to farming and its methods
Pedominant	Larger in number
Colonised	Took control over
Indigenous	Originally from a country
Populous	With a large population
Sparsely	With only a small number of people
Metropolitan	Relating to a large city
Irrigation	Watering crops
Rises	Begins
Numerous	Many
Confluence	Where two or more rivers join together
Pesticides	Chemicals used to kill insects that eat crops
Topographic	Relating to the physical features of an area
Subduction	The movement of one tectonic plate below another
Seismic	Relating to earthquakes