



Year 5 Geography: What are some of the variations in geographical features and climate across the continent of North America?



Key Topics: Countries, climates, biomes, The Bahamas, Guatemala, the U.S.A, time zones and National Parks

Key Vocabulary

biome	A biome is a large area spread across the world that has similar climate, vegetation and animals. Examples of biomes are grasslands, rainforests, desert and tundra.
capital city	The capital city is where a country is run from and where the government meets.
climate zones	Climate zones are areas of the world that experience similar weather patterns
economy	The economy of a country is the way the country makes and spends its money
Greenwich Mean Time	This is the time in the time zone where the Prime Meridian is located. All time zones in the world are measured from this.
National Park	Areas of natural beauty which are protected by the government of a country so they don't get spoiled.
prairie	Prairies are large, flat grasslands found in temperate climates. The USA has vast prairies.
Prime Meridian Line	The line of 0 degrees longitude. The imaginary line runs from the North to the South Pole passing through Greenwich in East London.
temperate climate	Areas where there are warm summers, cool winters and moderate rainfall (e.g. the UK)
tropical climate	Areas where it is hot all year round with wet and dry seasons (e.g. the Caribbean)
taiga	Wet, coniferous forests found in subarctic regions (also known as boreal forests)
tundra	A tundra is an an area where trees cannot grow (e.g. Alaska)
savannah	A tropical grassland
subtropical climate	Areas where there are hot and humid summers and mild winters (e.g. Florida)
subarctic climate	Areas that are very cold and dry (e.g. parts of Canada)

The Caribbean

The Bahamas: tropical islands, coral reefs, white sand beaches, forest, harbours, ports, hotels, resorts, tourism



Central America

Guatemala: mountains, volcanoes, rainforest, lakes, beaches, the Mayan people, ancient ruins, Guatemala City, Coffee



The United States of America

Mountains, prairies, deserts, Great Lakes, Niagara Falls, The Grand Canyon, Washington D.C, oil wells

