

Topic:

Road trip USA

Year:

4

Summer Term

Key Knowledge:

- The Earth is split into two **Hemispheres**: the Northern **Hemisphere** and the Southern **Hemisphere**.
- The **Equator** is an invisible line around the centre of the Earth.
- There are seven **Continents** in the world: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Australasia and Europe.
- We can use co-ordinates and grid references to identify the exact location of places within the world.

America

- The USA is located in the **Continent** of North America.
- The USA has 50 **States** and is situated between the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean.
- Major rivers of the USA include Mississippi, Missouri and Colorado.

North America

- North America has many regions, which have different **Biomes**.
- These **Biomes** include desert, grassland, **Tundra**, and coral reefs.

Time Zones

- Dependent on a countries position on Earth, they will have different time zones.
- Countries in different time zones may be ahead or behind the time zones of other countries.
- Due to the United States great size, each state can be in a different time zone. Meaning different places within the same country can be at different times of the day.

Climates

- The overall **climate** in the USA is temperate.
- Alaska has an Arctic **Tundra climate**.
- Hawaii and South Florida have a tropical **climate**.

Key Vocabulary:

State – An area in America, which has its own government and laws. There are 50 states in America.

Latitude – A horizontal line, which gives us co-ordinates for a North South position.

Longitude – A vertical line, which gives us co-ordinates for an East West position.

Tropic of Cancer – The most northerly circle of latitude on Earth.

Tropic of Capricorn – The southernmost point on Earth.

Canyon – A deep gorge, typically one with a river flowing through it.

Biome – A community of plants and animals that have common characteristics for the environment

Topography – The study of the shape and featured of land surfaces.

Continent – A large landmass made up of lots of countries.

Equator – A line around the Earth, which is equal distant from the poles (N&S). It divides the Earth into hemispheres.

Tundra – A vast, flat, treeless area where the soil is permanently frozen.

Hemisphere – A half of the Earth, usually divided into northern and southern hemispheres.

Climate – The weather conditions in an area over a long period of time.

Geographical features or characteristics:

- Rocky Mountains
- Mississippi River
- Death Valley
- Great Salt Lake
- Grand Canyon
- Mojave Desert
- Mount Saint Helen
- Hudson River



Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

- Children can use digital mapping, maps and globes to locate where different American cities and **States** are situated to one another.
- Children can use coordinates to pinpoint geographical locations
- Children can locate North and South America using maps, globes and digital computer mapping.

Diagrams and Maps:

