

# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

# WORLD STUDIES

## Year 8 Geography

## United States of America – Part 1

Name:

Class Teacher:



# ENQUIRY QUESTIONS












1. What link is there between the UK and the USA?
2. What are the differences between the major Native American tribes?
3. What does the USA and UK government compare?
4. What biomes are found within the US?
5. How do earthquakes impact the USA?
6. How do tornadoes impact the USA?
7. How do hurricanes impact the USA?
8. What is a super volcano and what impacts could an eruption of this size have?.

# HOMWORK











Big Question	Task	Due Date
4	Revise pages 6 - 9	
8	Revise pages 10-15	
12	Revise for mid unit assessment	

**Key terms found in the glossary on pages 4 and 5 will be tested throughout the unit**

# GLOSSARY

Key term	Icon	Definition
<b>Biodiversity</b>		The number and types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area or in the world generally
<b>Biome</b>		Large area characterised by its vegetation, soil, climate and wildlife.
<b>Climate</b>		The weather conditions in an area over a long period of time.
<b>Drainage Basin</b>		An area of land from which the rain flows into a particular river or lake
<b>Geography</b>		The study of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere, and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these.
<b>Globalisation</b>		The way that companies, ideas and lifestyles are spread around the world.
<b>Hurricane</b>		Violent wind that has a circular movement
<b>Latitude</b>		Imaginary lines parallel to the equator that help map makers to locate places with accuracy. (Horizontal lines)
<b>Longitude</b>		Imaginary lines parallel to the prime meridian line that help map makers locate places with accuracy. (Vertical lines)
<b>Migration</b>		Movement of people from one place to another
<b>Natural Hazard</b>		A natural event such as a flood, earthquake, or tsunami that kills or injures a lot of people

# GLOSSARY

Key term	Icon	Definition
Refugee		A person who has escaped from their own country for political, religious, or economic reasons or because of a war
Social		Relating to society and living together in an organized way
Source		The start of a river
Superpower		A country that has very great political and military power
Tertiary Industry		Providing a service
Topography		The physical appearance of the natural features of an area of land, especially the shape of its surface
Transnational Corporation (TNC):		Businesses which operate in more than one country
Tornado		A strong, dangerous wind that forms itself into an upside-down spinning cone and is able to destroy buildings as it moves across the ground
Watershed:		The area of land drained by a river and its tributaries
Weather		The state of the atmosphere at a particular place and time

# BQ1 & BQ2. WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN THE UK AND USA?



- New York (1626) - Originally founded by the Dutch. Became a British colony in 1664.
- Maryland (1633) - George and Cecil Calvert as a safe haven for Catholics.
- Georgia (1732) - James Oglethorpe as a settlement for debtors.



## Why were the colonies established?

Queen Elizabeth wanted to establish colonies to order grow the British Empire and to counter the Spanish.



Many of the colonies were founded by religious leaders or groups looking for religious freedom e.g. Maryland and Connecticut.



Other colonies were founded purely in hopes of creating new trade opportunities and profits for investors.

The colonies are often divided up into three regions including the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies.

New England Colonies	Middle Colonies	Southern Colonies
Connecticut	Delaware	Georgia
Massachusetts Bay	New Jersey	Maryland
New Hampshire	New York	North Carolina
Rhode Island	Pennsylvania	South Carolina
		Virginia

# BQ1 & BQ2. WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN THE UK AND USA?

## Causes of the American Revolution:



**1754 – 1763:** The French and Indian War was fought between Great Britain and France for control over lands in North America.

After the wars ended, Britain wanted to show authority over them by imposing heavy taxes.

**1767:** British Parliament passes a tax on tea as part of the **Townsend Acts**



**1770: The Boston Massacre** – British soldiers are changing the guard at the Customs House. A confrontation occurs between colonists and the soldiers, shots are fired, and three colonists are dead on the spot; two more die the next day.

**1773: The Boston Tea Party:** The royal governor insisted that the taxes on the tea be paid. Colonial protesters wanted the ships to be returned to England without paying the taxes.



On December 16, 1773, 5,000 Boston citizens met and urged the ship's captain to sail without paying the tax.

When the ships remained in port, a group of men boarded the vessels and dumped the cargo of tea overboard.



## Declaration of Independence



**1774:** Twelve of the colonies delegates to Philadelphia to review the situation with Great Britain. This group was called the **First Continental Congress**. They called for a boycott of English goods and petitioned the king to address colonial grievances.

A Committee of Five was appointed to write a draft of a statement of independence from Britain during that time. **Thomas Jefferson** was the primary writer of the document.



## Independence from Great Britain

**King George III** didn't initially acknowledge the independence of the colonies but after six years of fighting the war was bankrupting England.



**February 1783:** King George III issued a **Proclamation of Cessation of Hostilities** and this formally ended the fighting.



The **Treaty of Paris** ending the war was signed on **September 3, 1783** and the American colonies were officially independent.



# BQ3. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MAJOR NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES?



## Apache - Southwest Region tribe

The Apache lived in traditional homes;



The wikiup (wigwam) was a more permanent home. Its frame from tree saplings formed a dome. It was covered with bark or grass.



Teepees were a more temporary home that could be moved easily when the tribe was hunting buffalo. The teepee's frame was made of long poles and then covered with buffalo hide.

