APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

Expanded Map Workshops from MAP OF THE MONTH

CartoCraze!

Expanded Map Workshops
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People throughout human history have been fascinated with mountains. Their majesty and size fills us with wonder! Mountains have inspired religion and mythology. They are the setting for stories, tall tales and literature. Men and women have set out on adventures and accomplish epic feats in mountainous terrain. For the average person, they provide places for sport activities and vacations!

A mountain is one of our planet’s major landforms. A group of mountains forms what is called a range. Mountains are areas of earth that rise up sharply in peaks or mounded shapes, with different elevations.

Mountains can be small or large, and are formed in several ways. When the tectonic plates of the earth’s surface move towards each other and crumble, they caused the earth to rise in peaks. When this movement of plates allow the hot magma beneath the earth’s surface to rise up, volcanic peaks are formed.

The height of mountains are measured from sea level. Low altitude mountains can support vegetation year round and the highest peaks have only snow and cold. Mountains are home to a wide variety of plants and animals, and humans have adapted to living around and on mountains.

This presentation is an introduction to the DENALI, one of the world’s great mountains, with some information about mapping, geography, people and animals of this mountainous region.
It is impossible to talk about MOUNTAINS, or learn about them, without knowing some terms that relate to MOUNTAINS. Here are just a few terms! Can you come up with other terms related to mountains?

RANGE A range is a group of mountains that are geographically related. Sometimes a large mountain range is made up of many smaller ranges.

SUMMIT The highest point of a mountain.

ELEVATION The elevation of a place is often described as its height above sea level. A mountain’s elevation is determined by its highest point, or summit.

SEA LEVEL This is a base measurement for determining the height of mountains. The seas and oceans of the world vary slightly in height due to weather and geography so Sea Level is an average called “Local Mean Sea Level.”

RIDGE A chain of mountains whose upper section form a continuous line over a distance.

The following presentation is an introduction to the APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN RANGE with guidelines about making a map, as well as some information about its geography, people and animals.
The Appalachian Mountains

The Appalachians are a great North American mountain range, extending from Newfoundland, in the country of Canada, to the southern state of Alabama in the United States. The deep mountainous ridges of this range run north to south. Scientists speculate that this feature encouraged migration of animals from north to south in the prehistoric era. This was also a physical feature that delayed westward movement in the colonial days of early America.

Some of the smaller ranges that make up this large range are the White Mountains, Green Mountains and the Berkshires in the North, the Taconic Mountains in the central area, and the Blue Ridge Mountains and Cumberland Plateau in the south.

I am Professor Earthworm

Make a compass rose for your map by following the directions HERE!
The Appalachian Trail was an idea that emerged in the 1920's. The plan was to organize rural farms and camps along the length of the Appalachian Mountains to give urban dwellers a chance to get away from the cities.

This early idea never took hold, mostly due to the huge size of the project. Gradually over time, trailblazers worked the mountain range to open up walking spaces. Finally the trail became a continuous “wilderness” footpath in 1937.

Now the Appalachian Trail is an estimated length of 2,175 miles from Springer Mountain in Georgia, to Baxter Peak on Katahdin in central Maine.

Hikers walk for pleasure, exercise and sometimes extreme physical challenges! The trail ranges in difficulty, from flat and smooth to very strenuous climbs requiring scrambling in rocks and leaping! Also the trail allows hikers to enjoy the beauty of the terrain and to witness many species of animals.
The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club commemorated their love of the trail with this plaque:

“The Appalachian Trail, Georgia to Maine. A footpath of those who seek Fellowship in the Wilderness”

Write a small essay or poem about a long walk or a hike you have taken. Who was with you? What was your starting point? When did you do it? Where was your destination? Why did you do this?
YONAHLOSSEE SALAMANDER

The Yonahlossee Salamander is found primarily in the southern Appalachian Mountains of the United States. They are a special type of salamander that has no lungs! They breathe through their skin and the tissue in their mouths. They are known by the large red blotches on their black bodies. Younger salamanders usually have more red blotches: in the older ones salamanders the blotches tend to blur together into one large band. These red markings can be found on their bellies too!

They live in woodland areas, in logs, and stumps and burrows. These shelters provide protection from predators like birds and small mammals. They have a unique way of escaping from predators. They can secrete a noxious substance that deters their enemies.

These salamanders are carnivorous and feast on spiders, millipedes and EARTHWORMS!
APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

PRINT THIS PAGE:
COLOR AND LABEL THE MAP, BOTH LANDFORMS AND WATER.

ADD A COMPASS ROSE TO YOUR MAP!
COLOR THE YONAHLOSSEE SALAMANDER
YONAHLOOSSEE SALAMANDER
In 1775 Daniel Boone was the first to blaze a trail through the Cumberland Gap in the Appalachians.

Boone’s efforts allowed people to move beyond the Appalachians into the Kentucky and Virginia, areas west of the range. This trail further developed into the Wilderness Road, which for fifty years was the route most taken for pioneers moving east to west. Even though the Trail was steep and treacherous, thousands of people on foot and horseback used it to “Go West.”
HEIDI

by Joanna Spyri

At the age of five, little orphan Heidi is sent to live with her grandfather in the Alps. Everyone in the village is afraid of him, but Heidi is fascinated by his long beard and bushy grey eyebrows. She loves her life in the mountains, playing in the sunshine and growing up amongst the goats and birds. But one terrible day, Heidi is collected by her aunt and is made to live with a new family in town. Heidi can’t bear to be away from her grandfather; can she find a way back up the mountain, where she belongs?

