

The Amazing Americas



| Country | Capital | Country | Capital |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| USA | Washington | Peru | Lima |
| Canada | Ottawa | Brazil | Brasilia |
| Mexico | Mexico City | Guyana | Georgetown |
| Costa Rica | San José | Suriname | Paramaribo |
| Belize | Belmopan | French Guiana | Cayenne |
| Nicaragua | Managua | Paraguay | Asunción |
| Honduras | Tegucigalpa | Uruguay | Montevideo |
| El Salvador | San Salvador | Argentina | Buenos Aires |
| Panama | Panama City | Chile | Santiago |
| Colombia | Bogotá | Bolivia | La Paz |
| Ecuador | Quito | Venezuela | Caracas |



Enquiry Question One

How did invasion and conflict shape the Americas of today?

| Timeline of key events | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 13000 BCE | The first indigenous people settle in the Americas |
| 250 - 900 | Mayan civilisation developed in what is now known as the Yucatan Peninsula |
| 1200s - 1521 | Aztec civilisation developed and built their capital on what is now Mexico City |
| 1100s - 1533 | Inca civilisation developed in the Andes mountains in what is now Peru |
| 1493 onwards | Europeans begin to explore, invade and colonise many South and Central American countries |
| 9 th Nov 1620 | The Mayflower lands and pilgrim settlers from England begin to live in what is now the USA |
| 1775 | American Revolution: George Washington leads colonist Continental Army to fight against British rule. |
| 1776 4 th July | Thomas Jefferson's American Declaration of Independence endorsed by; colonies declare independence. |
| 1789 | George Washington elected first president of USA. |
| 1860 | Abraham Lincoln is elected President - he is opposed to slavery and this triggers a civil war |
| 1865 | Slavery is abolished. Lincoln is assassinated while at the theatre by John Wilkes Booth |

Enquiry Question Two

Extreme differences in climate, culture, features and the environment mean that we can not generalise about 'Life in the Americas'. Discuss.



Sao Paulo, Brazil



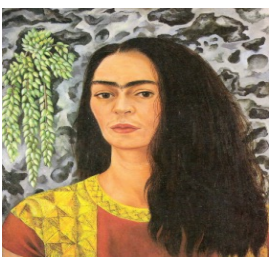
Machu Picchu, Peru



Moreno Glacier, Argentina



Atacama Desert, Chile



Frida Kahlo (1907 - 1954) was a Mexican artist who painted mainly portraits. She explored themes such as gender, identity, class and race in her work. Her painting was heavily influenced by the culture of Mexico.

Day of the Dead is celebrated in Mexico and many other American cities. The festival is celebrated from October 31st to November 2nd and helps families honour ancestors who have passed away. This holiday originated in ancient Mexico and also has elements of the Spanish 'All Souls Day' celebrations.



Regions of the USA

The North East includes the states of New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. It is home to big cities such as New York and Boston, the Appalachian Mountains, the Great Lakes, Niagara Falls and has a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean. In summer, it is warm and often humid with temperatures ranging between 20 and 30 degrees. In winter, temperatures frequently drop below freezing and there is lots of snowfall.

The South East includes the states of Florida, Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. You can visit big cities such as Miami, New Orleans and Atlanta and find features such as Disneyland, swamps and wetlands such as the Everglades, the Mississippi River, plateaus, mountains up to 2000m and coastlines on the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The climate is subtropical, meaning it is hot and humid, bringing frequent hurricanes along its coast.

The Midwest includes states such as Illinois, Ohio, North and South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska. Some key geographical features are the Great Lakes, the Great Plains, the Mississippi River, Mount Rushmore and the big city of Chicago. It has no coastline and is bordered by Canada to the North. The climate can be humid, but heavy snowfall is common in winter, particularly in the northern states.

The Southwest is made up of the states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. It contains features such as the Rocky Mountains, the Grand Canyon, the NASA space centre and cities such as Phoenix and Dallas. Some parts of the region have a desert climate and the rest is very arid and dry. Rainfall can be as little as 20cm per year.

The West includes states such as California, Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii. The climate is vastly different with deserts in Nevada and Southern California, mild to hot year-round weather along the coast, tropical weather in Hawaii and rainy, mild weather further north. Alaska has an arctic climate with cool summers and very cold winters with little to no sunshine! Features in the west include the Pacific Ocean, volcanoes in Hawaii, the Mojave desert, the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Denver, and land borders with both Mexico and Canada.

Enquiry Question Three

Where and why do earthquakes occur? What impact do they have on people and the environment?

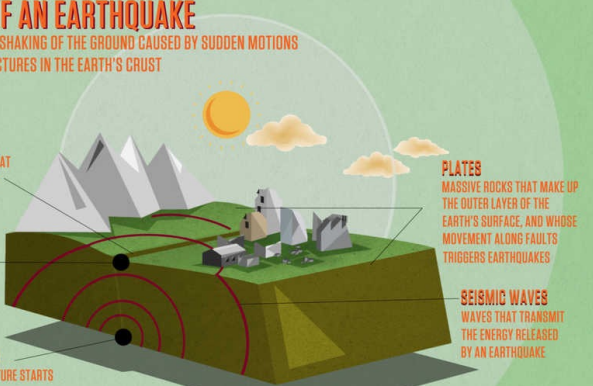
ANATOMY OF AN EARTHQUAKE

AN EARTHQUAKE IS THE SHAKING OF THE GROUND CAUSED BY SUDDEN MOTIONS ALONG FAULTS, OR FRACTURES IN THE EARTH'S CRUST

FAULT
A FRACTURE IN THE ROCKS THAT MAKE UP THE EARTH'S CRUST

EPICENTER
THE POINT AT THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH DIRECTLY ABOVE THE FOCUS

FOCUS (HYPOCENTER)
THE POINT WITHIN THE EARTH WHERE AN EARTHQUAKE RUPTURE STARTS



PLATES
MASSIVE ROCKS THAT MAKE UP THE OUTER LAYER OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE, AND WHOSE MOVEMENT ALONG FAULTS TRIGGERS EARTHQUAKES

SEISMIC WAVES
WAVES THAT TRANSMIT THE ENERGY RELEASED BY AN EARTHQUAKE

Key Vocabulary

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| earthquake | vibration or shaking of the ground due to the movement of the earth's plates |
| Richter Scale | measures the amount of energy produced by an earthquake on a scale of 1-10 |
| Pangaea | the supercontinent that existed before the Triassic period |
| San Andreas Fault | A fault line that extends for about 600 miles through California in the United States. |
| Tectonic plates | Huge plates (oceanic and continental) that make up the earth's crust, and which move because of currents. |