In the **late 1800s** the Apache's fought battles against the United States government over the takeover of their lands. Today many of the Apache tribes live in **reservations** in New Mexico and Arizona.



## The Cherokee - Southeast Tribe

The Cherokee Indians are the largest tribe in the United States.

The Cherokee were a religious people who believed in spirits. They performed ceremonies in order to ask the spirits to help them.

Living in the East, the Cherokee had early contact with the American colonists.



In **1835** treaty was signed with the United States giving the US all of the Cherokee land in return for land in Oklahoma plus \$5 million. Over 4,000 Cherokee people died on the march to Oklahoma. Today this forced march is called the "**The Trail of Tears**".

# BQ4. HOW DOES THE USA AND UK GOVERNMENT COMPARE?



**FEDERAL** - Having or relating to a system of government in which several states form a unity but remain independent in internal affairs.



**CONSTITUTION:** A body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed.

**BICAMERAL:** system used by UK Parliament in which there is two 'bi' 'cameral' chambers, the Commons and the Lords

## Comparing constitutions



The **US constitution** could be considered a **revolutionary one and is codified (Written down in a document)** whereas the UK has not had a revolution (The closest it came was when Oliver Cromwell removed the Monarchy and made himself Lord Protector after the English Civil War ended in 1649).

The **British constitution**, in comparison, is an **evolutionary constitution**. It has grown and developed over 1,000 years and has done this organically. **It is uncodified (Not written down in a single document)**

# USA HOMEWORK 1: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

<b>Outline two reasons why the Old World wanted to colonise the New World</b>	
<b>In what year did Britain lose control of the 13 colonies?</b>	
<b>What percentage of Native Americans live in reservations?</b>	
<b>Name two bodies of water surrounding China</b>	
<b>Name two mountain ranges in China</b>	
<b>Name the two types of crust</b>	
<b>How old is the continental crust?</b>	
<b>How hot is the inner core?</b>	
<b>What is the area of semi-molten rock in the mantle called?</b>	
<b>What plate cannot be renewed or destroyed?</b>	
<b>How many major tectonic plates are there?</b>	
<b>What year was the Boston Tea Party?</b>	
<b>When is Independence Day celebrated in the USA?</b>	
<b>Name three of the British Colonies in the USA</b>	
<b>Name one cause of the American Revolution</b>	
<b>Total out of 21:</b>	

# USA HOMEWORK 1: CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

<b>Outline two reasons why the Old World wanted to colonise the New World</b>	New land/ Power and Prestige/ Religion/ Trade and money/ Civilise the natives/ A new start
<b>In what year did Britain loose control of the 13 colonies?</b>	1776
<b>What percentage of Native Americans live in reservations?</b>	30%
<b>Name two bodies of water surrounding China</b>	Bay of Bengal/ South China Sea/ Pacific Ocean
<b>Name two mountain ranges in China</b>	Himalayas and Karakoram mountains
<b>Name the two types of crust</b>	Oceanic and Continental
<b>How old is the continental crust?</b>	1500 million years old
<b>How hot is the inner core?</b>	6000 degrees
<b>What is the area of semi-molten rock in the mantle called?</b>	The Asthenosphere
<b>What plate cannot be renewed or destroyed?</b>	Continental
<b>How many major tectonic plates are there?</b>	7
<b>What year was the Boston Tea Party?</b>	1773
<b>When is Independence Day celebrated in the USA?</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Name three of the British Colonies in the USA</b>	Virginia/ New York/ New Hampshire / Massachusetts Bay /Maryland/ Connecticut /Rhode Island/Delaware/ North Carolina /South Carolina/ New Jersey/ Pennsylvania/ Georgia
<b>Name one cause of the American Revolution</b>	High British debt due to the Seven Year war/ Stamp act which caused riots/ Townsend Act – taxes collected to pay the salaries of British soldiers/ Boston Massacre/ Boston Tea Party/ Coercive Acts

**Total out of 21:**

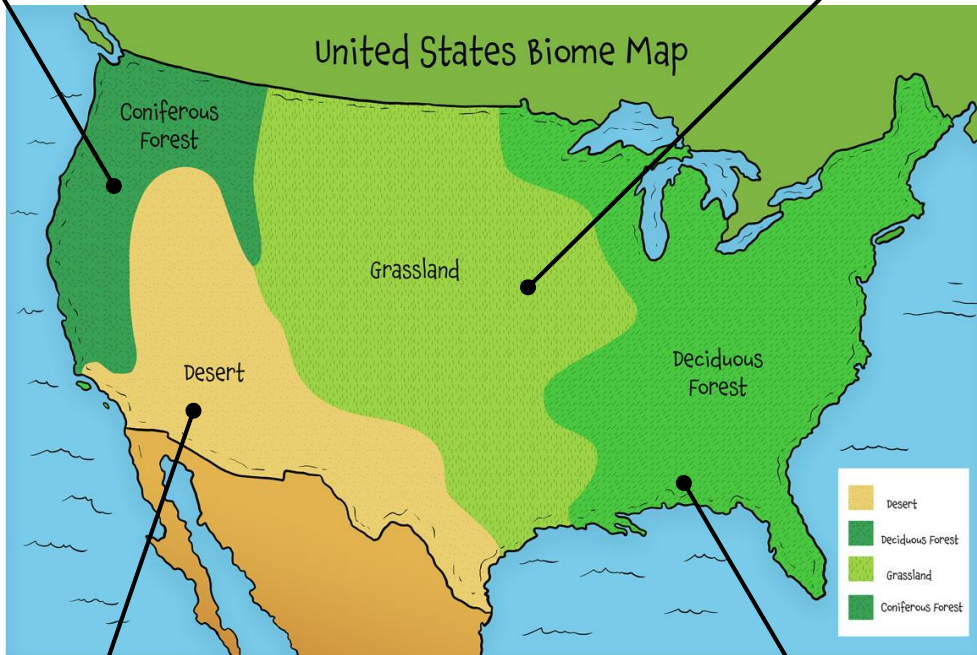
# BQ5. WHAT BIOMES CAN BE FOUND WITHIN THE USA?

## Coniferous Woodland

- Pines, fir and spruce trees
- Cold and stormy in the winter
- Lightning storms in the summer

## Grasslands

- 2-35 inches of rainfall /year
- Summer temperatures 37°C
- Winter temperatures -17°C



## Desert

- Sonoran Desert** found in California, Arizona and Mexico. Low elevation which makes it HOT
- Mojave Desert** – the smallest, but where Death Valley can reach 56°C
- Great Basin** – Nevada with Mountain ranges over 10,000 feet, 4- 11 inches of snow a year

## Deciduous Forest

- Moderate climate with 4 seasons
- 24-48 inches of rain/year
- Trees are oaks, maples, beeches, hickories and ashes

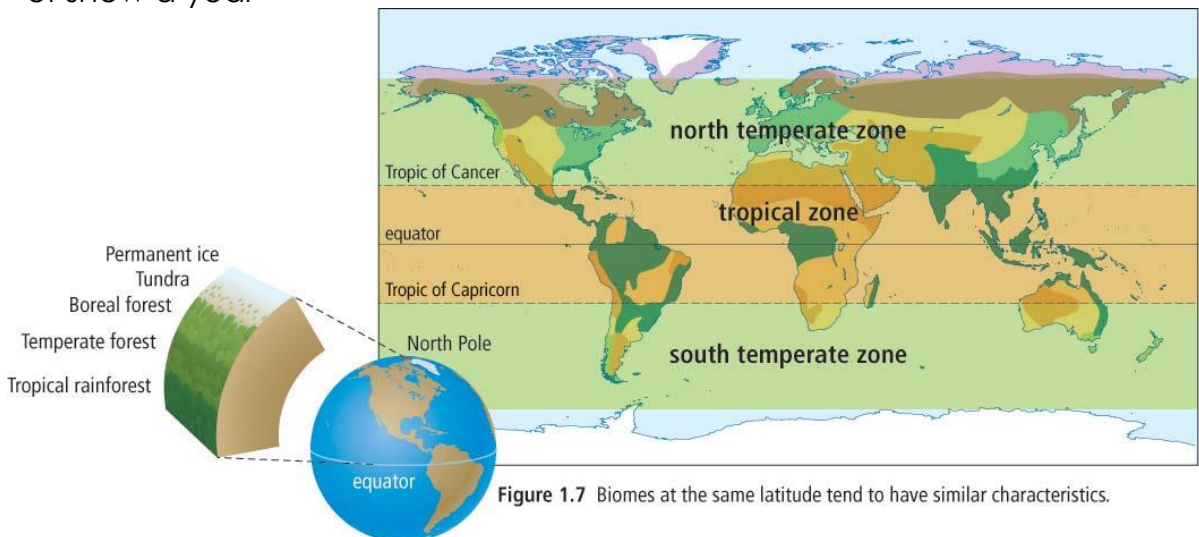
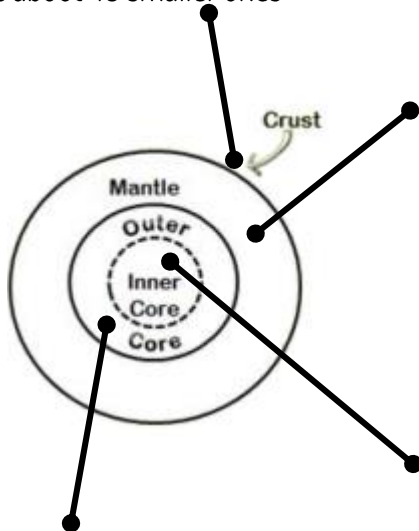


Figure 1.7 Biomes at the same latitude tend to have similar characteristics.

# BQ6. HOW DO EARTHQUAKES IMPACT THE USA?

The **lithosphere (crust)** is where we live and it's divided into seven major tectonic plates plus about 40 smaller ones



The **mantle** has the hottest rock when it is nearest to the core (5,000°C).

The rock is semi molten and contains an area known as the **asthenosphere**.



The area heating all of these up is the **outer core** - made up of rocks containing iron and nickel.

The **inner core** is solid and has a temperature of 6,000°C, as hot as the surface of the sun.

The term plate tectonics was first used in 1965

There are two different types of crust – **continental** lithosphere and **oceanic** lithosphere which have different characteristics.

## Continental lithosphere is:



Older – most is over 1,500 million years old.

Less dense – so cannot sink

Cannot be renewed or destroyed.

## Oceanic lithosphere is:

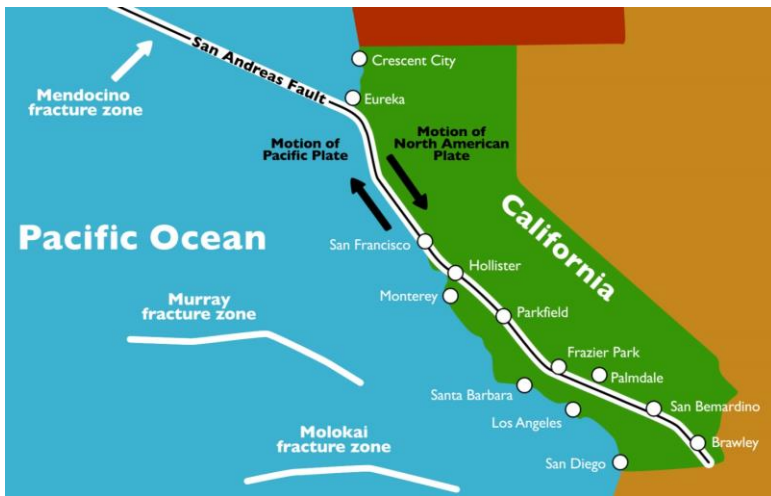
Newer – most is less than 200 million years old



Denser – so therefore can sink

Can be renewed and destroyed

# BQ6. HOW DO EARTHQUAKES IMPACT THE USA?



The San Andreas Fault marks the boundary between the **Pacific plate** and the **North American plate**.

This is a transform plate boundary; the Pacific plate (on the west) moves in a north westerly direction, relative to the North American plate (on the east).

Richter Magnitude	Effects	Average number of earthquakes per year
Less than 3	Detected by seismometers, but generally not felt by people.	More than 100 000
5	Some damage to buildings, plaster cracks, bricks fall.	200 – 2 000
7	Serious damage: walls crack and split. The majority of buildings collapse. Bridges twist. There is loss of life.	3 - 20
More than 8	Severe destruction and loss of life over large areas. The surface waves are clearly visible.	1 or less

The magnitude of an earthquake can be affected by other factors:

- The location of the focus- whether continental or oceanic.
- Distance from the epicentre.
- The type of surface rock (more damage occurs with softer rocks).
- The structure of buildings and whether they are of an earthquake proof construction.
- The population density of a region- more people means a greater likelihood of large numbers of casualties.

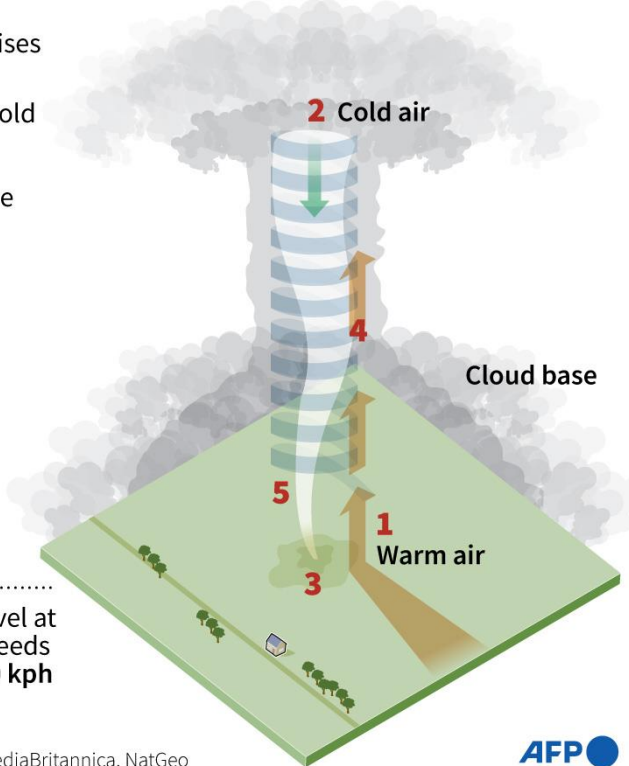
# BQ7. HOW DO TORNADES IMPACT THE USA?

## Tornado formation

Twisters develop in thunderstorms on hot days

- 1 Warm, moist air rises from the ground
- 2 Warm air meets cold dry air, creating a vortex which descends from the storm cloud
- 3 Vortex makes contact with the ground
- 4 Updraft draws in more air, rises while rotating
- 5 Tornado spins at speed, creating a destructive force in its path