World Above the Clouds: A Story of a Himalayan Ecosystem

by Ann Whitehead Nagda

High in the snow-covered Himalayan peaks of northern India, a snow leopard has left the care of her mother and now must hunt and fend for herself. In the first few days alone she competes for her meals with a red fox, a bearded vulture, and even nearby villagers.
UP ON DENALI
by Shelley Gill and Shannon Cartwright

From its origins as a trick played by Raven (the scientific version involving plate tectonics is also included) to the flora and fauna and human explorations, this colorful children’s book reveals every facet of Alaska’s great Denali Mountain. This book is full of fun and fascinating information.

MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN
by Jean Craighead George

Sam Gribley is unhappy living in New York City with his family, so he runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live in the wood, by himself. With only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel, he intends to survive on his own.

Sam learns about courage, danger, and independence during his year in the wilderness, a year that changes his life forever.
This map shows some of the trails that bore pioneers, explorers and traders westward. Over the 3,000 miles from coast to coast, there was a vast wilderness to cross. The topography was varied: there were rivers, plains, mountains and deserts. Some routes took people to start new lives, and other routes were used for commerce and trading. By looking at the current day boundaries, shown here in gray line, you can see exactly where these trails were. Although some state boundaries were in place in the east at the beginning of the westward movement, it took many years before the vast western territories were established as states.

Long before the time of the trails, native American settlements were in place for countless generations. Many tribes were a part of the story of the westward movement. Some tribes were friendly and helpful to pioneers. Other tribes were more combative, fearful of losing the land they had lived on for so long.

For the most part, nature did not believe that the land could be owned by anyone, so this idea created conflict when the settlers claimed land.

The boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase (1803) and Oregon (acquired from Spain in 1819) are already shown on the map (see symbols for MAP KEY). Label and name these areas. Shade their boundaries with colored pencils.

Using the terminology from the last section as well as the Louisiana Purchase (1803), label and shade the following areas with different colored pencils:

- Oregon Territory (1846)
- Mexican Cession of 1848

Other explorers like Jedediah Smith and Jedediah Morse also explored unknown parts of the West from the Mississippi all the way to Alaska.

**TROUBLES ON THE TRAILS**

The pioneers faced many difficulties in their travels. Some maps show specific dangers and challenges faced by the pioneers. Label the difficulties and describe how the pioneers overcame them. Use the map key to help you.

**LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION**

President Thomas Jefferson chose Lewis and Clark to explore the Northwest Passage. From 1804 to 1806, the members of their group traveled by the river, exploring and mapping the land. In their report, they described the various regions and resources they encountered.

**MAP ACTIVITIES**

Label and shade the following bodies of water shown on the map:
- Atlantic Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Columbia
- Great Lakes
- Lake Superior
- Great Salt Lake
- Columbia River
- Snake River
- Rio Grande
- Arkansas River
- Mississippi River
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Map of the Month

United States of America

Places and Geographic Features

Welcome to the United States of America! The USA is part of the North American continent. It is bordered to the north by Canada and to the south by Mexico. The USA is made up of fifty individual states. Two of these states, Alaska and Hawaii, are separate from the other forty-eight and are shown in insets below. The largest state, Alaska, lies to the northwest next to Canada. Hawaii, a group of islands, lies to the west in the Pacific Ocean.

On the main map, the scale is one inch equals about 150 miles. Because of space limitations, these insets are not drawn to the same scale as the main map. Look at a globe and you’ll see that Alaska is much bigger than Texas.

Locate Political and Physical features

1. Countries: Label Canada and Mexico.
2. State names: Label each state.
3. Capitals: Label each state capital. Locate and label the national capital.
4. Other cities: Label some major cities, including your own town or city.
5. Rivers: Label the Atlantic and Pacific. Shade along coastlines with blue.
7. Major Rivers: Rivers often form the boundaries between states. Draw the rivers in blue. Locate and draw the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Yukon, Hudson, Rio Grande, Colorado, and any others.
8. Major wetlands: Two states that have very large areas of wetlands are Florida and Louisiana. Mark these and other wetland areas.
9. Deserts: The southwestern USA has more dry and lush then any other area. Locate and draw in one or more of these deserts.
10. Mountain ranges: Two major mountain ranges are the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains which span many states. Draw and shade them lightly so you don’t cover up other important features.
Welcome to the United States of America. This country is part of the North American continent. The U.S. is bordered by Canada to the north and Mexico to the south.

The U.S. is made up of 50 individual states. Two of these states are separate from the lower 48 and are shown in insets below the main map. The largest state, Alaska, is next to Canada in the northwest. Hawaii, a group of islands, lies to the west in the Pacific Ocean.

This map also shows the regions where native Americans lived for many thousands of years before the settlers came to North America from Europe. They were incorrectly called "Indians" by Christopher Columbus, who thought he had reached the West Indies.

Geography affects how we live today, but try to imagine how it influenced native Americans who lived directly on the land. Native Americans fished, hunted, gathered or grew their own food, depending on where they lived. The climates and seasons affected how they dressed and how they built their homes. To make homes they used materials that were found in nature.

Although life in each region was different, all native people respected the land and living things. Prayers and rituals were a part of daily life, reminders of how their actions affected nature and each other. They killed animals when necessary, wasting nothing. Skins were used for clothing and shelters. Even bones were made into tools or ornaments.

All native Americans created arts and crafts from materials at hand. In regions where life was easier and food abundant, there was more time for decorative arts. In harsher regions, survival took up most of their time.

Now there are only a few native Americans compared to the past. Unfortunately, settlers, although often welcomed, disrupted the lifestyles of these people. Today, many are struggling to hold on to their traditional ways. For more information about their culture, past and present, look for books in your library. We can learn from them how to better appreciate and respect the land of the 50 states today.