USI.2c Locate and Describe the geographic regions in North America

**Teacher tips and directions:**

In this foldable, students will use a map to show the location of each of the 8 geographic regions in North America and describe the location and land in each region.

Each student will need a copy of slides 2-6 of this file to make this foldable. Copy the slides on 8 ½ x 11 white copy paper. Fold each page on the dotted lines which folds each page in half, slightly off center, leaving a ½” tab on the bottom. Fold the ½” tab over top and then crease it back so it extends in the opposite direction.

Form an accordion fold by gluing the straight edge of one part into the valley side of the other sheet’s tab. The tab next to page #1 slides under page 2. The tab next to page #3 slides under page #4, and so forth. See visual support on the next slide. For more explicit directions and more visuals on accordion folds, refer to Dinah Zike’s *Big Book of Social Studies or Big Book of Books.*

As students glue the pages, make sure to keep the sequence correct, from 1st to last. The pages are numbered.

Students should answer questions posed on the pages to describe the location and land of each region. Then, they should shade each map to show the location on a map of North America.

**Answer key:** (taken from the 2008 Curriculum Framework, page 3

**Geographic regions’ locations and physical characteristics**

**Coastal Plain**  Located along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico
- Broad lowlands providing many excellent harbors

**Appalachian Highlands**  Located west of the Coastal Plain, extending from eastern Canada to western Alabama; includes the Piedmont
- Old, eroded mountains (oldest mountain range in North America)

**Canadian Shield**  Wrapped around the Hudson Bay in a horseshoe shape
- Hills worn by erosion and hundreds of lakes carved by glaciers

**Interior Lowlands**  Located west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the Great Plains
- Rolling flatlands with many rivers, broad river valleys, and grassy hills

**Great Plains**  Located west of the Interior Lowlands and east of the Rocky Mountains
- Flat lands that gradually increase in elevation westward; grasslands

**Rocky Mountains**  Located west of the Great Plains and east of the Basin and Range
- Rugged mountains stretching from Alaska almost to Mexico; high elevations
- Contains the Continental Divide, which determines the directional flow of rivers

**Basin and Range**  Located west of the Rocky Mountains and east of the Sierra Nevadas and the Cascades
- Varying elevations containing isolated mountain ranges and Death Valley, the lowest point in North America

**Coastal Range**  Located along the Pacific Coast, stretching from California to Canada
- Rugged mountains and fertile valleys
2008 POS USI.2c Locate and Describe the geographic regions in North America

Answer key:
Geographic regions’ locations on a map

Susie Orr, ©Fairfax County Public Schools, 2011.
Map ©Fairfax County Public Schools.
Accordion foldable® technique developed by Dinah Zike, Comfort, TX.
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How to fold visual photo support:

Fold each page like this with the tab folded to the front.

Place glue on the front of the tab. Glue the tab on page 1 to the back of page 2, sliding the tab behind the page. Repeat this process with the other pages, gluing the tab of 3 to the
COASTAL PLAIN

• Shade the Coastal Plain red.
• Describe the location of this region:
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________
• Describe the land in this region:
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________
**APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS**

• Shade the **Appalachian Highlands** purple.
• Describe the location of this region:
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________

• Describe the land in this region:
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________

**CANADIAN SHIELD**

• Shade the **Canadian Shield** dark green.
• Describe the location of this region:
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________

• Describe the land in this region:
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________
  ___________________________________
Shade the **Interior Lowlands** light green.

Describe the location of this region:

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Describe the land in this region:

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Shade the **Great Plains** yellow.

Describe the location of this region:

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Describe the land in this region:

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
- Shade the **Rocky Mountains** pink.
- Describe the location of this region:
  - ___________________________________
  - ___________________________________
  - ___________________________________
- Describe the land in this region:
  - ___________________________________
  - ___________________________________
  - ___________________________________

- Shade the **Basin and Range** blue.
- Describe the location of this region:
  - ___________________________________
  - ___________________________________
  - ___________________________________
- Describe the land in this region:
  - ___________________________________
  - ___________________________________
  - ___________________________________
Label the 8 geographic regions of North America by using the letters next to the region names that are listed in the key.

- Shade the **Coastal Range** orange.
- Describe the location of this region:

  _____________________________________
  _____________________________________
  _____________________________________

- Describe the land in this region:

  _____________________________________
  _____________________________________
  _____________________________________

Label the 8 geographic regions of North America by using the letters next to the region names that are listed in the key.