Woodlin Elementary School, Silver Spring, MD
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Explore the World

Table of Contents

3 North America Reference Map

4 United States Review

8 Canada

10 Mexico

12 Central America

14 The Caribbean

16 South America

25 Antarctica

27 Australia

29 Countries, Continents and Capitals List

30 Glossary

This program was developed at Woodlin Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD. Thank you to National Geographic.com/xpeditions for their downloadable maps and other material. Visit their site for more geography information.

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After reviewing the United States,
you will learn about our
northern neighbor, Canada.
Then, you will head south
through Mexico, Central America,
the Caribbean and South America.
You will reach the southernmost point
of the world, Antarctica,
and then conclude by
heading back north from
Antarctica to your
final destination, Australia.

Good luck on your trip!

North America Reference Map

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United States Review

Highlight the capital of the United States on the North America Reference Map, and write its name here: _____

The 50 states can be grouped into regions. On the following blank states map, Fill in the name of each state, using its postal code, and then color the regions as follows:

Pacific - Blue:
WA Washington
OR Oregon
CA California
AK Alaska
HI Hawaii

Mountain - Red:
MT Montana
ID Idaho
WY Wyoming
NV Nevada
UT Utah
CO Colorado

Southwest - Orange:
AZ Arizona
NM New Mexico
OK Oklahoma
TX Texas

Southeast - Green:
AR Arkansas
LA Louisiana
MS Mississippi
KY Kentucky
TN Tennessee
AL Alabama
GA Georgia
FL Florida
WV West Virginia
VA Virginia
NC North Carolina
SC South Carolina

North Central - Yellow:
ND North Dakota
SD South Dakota
NE Nebraska
KS Kansas
MN Minnesota
IA Iowa
MO Missouri
WI Wisconsin
IL Illinois
MI Michigan
IN Indiana
OH Ohio

New England and MidAtlantic - Purple:
ME Maine
NH New Hampshire
VT Vermont
MA Massachusetts
CT Connecticut
RI Rhode Island
NY New York
PA Pennsylvania
NJ New Jersey
DE Delaware
MD Maryland

United States of America
N
E
S
W
Atlantic Ocean
Great Lakes
Gulf of Mexico
CANADA
MEXICO
Pacific Ocean
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250 m
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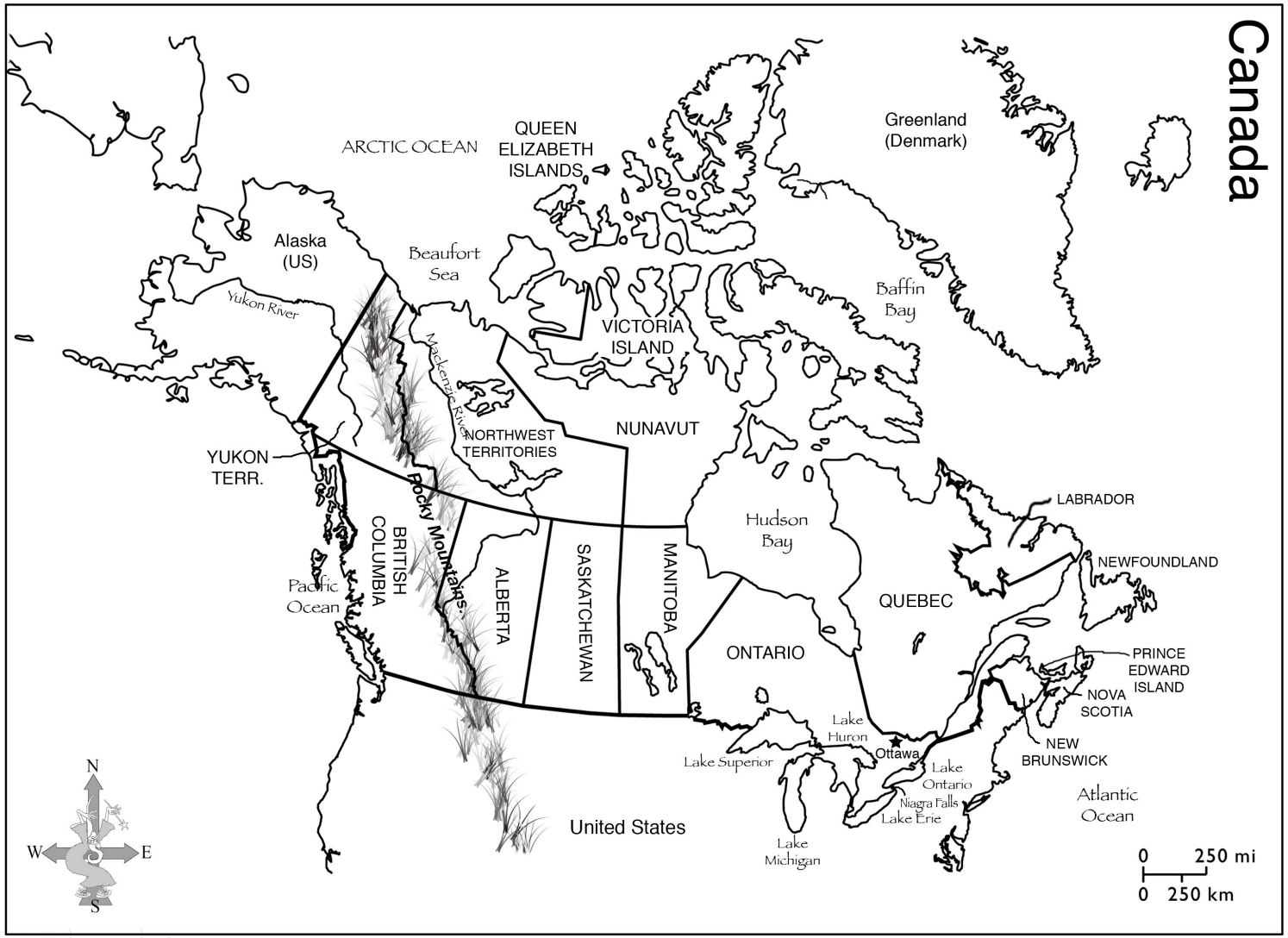
U.S. Capitals

Write the name of each capital listed below next to its state on the following page.

Albany	Dover	Oklahoma City
Annapolis	Frankfort	Olympia
Atlanta	Harrisburg	Phoenix
Augusta	Hartford	Pierre
Austin	Helena	Providence
Baton Rouge	Honolulu	Raleigh
Bismarck	Indianapolis	Richmond
Boise	Jackson	Sacramento
Boston	Jefferson City	Salem
Carson City	Juneau	Salt Lake City
Charleston	Lansing	Santa Fe
Cheyenne	Lincoln	Springfield
Columbia	Little Rock	St. Paul
Columbus	Madison	Tallahassee
Concord	Montgomery	Topeka
Denver	Montpelier	Trenton
Des Moines	Nashville	

U.S. Capitals

State	Capital	State	Capital	State	Capital
Alabama	_____	Louisiana	_____	Ohio	_____
Alaska	_____	Maine	_____	Oklahoma	_____
Arizona	_____	Maryland	_____	Oregon	_____
Arkansas	_____	Massachusetts	_____	Pennsylvania	_____
California	_____	Michigan	_____	Rhode Island	_____
Colorado	_____	Minnesota	_____	South Carolina	_____
Connecticut	_____	Mississippi	_____	South Dakota	_____
Delaware	_____	Missouri	_____	Tennessee	_____
Florida	_____	Montana	_____	Texas	_____
Georgia	_____	Nebraska	_____	Utah	_____
Hawaii	_____	Nevada	_____	Vermont	_____
Idaho	_____	New Hampshire	_____	Virginia	_____
Illinois	_____	New Jersey	_____	Washington	_____
Indiana	_____	New Mexico	_____	West Virginia	_____
Iowa	_____	New York	_____	Wisconsin	_____
Kansas	_____	North Carolina	_____	Wyoming	_____
Kentucky	_____	North Dakota	_____		