Most tornadoes travel at 16-32 kph, wind speeds can reach up to 400 kph



Sources: NOAA, Encyclopaedia Britannica, NatGeo



The USA has more than 1200 tornadoes a year

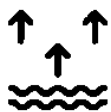
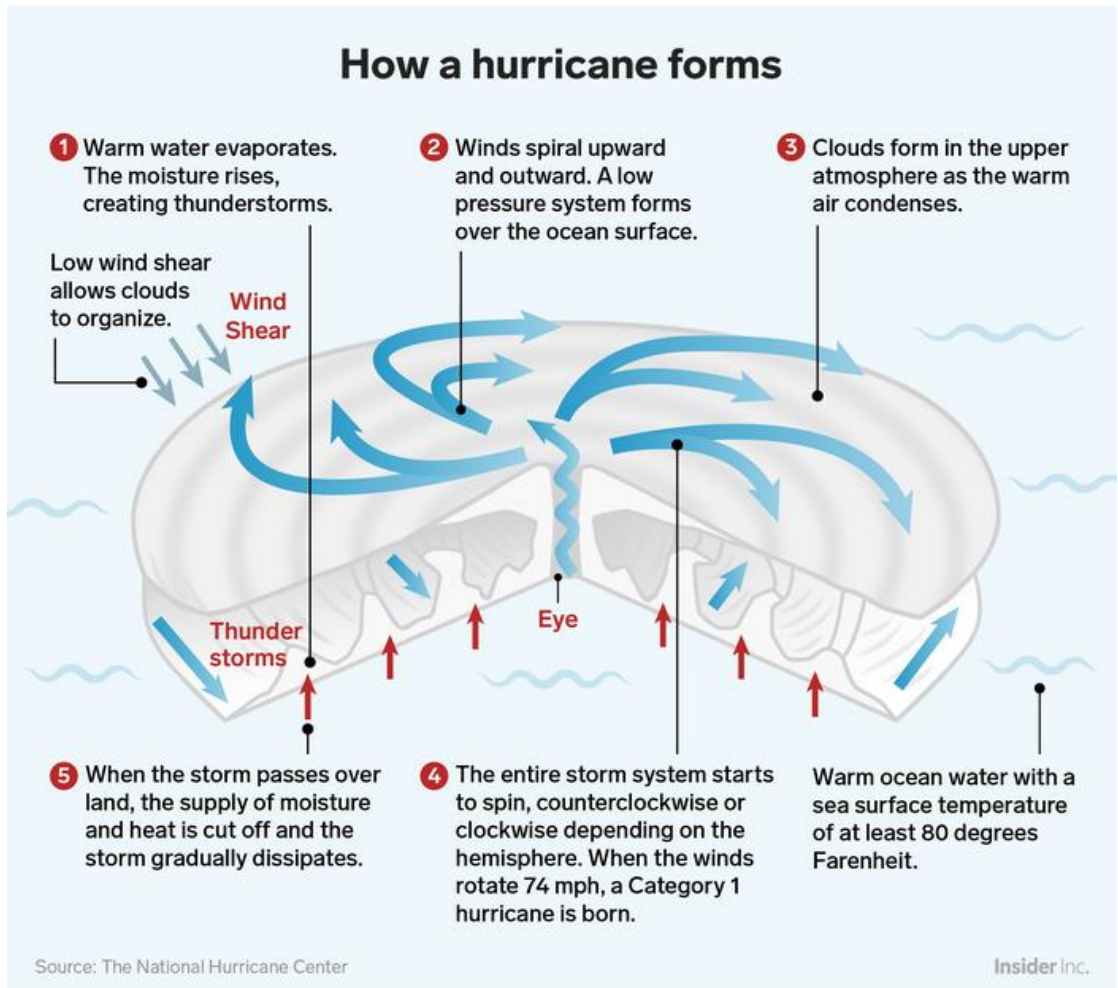
They are most common in spring as there are more chances of cooler air meeting with warmer air creating thunderstorms.



Most tornadoes occur east of the Rocky mountains

Tornadoes are measured using the Enhanced Fujita Scale – looks at the amount of damage and then uses this to estimate wind speed.

# BQ8. HOW DO HURRICANES IMPACT THE USA?



Hurricanes form in oceans that are 27°C allowing warm moist air to fuel a thunderstorm.

Most hurricanes in the US develop as storms over Africa and move westward across the tropical Atlantic.



Once the spinning winds reach 74 mph a storm becomes a hurricane.

Hurricanes are measured using the Saffir Simpson Index

# USA HOMEWORK 2: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

What is the minimum temperature needed for Hurricanes to form?	
Do air particles move from areas of <u>low to high</u> pressure or from areas of <u>high to low</u> pressure to create winds?	
What is the name of the winds which blow from the equator and start to spin the Hurricane?	
When the clouds stretch over such a large distance they are effected by the rotation of the earth this is known as the _____ effect?	
What is the name given to the centre of a Hurricane?	
What is the word given to describe the spinning high winds and heavy rainstorms?	
In which Ocean do Hurricanes form?	
Do Hurricanes tend to travel	
What happens to a Hurricanes energy when it reaches land?	
What scale is used to measure the strength of a Hurricane?	
Name the two types of crust	
What is the area of semi-molten rock in the mantle called?	
How many major tectonic plates are there?	
Outline two impacts of the One Child Policy?	
Outline two features of the Agrarian Reform law	

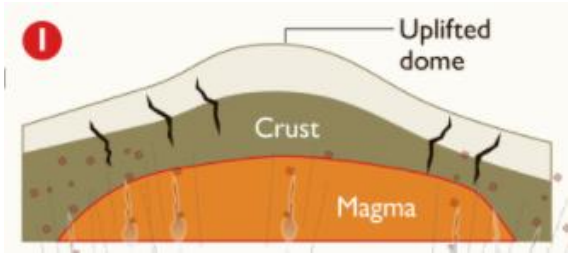
Total out of 17:

# USA HOMEWORK 2: CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

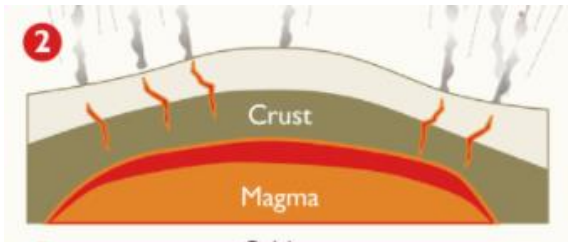
What is the minimum temperature needed for Hurricanes to form?	26.7°C or 80°F.
Do air particles move from areas of <u>low to high</u> pressure or from areas of <u>high to low</u> pressure to create winds?	High to low pressure
What is the name of the winds which blow from the equator and start to spin the Hurricane?	Trade winds
When the clouds stretch over such a large distance they are effected by the rotation of the earth this is known as the _____ effect?	Coriolis Effect
What is the name given to the centre of a Hurricane?	The Eye
What is the word given to describe the spinning high winds and heavy rainstorms?	Hurricane or tropical cyclone
In which Ocean do Hurricanes form?	Atlantic
Do Hurricanes tend to travel	<input type="checkbox"/> West then South? <input type="checkbox"/> East then North? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>West then North?</b>
What happens to a Hurricanes energy when it reaches land?	<input type="checkbox"/> Increases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Decreases</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Stays the Same
What scale is used to measure the strength of a Hurricane?	Saffir-Simpson scale.
Name the two types of crust	Oceanic and Continental
What is the area of semi-molten rock in the mantle called?	The Asthenosphere
How many major tectonic plates are there?	7
Outline two impacts of the One Child Policy?	Birth rate has fallen so growth rate is now 0.7%/ By 2025 there will be more elderly than children in China/ Increased abortion of female babies/ Prevented 300 million babies being born
Outline two features of the Agrarian Reform law	Took land from landlords and gave it to peasants/ introduced Mutual Aid Teams

**Total out of 17:**

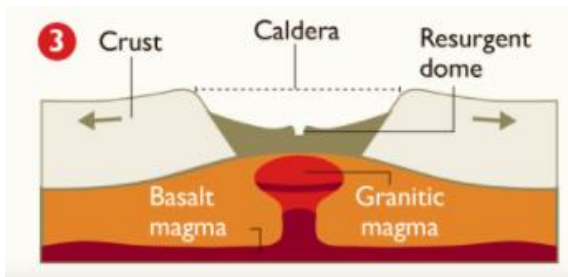
# BQ9-12. WHAT IS A SUPERVOLCANO AND WHAT IMPACTS COULD AN ERUPTION HAVE?



Rising magma cannot escape and a large bulge appears on the surface.

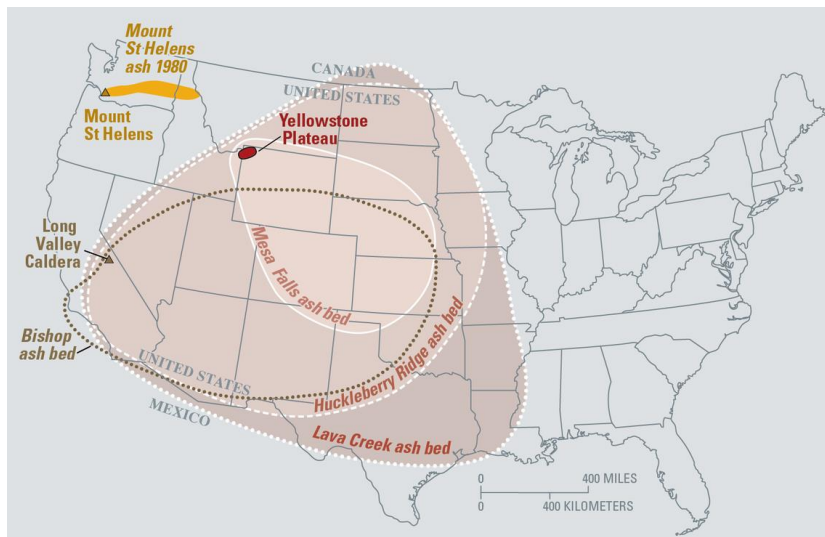


Cracks appear on the surface. Gas and ash erupt from the chamber,



Chamber collapses forming a depression called a **caldera** (normal volcanoes form a cone shape)

A mega volcano that erupts at **least 1,000km cubed of material.**



# PREPARING FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT

## Locational Knowledge

- USA's location in North America
- 50 American states
- Physical features of the USA

## Skills

- I can label a satellite picture of a delta
- I can find the latitude and longitude of areas in Alaska

## Human Geography

- Colonial era of the USA
- American Revolution
- Native American tribes
- Impacts of development in Alaska
- Population distribution of the USA
- Importance of Route 66
- Migration from Mexico to USA
- USA as a superpower
- Impacts of 9/11

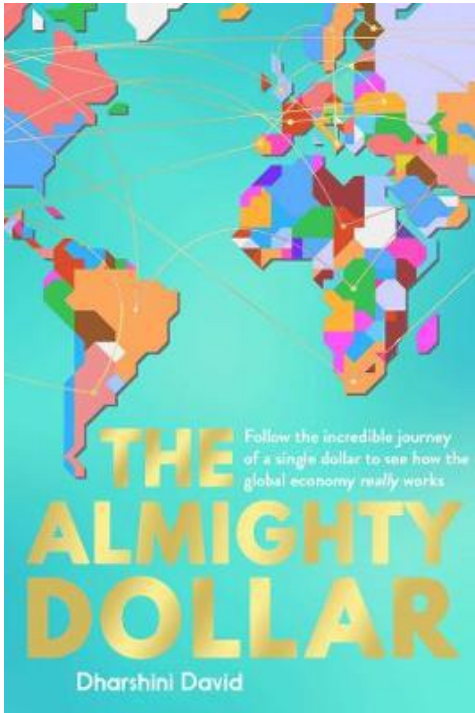
## Physical Geography

- Key rivers in the USA
- Key mountain ranges in the USA
- Biomes from in the USA
- Course of a river
- The importance of the Mississippi
- Physical features of Alaska
  - Climate
  - Factors influencing the climate
- Location of the Great Lakes and their importance
- Natural hazards impacting the USA
  - Earthquakes
  - Tornadoes
  - Hurricanes
- Supervolcano and its impacts

# WIDER READING



Wider reading is a vital skill in geography in order to extend your knowledge. For each book listed here that you read, write a book report outlining your thoughts and you will **receive 30 house points**.



## The Almighty Dollar

*Dharshini David*

Follows \$1 from a shopping trip in Texas, via China's central bank, Nigerian railroads, the oilfields of Iraq and beyond to reveal the complex relationships of our new globalised world.

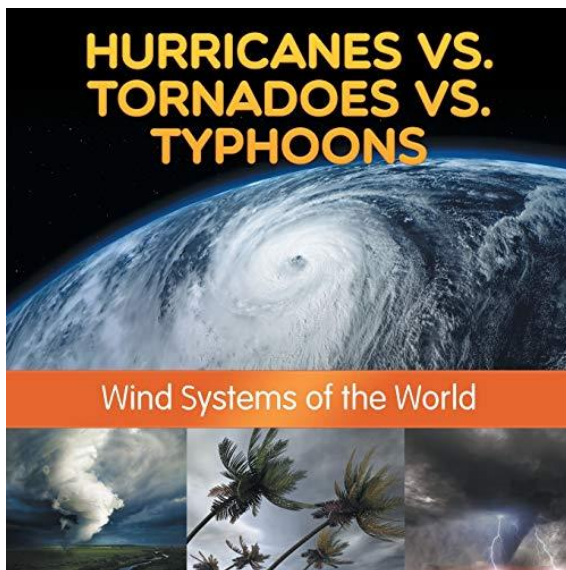
## Plate Tectonics



Iain Stewart



A Ladybird Expert Book



## guided READING



For each guided reading completed with questions, you will receive **10 house points**.

## Kiobel vs Shell: 4 Nigeria women take on the corporate machine

A Dutch court will hear witnesses in a landmark case brought by Esther Kiobel and three other women with regard to what they claim was Shell's involvement in the unlawful arrest, torture and execution of their husbands by the Nigerian military. This follows a hearing in October 2019, where four people have accused Shell of bribing witnesses to testify against the men during their trial in the 1990s.

Esther's late husband, Dr Barinem Kiobel, was hanged in 1995 by the Nigerian government along with the writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and other seven men, collectively known as the Ogoni Nine.

The trial, which was internationally described as unfair and politically motivated including by then prime minister John Major led to Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth Games.

Because of her husband's trial and execution, Kiobel lost her job and was assaulted and detained by members of the Nigerian army. Fearing for her life she fled to Benin with her children, where they lived in a refugee camp until she was granted asylum by the US. "Shell came into my life to take the best crown I ever wore off my head and to make me a poverty-stricken widow," says Kiobel. "My children and I went through such an awful experience that has left us traumatised. We all have lived with so much pain and agony." According to Amnesty International, which is supporting the plaintiffs, the executions marked the culmination of the Nigerian military's ruthless campaign to silence protests of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Mosop) against environmental devastation caused by Shell's operations in the oil rich Ogoniland, Niger Delta

Research conducted by the rights organisation has revealed that Shell repeatedly encouraged and helped the Nigerian authorities, both financially and logistically, to stop the Mosop protests so that it could freely operate in the area, even when it knew that this would lead to the unlawful killings, rape, torture and the burning of villages of those involved in the protests. Shell was also embroiled in the bribery of witnesses to sign false statements incriminating the Ogoni Nine.

“Shell is one of the UK’s largest companies,” writes Mark Dummett, head of business, security and human rights at Amnesty International.

“We are also talking about one of the world’s richest corporations and some very serious allegations that it was involved in human rights abuses.

“It’s a scandal that it has taken so many years for a court to examine these allegations.”

Kiobel first filed a case against Shell in the US in 2002 but saw her case dismissed in 2013 when the Supreme Court ruled that it did not have jurisdiction to examine her allegations.

