

Landforms of the United States

Physical geography is the study of the landforms and bodies of water of the Earth. The United States encompasses 3,537,441 square miles and has some spectacular landforms. In this presentation you will learn about and create a map of some of these landforms and bodies of water.

Get Ready to Explore!

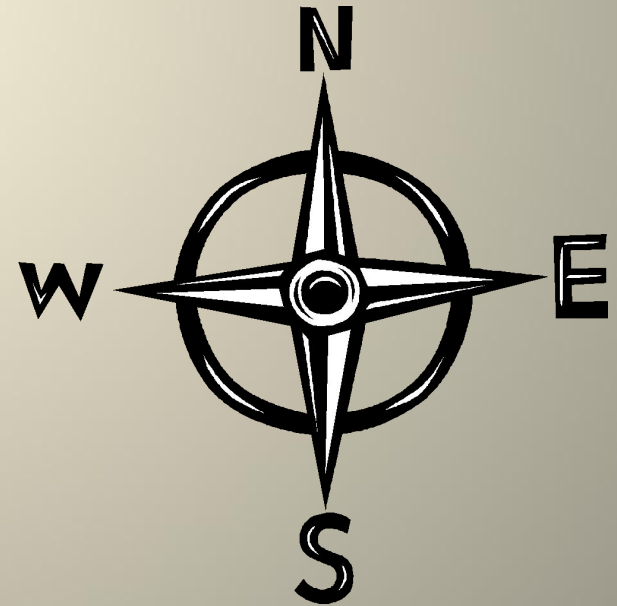
You will need:

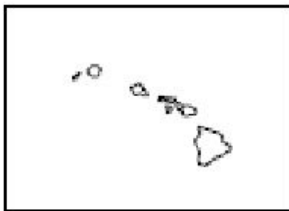
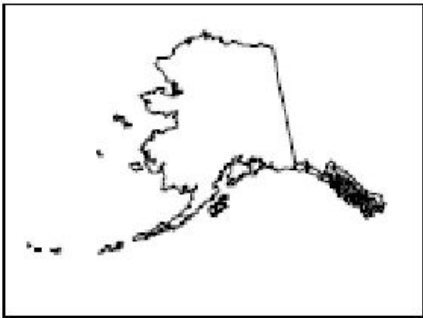
- A blank map of the United States
- Map pencils/ Crayons
- Blue, yellow, red
orange, green,
brown



Which Way?

We use a compass rose on a map to find and show direction. Please draw and label a compass rose in the **top, right corner of your map**. Examples are given below.

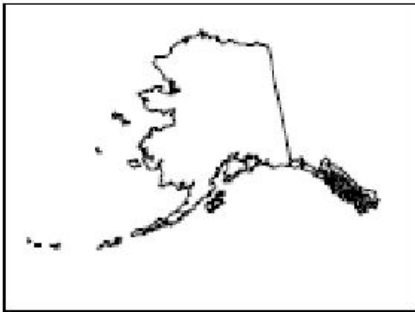
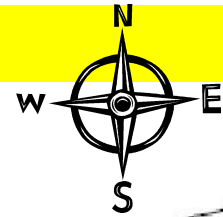




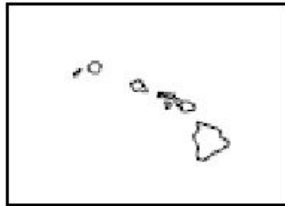
Our Neighbors

The United States is located on the North American Continent. Sharing the continent with us are the countries of Canada and Mexico. To our north is Canada and to our south is Mexico. On your map, **label Canada** and color it **yellow**. **Label Mexico** and color it **red**.

Canada



Mexico





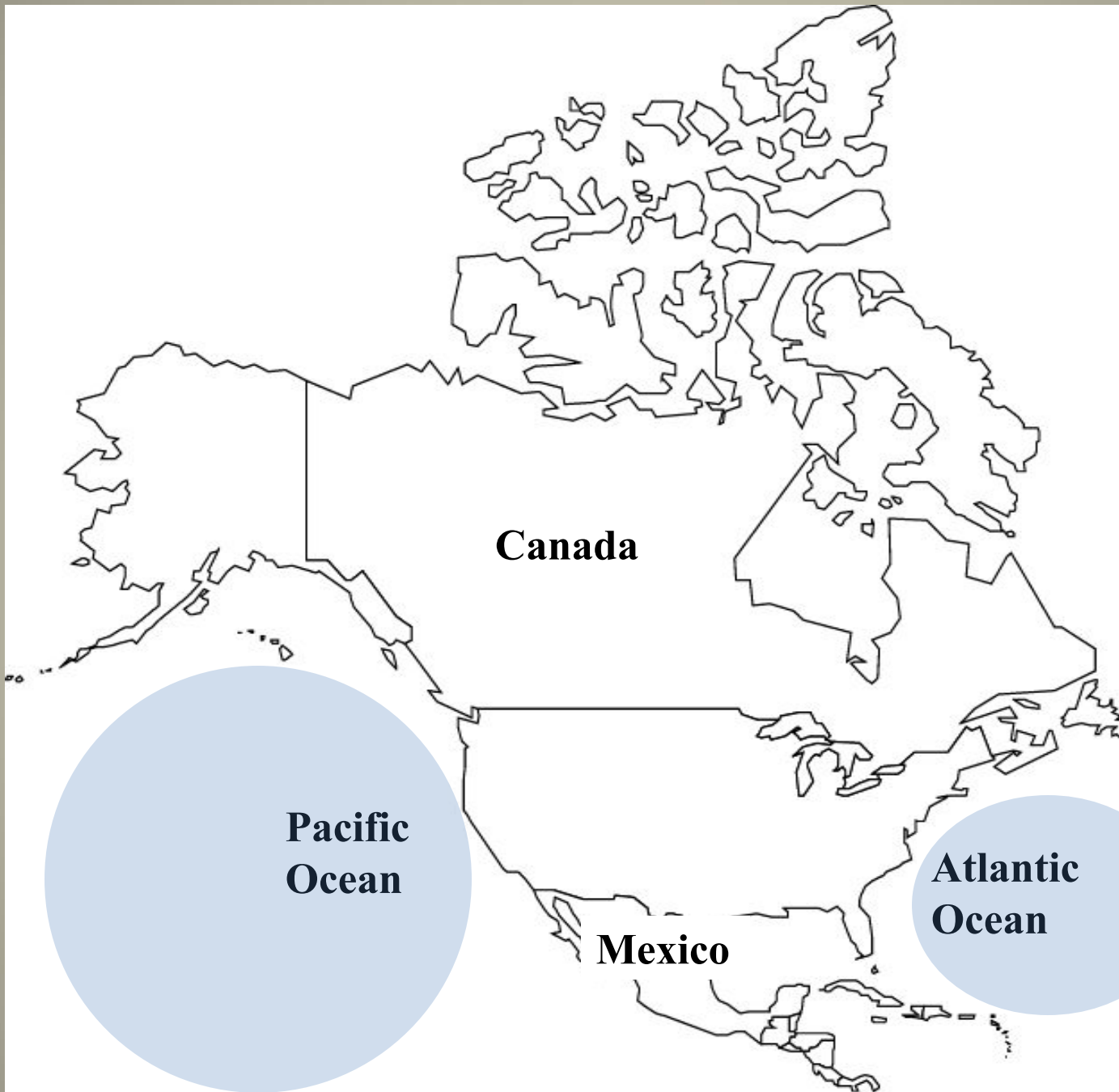
Bodies of Water

- Ocean
- Gulf
- Lake
- River

Oceans

About $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the Earth's surface is covered by a large body of salt water. We have divided this body of water into 7 different oceans. Two of these oceans border the United States. The **Atlantic Ocean** is to the **east** of the United States and the **Pacific Ocean** is to the **west**. **Label each ocean on your map and color them blue.**