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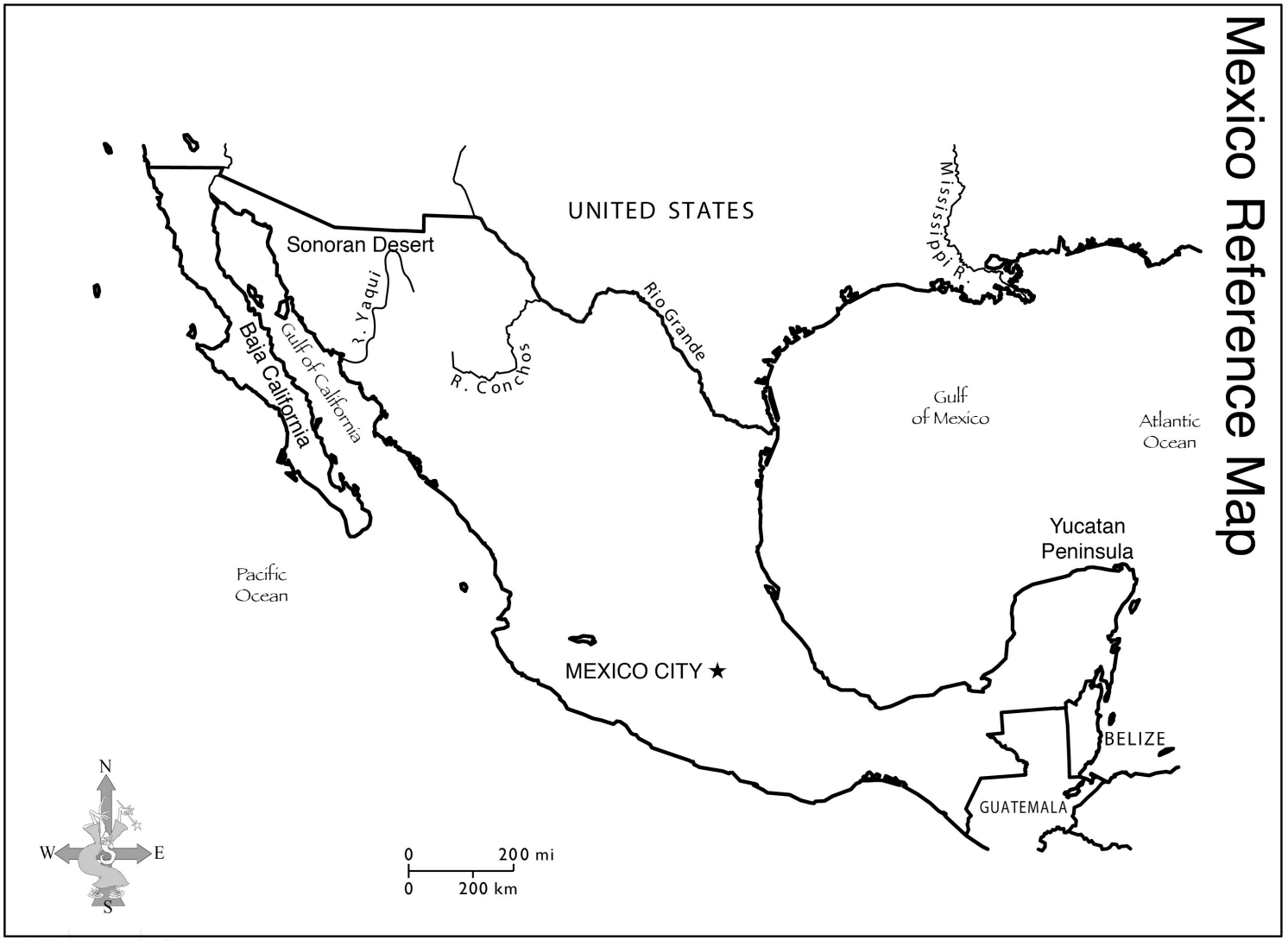
Canada

The answers to the questions on this page can be found on the Canada Reference Map.

1. Canada's northernmost point is only 400 miles from the North Pole. What ocean lies north of Canada? _____
2. What is the name of the enormous Canadian bay that almost divides Canada in two? _____
3. Name the country that borders Canada to the south. _____
4. What is the name of the large river that flows north into the Beaufort Sea? _____ Highlight it on the map.
5. Canada is part of which continent? _____
6. Canada has provinces, instead of states. Which province borders the Great Lakes? _____
7. Four of the Great Lakes border Canada. Which is the one lake that does not? _____
8. The capital of Canada is located in the province of Ontario, near the border of Quebec. What is the capital of Canada? _____ Highlight it on the map.
9. What major waterfall is on Canada's border with the United States, between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie? _____
10. North America's major mountain range extends more than 3000 miles from the southwestern U.S. through Canada's provinces of Alberta and British Columbia and into the Yukon Territory. Name this mountain range. _____
11. Canada's westernmost province, British Columbia, borders what ocean? _____
12. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, on Canada's east coast are known as the Maritime Provinces. What ocean borders these provinces? _____

Mexico Reference Map



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Mexico

The answers to the questions on this page can be found on the Mexico Reference Map.

1. Mexico's capital city was built by an ancient society called the Aztecs, more than 600 years ago. It is one of the largest cities in the world. What is the capital of Mexico? _____ Highlight it on the map.

2. The name of the river that separate Mexico from the United States means "Big River" in Spanish. Name the river _____. Highlight this river on the map.

3. What two countries border Mexico on the southeast?
_____ and _____

4. Acapulco is home to Mexico's famous cliff divers, who dive from heights of up to 150 feet. Acapulco is on Mexico's West Coast, so which ocean do they dive into?
_____

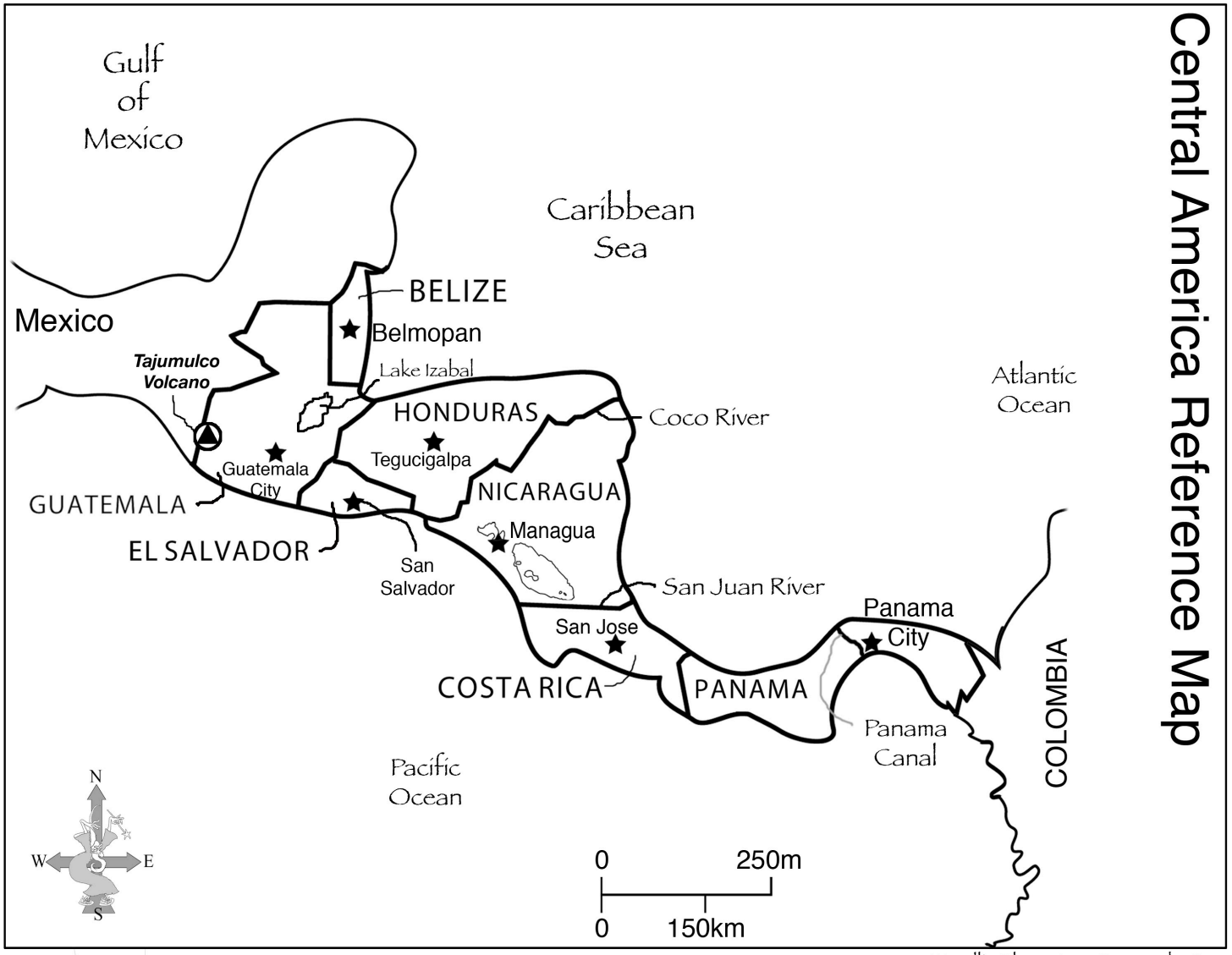
5. Every year many hurricanes come through the large body of water that borders Mexico on the east. This body of water is called the _____ and is part of the _____ Ocean.

6. What is the name of the desert in northwestern Mexico?
_____

7. The long peninsula on the northwest coast of Mexico has a hot, dry climate. Cactus can grow to 60 ft. tall or more! What is the name of this peninsula?
_____

8. The peninsula in southeastern Mexico used to be a hide-out for pirates. Now it is a popular vacation spot for people from all over the world. What is the name of the peninsula? _____

Central America Reference Map



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Central America

First, highlight each capital city on the reference map.
Then use the map to answer these questions.

