



Critical Thinking Skills



The Americas

North America – South America – both books



| Skills For Critical Thinking | | Reading Comprehension | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Location | Place | Human & Environment Interactions | Movement | Regions |
| LEVEL 1 Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Match Show or Label List Information Recall Details (5Ws + H) Find Information | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ |
| LEVEL 2 Comprehension | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe & Compare Summarize Explain Select | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ |
| LEVEL 3 Application | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize Information Interview Apply | ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ |
| LEVEL 4 Analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclude Analyze | ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ |
| LEVEL 5 Synthesis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Create | | | | ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ |
| LEVEL 6 Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate Compare | | | ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ |

SAMPLE

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



North America - Location

1. Using a straight line, match the word on the left to its definition on the right. You may use an atlas or a dictionary to help.

1 hemisphere

2 latitude

3 longitude

4 climate

5 equator

Lines we have drawn on a map to find the location of a place north or south of the equator.

A word that is used to describe the usual temperature, the rain or snow fall, and the winds found in a certain place.

One of the two shapes made by cutting a sphere in half.

Lines we have drawn on a map to find the location of a place east or west of the prime meridian.

An imaginary line running around the middle of the Earth in an east-west direction. It is half way between the North and South poles.

A

B

C

D

E

2. On the map, show the equator as a **red** line. Color the lines of latitude **yellow**, and the lines of longitude **green**.





North America - Location

When we talk about a place's **location**, we can describe it in two different ways. A place's **absolute location** tells *exactly* where it is. When we describe a place's **relative location**, we describe the things around it and the things that connect it to other places.



We can easily describe the absolute location of a city like San Francisco. We do this by using **latitude** and **longitude**. San Francisco has an exact location of 37° N latitude and 122° W longitude. This makes it very easy to find on a map. However, while this works well for cities, it does not work well for a continent like North America. Because North America is so large, it is easier to describe its location by looking at features and places around it.

North America's relative location is in the Western **Hemisphere**, north of the Equator. North America is east of Europe, west of Asia, and north of South America. Several oceans surround North America. To the north lies the Arctic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. These oceans provide **links** between North America and the other continents.

What is North America's relative location?



North America's location gives it many different **climates**. In its most northerly point, in the Canadian territory of Nunavut, the temperatures rarely go above 32° F (0° C). In its most southerly point, in the country of Panama, the climate is that of a tropical rainforest! And in between these two extremes, a wide variety of different climates can be found.



North America - Location



1. **Circle T** if the statement is true or **F** if it is false.

T = True
F = False

- T F** a) North America is in the eastern hemisphere.
- T F** b) A place's location can be described by its absolute location only.
- T F** c) Latitude and longitude help us to find relative location.
- T F** d) The oceans around North America help create links to other parts of the Earth.
- T F** e) Because it is so large, it is best to describe North America's relative location when trying to figure out where it is.
- T F** f) Because it is so large, North America has many different climates.
- T F** g) The southern part of North America is very cold.
- T F** h) We can find a tropical rain forest in Panama.

2. Fill in each blank with a word from the list.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| location | continent | absolute | latitude | Equator |
| longitude | relative | hemisphere | two | continent |

When we describe a place's _____ we can describe it in _____ different ways. A place's _____ location describes where it is by using the things around it. When we describe a place's _____ location, we use _____ and _____ to describe where it can be found. It is easier to use relative location when describing where we can find a _____ because it is so large. North America is found in the Western _____. It is north of the _____. The _____ of North America is very cold in the north, more moderate in the middle, and very hot in the south.

South America Globe View Map