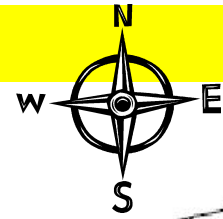
Canada

**Pacific
Ocean**

Mexico

**Atlantic
Ocean**

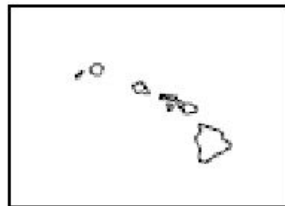
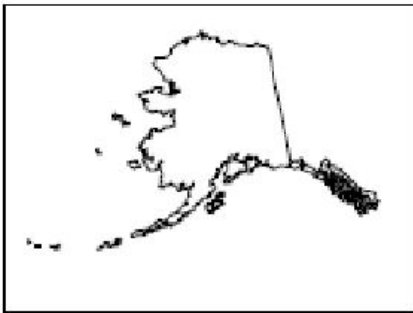
Canada



**Pacific
Ocean**

**Atlantic
Ocean**

Mexico



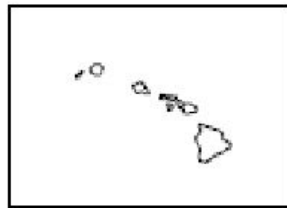
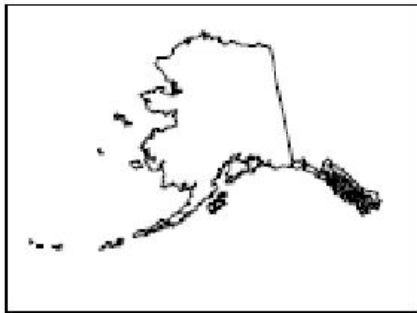
Gulf

A gulf is a large area of ocean partly surrounded by land. The United States has one large gulf off the coast of Texas called the **Gulf of Mexico**. Find it on your map and label it.





Gulf of Mexico



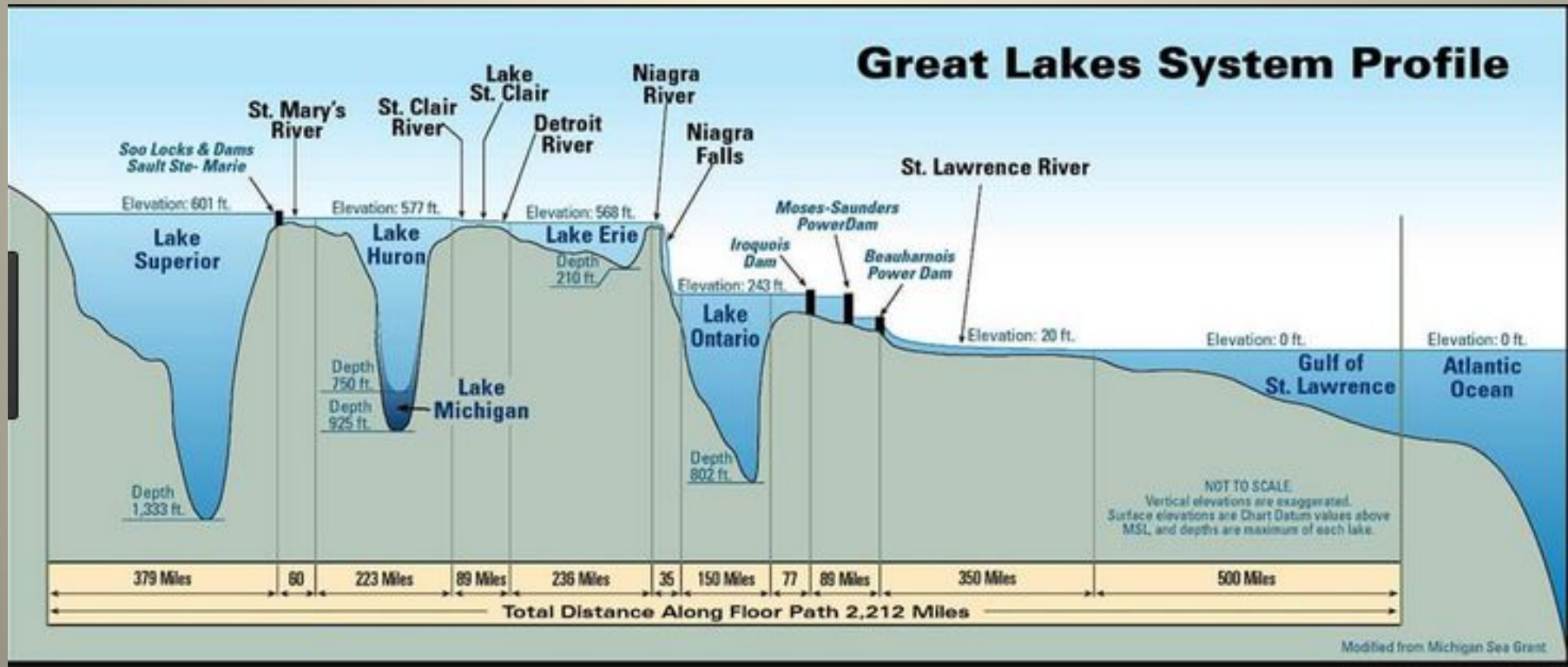


Lake

A lake is a large body of water surrounded by land. Lakes are usually freshwater. The largest lakes in the United States are the **Great Lakes**. They form part of the border with Canada. Label the five Great Lakes on your map and color



Great Lakes contain 20% world's fresh water!



River

A river is a large stream of water that flows into a larger body of water. Some significant rivers in the United States are shown on the map below. Use **blue** to draw and **label** the Colorado, Rio Grande, and Mississippi Rivers on your map.



Mighty Mississippi



Landforms

- Island
- Peninsula
- Mountain range
- Plain
- Valley

Island

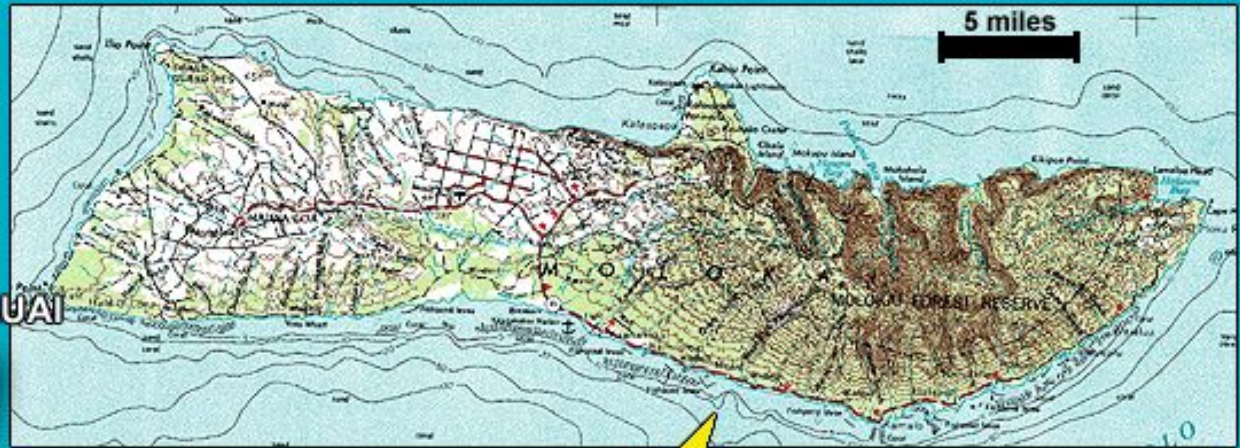
An island is a body of land completely surrounded by water. The largest island in the United States is the big island of Hawaii, our 49th state. A satellite view of the Big Island is shown below. ~~Hawaii~~ is an inset on your map. Label it.





