



# Year 5 and 6 Knowledge Organiser - North America

## Key vocab

Latitude	The distance of a place from the equator
Lowlands	Areas of low, flat land
Agricultural	Relating to farming and its methods
Predominant	Larger in number
Colonised	Took control over
Indigenous	Originally from a country
Populous	With a large population
Sparsely	With only a small number of people
Irrigation	Watering crops
Confluence	Where two or more rivers join together
Pesticides	Chemicals used to kill insects that eat crops
Topographic	Relating to the physical features of an area
Subduction	The movement of one tectonic plate below another

North America is the third largest continent. The 49° N latitude forms the boundary between the two largest countries - the USA and Canada. The Great Lakes and St Lawrence River act as the boundary between the two countries. Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world. Mount Mackenzie - an active volcano situated in Alaska - is the highest peak of North America. The world-famous Niagara Falls is located between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.



## Sticky knowledge

North America is a continent in the northern hemisphere and mostly within the western hemisphere.	In the 1500s and 1600s, the population consisted of Native American tribes in the United States, and the Aztec and Mayan civilisations in what is now Mexico.
Every climate zone can be found in North America as it extends to within 10° of latitude of both the equator and the North Pole.	In the 1600s, Europeans quickly colonised much of North America. Now the indigenous peoples are far fewer and the majority of people have a European heritage.
Biomes in North America include: tropical rainforests and savannah on the lowlands of Central America, and areas of permanent ice cap in central Greenland.	North America has an estimated population of 580 million.
These differences contribute to a diverse set of agricultural resources.	There are hundreds of rivers across North America. They are vital for irrigation for agriculture, fishing, the generation of hydroelectricity and as navigation routes for shipping.
In the tropical zones of North America, farmers harvest oranges, sugar cane, coffee, cocoa and bananas.	Rivers are also sacred to the Native American indigenous peoples who, for centuries before European colonisation, learnt to use this limited, precious resource wisely.
Fruits, vegetables and cotton are predominant in the warm, sub-tropical zones of northern Mexico and the United States.	The topographic map on the left shows the mountainous areas of North America. The western coastline is dominated by the Rocky Mountain chain.
The continent's cool temperate zones are ideal for fruits, such as apples and peaches. These areas are also suitable for cattle and corn agriculture.	This is also the location of a tectonic plate boundary and the mountains are formed through the process of subduction. There is a great deal of seismic activity in this area as it is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.

## Exciting books!

