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A Variety of Maps

This book includes a variety of maps. This lesson consists of four different types of maps. Look at each one and answer the following questions.

_____ Which map shows you major cities in the United States?

_____ Which map shows you the public transportation system of a large city?

_____ Which map shows you what the climate is like in Australia?

_____ Which map shows a national park?
Maps Show Landforms

The Earth’s surface can be divided into four main landforms: mountains, plateaus, hills, and plains.

Mountains are large masses of land rising to a high peak. Some mountains stand alone. Others, like the Andes in South America, are part of a range.

Hills are not as high or as rugged-looking as mountains. The tops of hills are usually rounded. Hill regions and mountain regions together make up what are often called highlands.

Plateaus are landforms that rise sharply above the land on at least one side. They are usually level or flat on top. A plateau can be less than a mile wide, or it may cover hundreds of square miles.

Plains are broad, level landforms. They are seldom completely flat, but they do not have hills.

1. Look at the landform diagram and complete these sentences.

_____________________ rise the highest above sea level.
_____________________ have gentle slopes.
_____________________ have the smoothest surface.
_____________________ are flat land with at least one steep slope.

2. Study the diagram of the four main kinds of landforms. Then study the map key. Draw lines from each picture to an example of that landform on the map of South America.

3. Here are the names of some important parts of the South American continent. Use each name on the list as a label on the map.

   coastal plains
   Amazon River Basin
   Andes Mountain Range
   Brazilian Highlands

4. The Andes Mountains form a backbone for South America. Name the seven countries this range, or backbone, runs through.

   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

5. South America has sometimes been called a “hollow” continent because of its landforms. Fill in the blanks as you help explain why.

_____________________ and hills are found on both coasts of South America.
_____________________ are the landforms least found on the continent.

The central area of the continent contains the largest single landform— _________________.


Maps Can Show Natural Resources

Raw materials are found in every state in the United States. These materials are resources for people to use in many ways. Sometimes natural resources can be used in their raw form. At other times these raw materials are used in the manufacturing of products. Mined raw materials are among a state’s most valuable resources.

These maps show where mining and manufacturing occur in Washington and Texas. These states trade important resources in the form of materials and manufactured goods. Some states, like Texas and Washington, trade even though they are many miles apart. An important part of reading these two maps is understanding how mining and manufacturing are related.

1. Look at the maps. Put T before those answers that are true and F before those answers that are false.

_____ Products mined in both states include coal, stone, and salt.

_____ Pulp and paper, cement, and processed foods are manufactured in both states.

_____ Natural gas and petroleum are important natural resources from Texas.

_____ Uranium ore and zinc are mined in Texas.

_____ Much of the manufacturing in Washington is done near the Seattle-Tacoma area.
2. Both Texas and Washington produce lumber, pulp and paper, and printed material.

Which state has more lumber?       Texas       Washington
Which state has more pulp and paper mills?       Texas       Washington
How many printing plants are there in each state?       4       1       2

3. Study both maps and think about the possible trading between these two states. People in Washington need heat for their homes and factories. Name two products from Texas that could be shipped to them.
____________________________________________________

People in Texas need a valuable ore to run an atomic reactor. Name the ore. ________________________
The people in Washington grow apples, and the people in Texas grow tomatoes. Using the key, find the words that tell how these foods would be exchanged. ______________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________