1. The two northern-most countries in Central America are Guatemala and Belize. What North American country borders them? _____

2. The country furthest south and east in Central America is Panama. What South American country borders Panama? _____

3. Most Central American countries have both an Atlantic and Pacific coast. The only one that does not border the Pacific Ocean is also the only Central American country without a volcano. Name this country, _____ and its capital _____.

4. Panama is an isthmus (a narrow strip of land that separates two bodies of water.) Which two oceans does Panama separate? _____ and _____ ___.

5. The Caribbean Sea is part of the Atlantic Ocean. What is the only Central American country that does not border the Caribbean Sea? _____

6. Before completion of the Panama Canal, ships sailing from New York to California had to sail around Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America. Now it only takes 8 hours to cross the 51-mile long canal from the north side to the capital, _____ _____ on the south side. Highlight the Panama Canal on the Reference Map.

7. The capital of Nicaragua is the only city in the world that has four crater lakes within city limits. What is the name of that city? _____

8. Which river separates Nicaragua from its northern neighbor, Honduras? _____ _____ _____ And which river separates Nicaragua from Costa Rica, to the South? _____

9. One Central American country has the proud distinction of having protected a larger percentage of its land in national parks than any other country in the world. Its capital is San Jose. Which country is it? _____

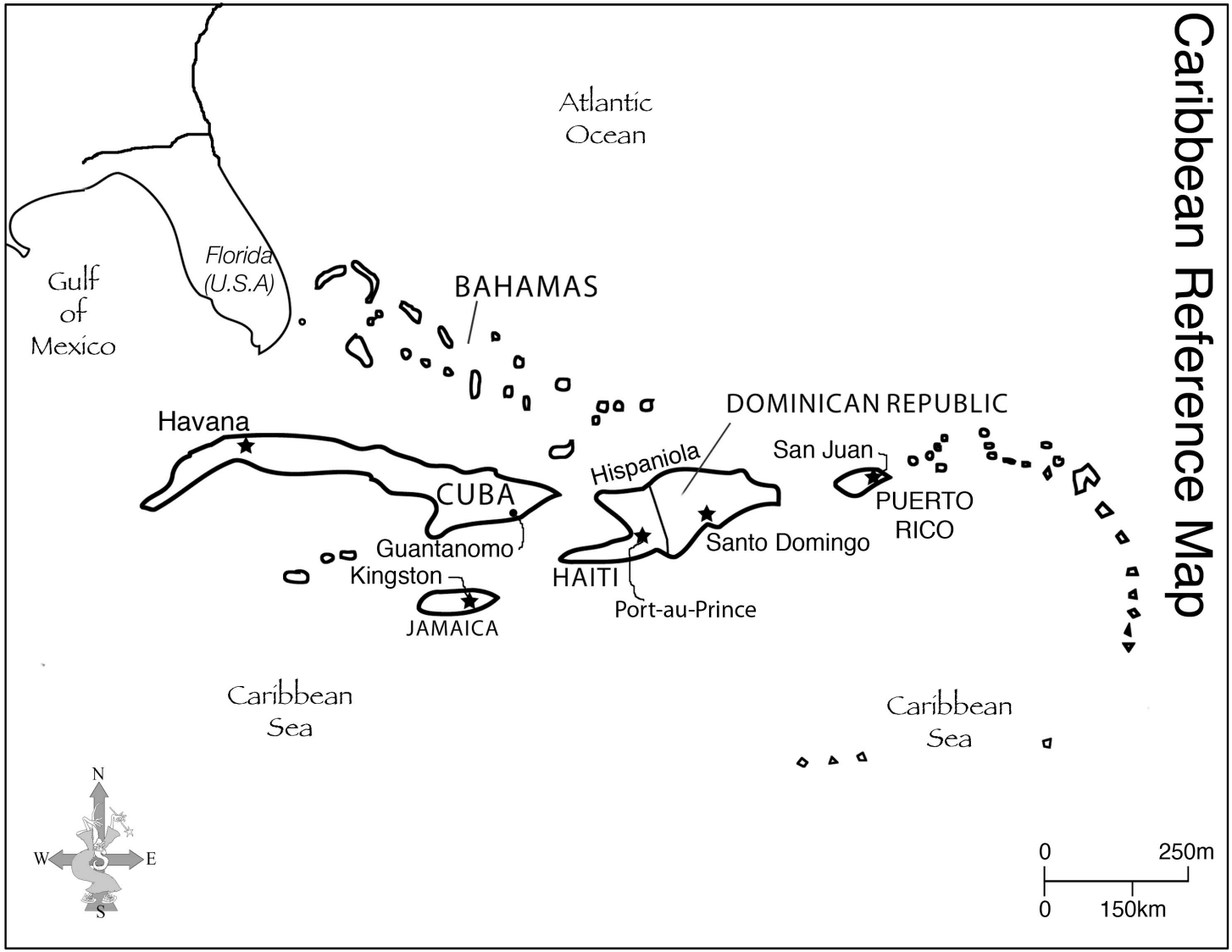
10. The highest elevation in Central America is the crater on the volcano Tajumulco, in the same country as Lake Izabal. Which country is it in? _____