In 2017 she filed a new case in the Netherlands, together with Victoria Bera, Blessing Eawo and Charity Levula. The widows are demanding damages for harm caused by Shell’s actions and a public apology.

“No-one should be afraid of what they believe in, no-one should ever be made to pay the penalty or price for a crime they never committed. We should always stand strong and seek justice against our oppressor,” writes Kiobel.

Shell has claimed that the events are too old and that the Netherlands does not have jurisdiction to rule over the case. However, in May 2019, a Dutch court ruled out these claims.

Shell has also denied any involvement and claimed that its headquarters had no control over what was happening in Nigeria at that time. But internal company documents reviewed by Amnesty International show that key strategic decisions were taken in London and The Hague.

Shell first discovered oil in the Niger Delta in 1956. Since then, the human rights of people living there have been affected by hundreds of oil spills a year from poorly maintained pipelines and wells, as well as by inadequate clean-up practices. In the meantime, the company has earned billions of dollars.

International human rights laws and standard require that companies respect human rights wherever they operate and that governments protect human rights in the context of corporate activities, within and beyond their borders. None of that seems to have happened here.

This case has exposed the impact of Shell’s operations in the Niger Delta, but also demonstrates how difficult it can be to bring a powerful corporation to account.

If successful, it would set a historic precedent for other cases around the world and mark a victory for victims of corporate greed and advocates of accountability.

This is why, despite these challenges, Kiobel is determined to have her husband's name cleared: "This case will give a sense of belonging and hope to the countless victims of human rights abuses over the world."

**Why was Nigeria suspended from the Commonwealth games?**

.....  
.....

**Where is Benin? Why would Esther move here?**

.....  
.....

**What is Amnesty International?**

.....  
.....

**Why would Shell want to silence the Ogoni People?**

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.....  
.....

**What is a delta?**

.....  
.....

**Which topic does TNCs in NEEs come under?**

.....  
.....

**Name 5 other TNCs**

.....  
.....  
.....

**What is a TNC?**

.....  
.....

**What are the social benefits of Shell operating in Nigeria?**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**"Shell repeatedly encouraged and helped the Nigerian authorities, both financially and logistically, to stop the Mosop protests so that it could freely operate" What SEEP is this?**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**How many people are employed by Shell in Nigeria?**

.....

**Give 2 environmental issues of oil extraction in Nigeria**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Extract highlighting the significance of the Mississippi River in the USA's history.

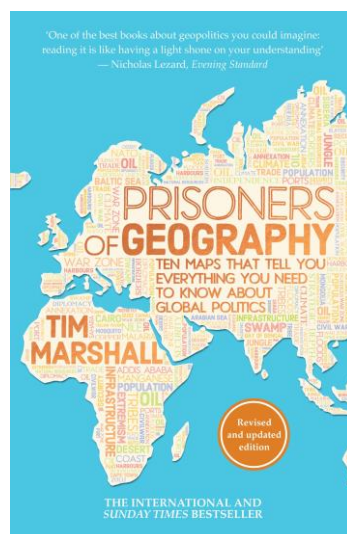
In 1803 the United States simply bought control of the entire Louisiana territory from France. The land stretched from the Gulf of Mexico north-west up to the headwaters of the tributaries of the Mississippi River in the Rocky Mountains. It was an area equivalent in size to modern-day Spain, Italy, France, the UK, an Germany combined. With it came the Mississippi basin, from which flowed America's route to greatness.

At the stroke of a pen, and the handing over of \$15 million, the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 doubled the size of the USA and gave it mastery over the greatest inland water transport route in the world. As the American historian Henry Adams wrote, 'Never did the United States get so much for so little'.

The greater Mississippi basin has more miles of navigable river than the rest of the world put together. Nowhere else are there so many rivers whose source is not in high land, and whose waters run smoothly all the way to the ocean across vast distances. The Mississippi, fed by much of the basin river systems, begins near Minneapolis and ends 1,800 miles away in the Gulf of Mexico. So the rivers were the natural conduit for ever-increasing trade, leading to a great port and all using waterborne craft which was, and is, many times cheaper than road travel.

The Americans now had strategic geographical depth, a massive fertile land and an alternative to the Atlantic ports with which to conduct business. They also had ever-expanding routes east to west linking the East Coast to the new territory, and then the river systems flowing north to south to connect the then sparsely populated lands with each other, thus encouraging America to form as a single entity.

There was now a sense that the nation would become a colossus, a continental power. They pushed onwards, ever westwards, but with an eye on the south and the security of the jewel in the crown – the Mississippi.



# RECORD ICE LOSS IN GREENLAND

The USA gained control of a large area of land (the Louisiana territory) – but from who?

.....

How big was the area of land (Louisiana Territory)?

.....

By how much did the size of the USA grow when they gained territory of the Louisiana Territory?

.....

What was the greatest inland water transport route in the world?

.....

How much did it cost the USA to gain this land?

.....

How many miles of river does the Mississippi river have?

.....

Where is the Mississippi River's source?

.....

How does the author describe the way the river flows?

.....

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How many miles is it from the source of the river (where it begins) to the mouth of the river (where it ends)?

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Why was it good to use rivers as transport routes for trade?

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Because of the Mississippi River, how does the author describe the USA's power?

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