The Continent of North America

by Liana Mahoney

Where in the world would you go to see a polar bear in its natural habitat? Or to listen to a coyote howl at night? Or to enjoy a boat ride on the world's largest freshwater lake, Lake Superior? What's the one place in the world you could go to take in the sight of a wild bison grazing on the grasses of the plains? North

America!

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North America countries, and 25 dep of climates. This is du less direct sunlight th North America incluc

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e up of 23 independent the world with all types America receive much ranges in climate, ons include grasslands

and fertile plains, mountains, dry deserts, tundras, rain forests, and temperate forests. Its water ecosystems range from coral reefs and tropical saltwater, to freshwater lakes and rivers, and ice sheets in the extreme north. The people of North America represent almost every country, race, religion, and culture in the world.

Though it is the third largest continent on the planet, North America is the fourth highest populated continent. Its three largest mainland countries, the United States,

Mexico, and Canada, are also the most populated on the continent. The United States is the largest in population with an estimated 318 million residents. In total, more than 500 million people live in North America, with English, Spanish, and French being their dominant languages.

North America has the longest coastline of any continent, and is bordered by three of the world's largest oceans: the Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Arctic Oceans. The continent can be divided into three main geographic regions: the Interior Plains, the Eastern Highlands, and the Western Highlands. While the mainland of North America is

mostly triangular-sha strips of land called p

North America the world's corn supp wheat, are grown her and sugar cane are gr are raised on vast farr America include toba metals, such as gold. used by people all ov

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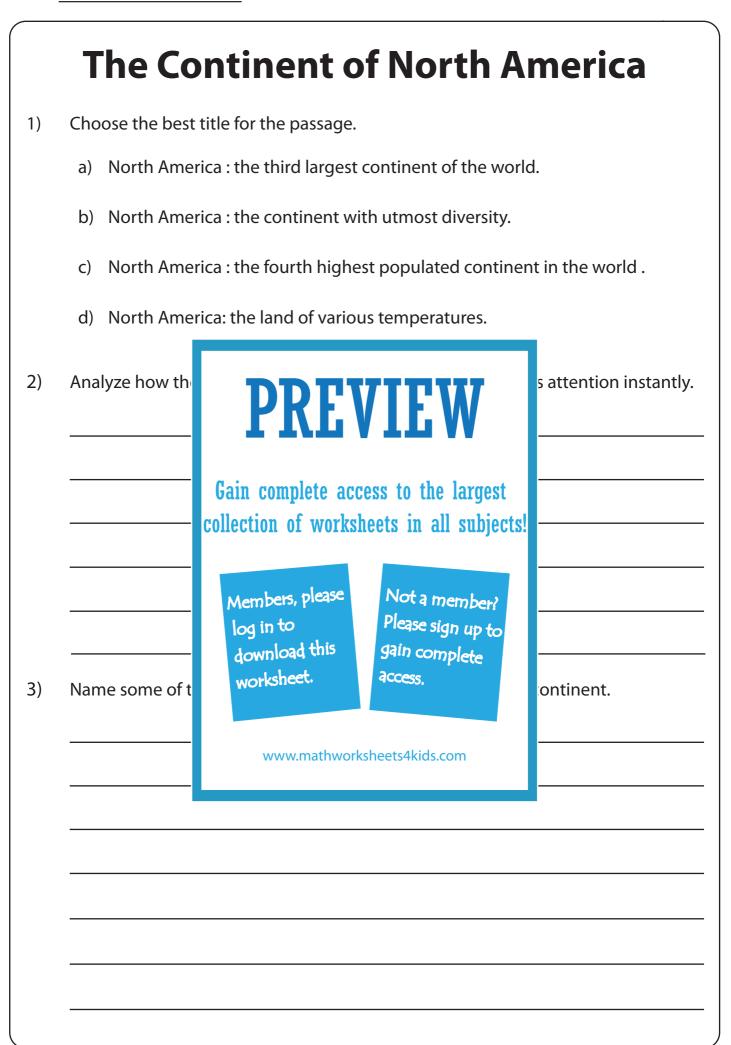
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iht see the world's
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covered in a snow and ice: You might see the beautiful tropical beaches of the islands in the Caribbean Sea. You might see Mount McKinley, North America's highest mountain peak. Or the winding Mississippi River, which runs almost 5,000 through the Great Plains. You might get to experience temperatures as high as 134 degrees Fahrenheit in the desert of Death Valley, or temperatures well below freezing at the North Pole in the Arctic Circle. No matter how you look at it, North America is truly a continent of great variety!



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