11. The capital of El Salvador was built on a volcanic slope and has suffered from severe earthquakes. It has been rebuilt frequently. Name this city. _____

12. The capital of Guatemala was the city of Antigua until an earthquake destroyed it in 1773. The capital was moved to its present location in 1776 and a new city was founded. Name the city that is now the capital of Guatemala. _____

13. The capital city of Honduras is located on a chain of mountains. Name the capital city. _____

14. Central America was once the empire of the Mayan Indians. The Mayan nation existed for nearly 3,000 years and stretched from southern Mexico into the four northernmost countries of Central America. Name those four countries. _____, _____, _____, and _____.



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The Caribbean

The answers to the questions on this page can be found on the Caribbean American Reference Map. Highlight each capital city on the map.

1. There are many islands in the Caribbean Sea, and several different countries. The Caribbean Sea is part of what ocean? _____

2. The four largest islands of the Caribbean are called the Greater Antilles (AN till eez). Name them: _____, _____, _____ and _____.
   The smaller islands are called the Lesser Antilles.

3. Jamaica is a Caribbean island country famous for reggae music. Name the capital city of Jamaica. _____

4. The largest country in the Caribbean is only 90 miles away from Key West, Florida. It is home to an American military base at Guantanamo and its capital is Havana. Name the country. _____

5. Puerto Rico is a Caribbean island that is a territory of the United States, not an independent country. With a population of about 4 million, Puerto Rico has more people than 24 states and the District of Columbia, but it is not a state. Name the capital. _____

6. The island of Hispaniola has two countries on it. The country that is farther west has two official languages (French and Creole). Name the country _____ and the capital _____
   Half of Haiti's entire population lives in Haiti's capital, where the devastating earthquake hit in January 2010.

7. The Dominican Republic (the larger of the two countries on the island of Hispaniola), is home to the oldest university in the Western Hemisphere and the tomb of Christopher Columbus. Its capital city is: _____

8. Of the Greater Antilles, which island is farthest East?
   _____

South America Reference Map

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Brazil & Bolivia Reference Map

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Brazil and Bolivia Questions

The answers to the questions on this page can all be found on the Brazil and Bolivia Reference Map on the preceding page

1. Bolivia has two capitals. Sucre is the name of one of them. The other is _____, and at 11,500 feet, it is the world's highest capital city. Highlight both capitals on the map.

2. Sao Paulo is the largest city in South America in the largest country of South America. Name the country _____

3. This coastal city in Brazil is famous for beautiful beaches, Sugarloaf Mountain and the yearly festival called *carnival*. Its name means "January River". What is the city? _____

4. This lake lies between Peru and Bolivia. Its elevation makes it by far the highest major lake in the world. What is the name of this lake?
   _____

5. Over 275 individual waterfalls come together to form one huge waterfall that lies on the borders of Brazil and Argentina. It may not be the tallest waterfall in South America, but it is one of the world's largest. What is it called?
   _____

6. This mighty river begins its 4,000 mile journey high in the Andes mountains in Peru and finally meets the Atlantic Ocean in Brazil. It is the world's second longest river and the rainforest along its shores is home to more wildlife than any other place on the planet. Name the river _____ and trace it with a highlighter.

7. This is the largest country in South America and the only country in South America where Portuguese is the official language. Most of this country's people live in the Atlantic coastal cities but the capital city is not near the coast. Name the country _____ and the capital _____. Highlight the capital on the map.

Argentina, Chile, Paraguay & Uruguay Reference Map

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Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay

The answers to the questions on this page can all be found on the regional map of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay on the preceding page.