science for a changing world

<http://TerraWeb.wr.usgs.gov/projects/CoralReefs>



KAUAI

KAULA

OAHU

MOLOKA'I

LANAI

MAUI

KAHOOLAWE

HAWAI'I



HAWAI'IAN ISLANDS

Hawaii



Only growing state in the USA

The Big Island (Hawaii Island) is getting bigger by about 42 acres each year because of the continuous eruption of the Kīlauea Volcano. It is the most active volcano on Earth and it's been erupting for more than 30 years. The Hawaiian name 'Kilauea' means "spewing" or "much spreading".

Peninsula

A peninsula is land surrounded on three sides of water. The best known peninsula in the United States is Florida. However, the largest peninsula in the United States is actually the state of Alaska. Label the Alaskan peninsula on your map.



Mountain Range

A mountain is a part of land that abruptly rises to at least 1,000 feet. **A mountain range is a group or chain of mountains.** The map on the next slide shows some important North American mountain ranges. Locate the 2 ranges in BOLD PRINT and label them.

- ***Rocky Mountains**
- ***Appalachians**
- Cascades
- Sierra Nevadas
- Coast Range
- Alaska Range





Appalachian
Rocky

NORTH AMERICA

Pacific Ocean

CENTRAL AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICA



Rocky Mountains

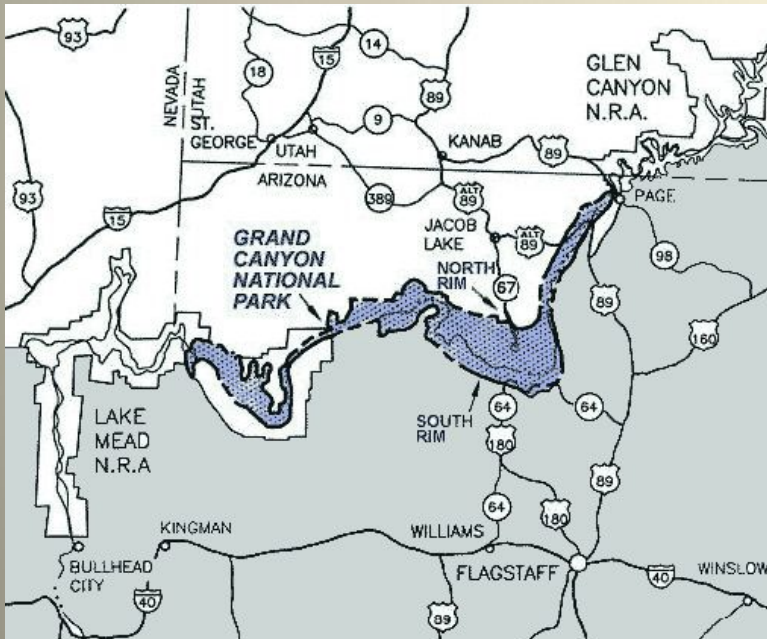


Appalachian Mountains



Canyon

A canyon is a deep gorge, typically one with a river flowing through it. The largest Canyon in the United States is The Grand Canyon. It is located in Arizona. The Colorado River runs through the Grand Canyon.



Mrs. Lowe's Pics of The Grand Canyon



Label the Grand Canyon and Colorado River on your map.



Plain

A plain is a large area of flat or gently rolling land. The United States has two major plains. In the center of the country are the Great Plains. Along the eastern coast and extending along the Gulf Coast are the Coastal Plains. Label the GREAT PLAINS on your map.



Great Plains