1. The seasons in the Southern Hemisphere, (south of the equator), occur at *opposite* times of the year from seasons in the Northern Hemisphere, including the United States. So, when it is January in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, what season is it? _____

2. The tallest mountain in South America is in the Andes mountain range on the border of Argentina and Chile. What is the name of this 22,834-foot high mountain? _____

3. This country on the west coast of South America is long (2,560 miles) and very narrow (no more than 270 miles wide). Name the country _____ and its capital _____. Highlight the capital on the map.

4. The driest place on earth is in this desert in Chile. Parts of it have not had any rain for over 400 years. What is the name of this desert? _____ Halfway between the capital and the northern border of Chile is the Copiano River (not shown on the map). It runs through the Atacama Desert, however the river has dried up due to mining and agricultural activity in the region. In October 2010, 33 miners were successfully rescued from a mine in town of Copiapo, Chile, where they had been trapped for more than 2 months in the mine 1/2 half mile below ground.

5. If you were in Argentina and you wanted to sail from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean you could sail around _____at the tip of South America. Frigid temperatures, rough waters and high winds make this a very dangerous route. Many ships avoid it by cutting through the Strait of _____.

6. Argentina is the 2nd largest country in South America. What is the capital? _____. Highlight the capital on the map.

7. Uruguay is the second smallest country in South America and most of the land is low lying grassland, perfect for raising cattle and sheep. What is the capital of Uruguay? _____. Highlight the capital on the map.

8. Paraguay is a landlocked country in South America with two very large neighbors, Brazil and Argentina. Name its capital and highlight it on the map._____

Peru, Ecuador & Colombia Reference Map
Atlantic Ocean
Caribbean Sea
Panama
Venezuela
Bogotá
Colombia
Isla Darwin
Isla Woll
Galápagos Islands
0 70 mi
0 70 km
San Salvador
San Cristóbal
Isabela
Santa Cruz
Quito
Ecuador
Pacific Ocean
Peru
Brazil
Andes Mountains
Lima
Machu Picchu
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W
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Peru, Ecuador and Colombia

The answers to the questions on this page can all be found on the Peru, Ecuador and Colombia Reference Map on the preceding page

1. This very high mountain range stretches along almost all of the western part of South America. It starts in Colombia in the North and winds through Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina in the South. What is the name of this mountain range? _____

2. These islands, which are part of Ecuador, lie far off the western coast of South America. They are famous for their very unusual wildlife, including giant tortoises and swimming marine iguanas. What are they called? _____ _____

3. An ancient mountaintop city, which lies in ruins, is in south-eastern Peru. The city was built by the Incas, a native people who ruled western South America between 1400 and 1532. Name the city. _____

4. This country, located between Colombia and Peru, is named for the imaginary line that goes around the world halfway between the North and South poles. The line divides the northern and southern hemispheres. Name the line _____ and the country _____.

5. This is the only South American country that borders Central America. Name the country. _____

6. Ecuador is the world's leading banana exporter (meaning it sells more bananas outside its borders than any other country). What is Ecuador's capital? _____ Highlight the capital on the map.

7. Colombia is the only country in South America with coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Name the capital, and highlight it on the map. _____

8. The source of the vast Amazon River lies in a remote part of Peru near the Pacific coast of South America. What is the capital of Peru? _____ _____. Highlight the capital on the map.

French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana & Venezuela Reference Map

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French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana and Venezuela

The answers to the questions on this page can all be found on the Reference Map on the preceding page

1. At 3,212 feet high, this is the world's tallest waterfall. Name the waterfall and the country. _____

2. At one time, European countries controlled all of South America. An area that is controlled by another country is called a "colony". There is only one colony left in South America, which is owned by France. It is east of Suriname. Name the colony. _____

3. This country was a former Dutch colony and gained its independence from the Netherlands in 1975. The official language is Dutch. The country is located between Guyana and French Guiana. What is this country? _____

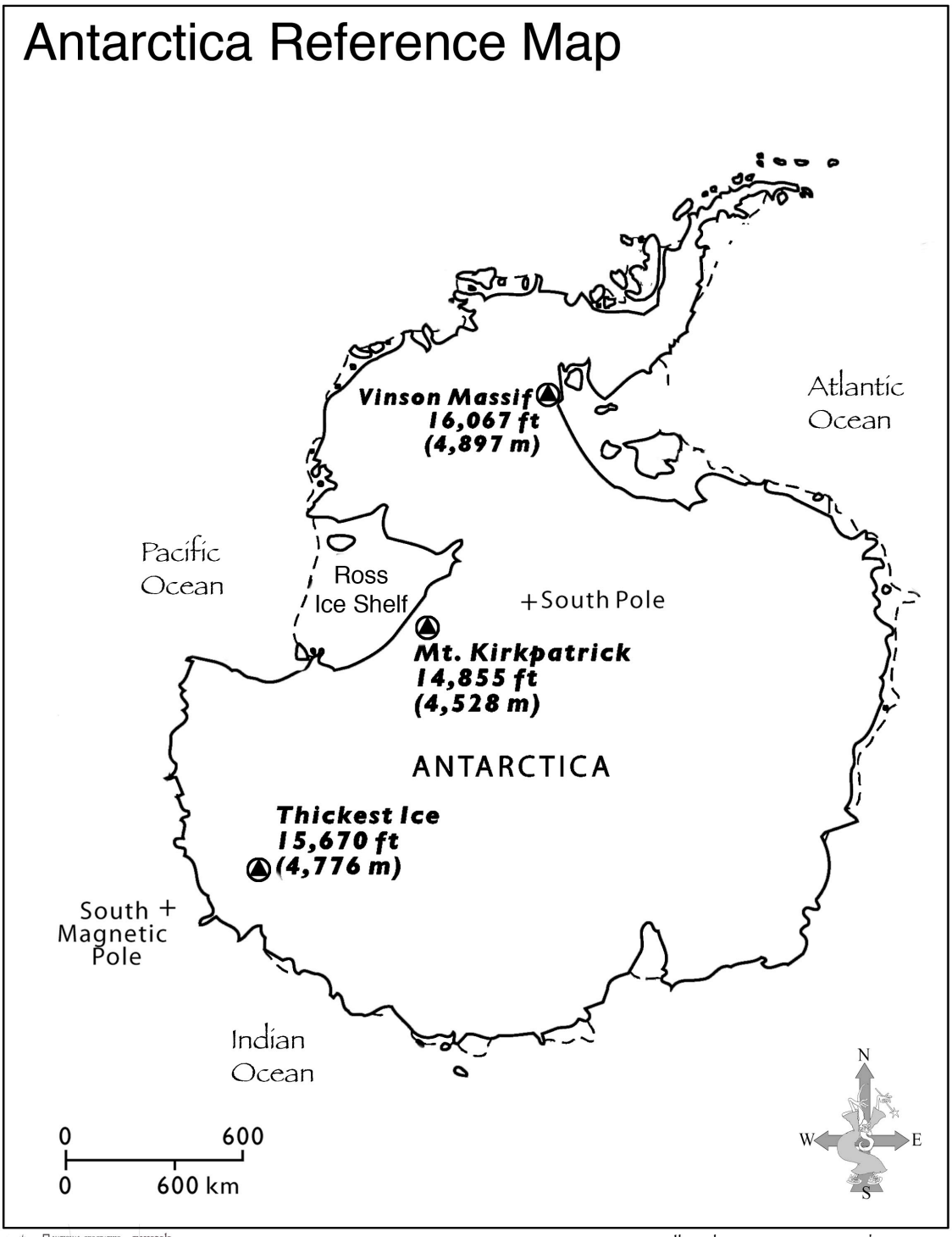
4. What is the name of the capital of Venezuela, which is located near the Caribbean Sea? _____ Highlight the capital on the map.

5. French Guiana is not an independent country, so its main city is not truly a capital. Name this city, which is also a word for a kind of hot red pepper, and highlight it on the map. _____

6. Many people think everyone in South America speaks Spanish but people speak many different languages. In Brazil, people speak Portuguese and in Guyana, English is the official language. The capital of Guyana has an English name that is also the name of a neighborhood in Washington, DC. Name the capital of Guyana. _____ Highlight the capital on the map.

7. Suriname is the smallest independent country in South America. What is the name of its capital city? _____. Highlight it on the map.

Antarctica Reference Map



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Antarctica

The answers to these questions can be found on the Antarctica Reference Map.

1. Antarctica holds 75% of the world's fresh water, and is surrounded by oceans. Name the 3 oceans _____, _____, and _____

2. Which is the highest point in Antarctica: Vinson Massif (4,897 m, 16,067 ft.), Mt. Kirkpatrick (4,776 m, 15,670 ft.) or Thickest Ice?
   _____

3. Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, and driest place on Earth, and is the world's largest desert. The lowest recorded temperature in the world was recorded in Antarctica: 128.6° F below zero. It is dark 24 hours a day throughout the winter, because it is at the "bottom" of the earth, on the _____ Pole. Highlight it on the map.

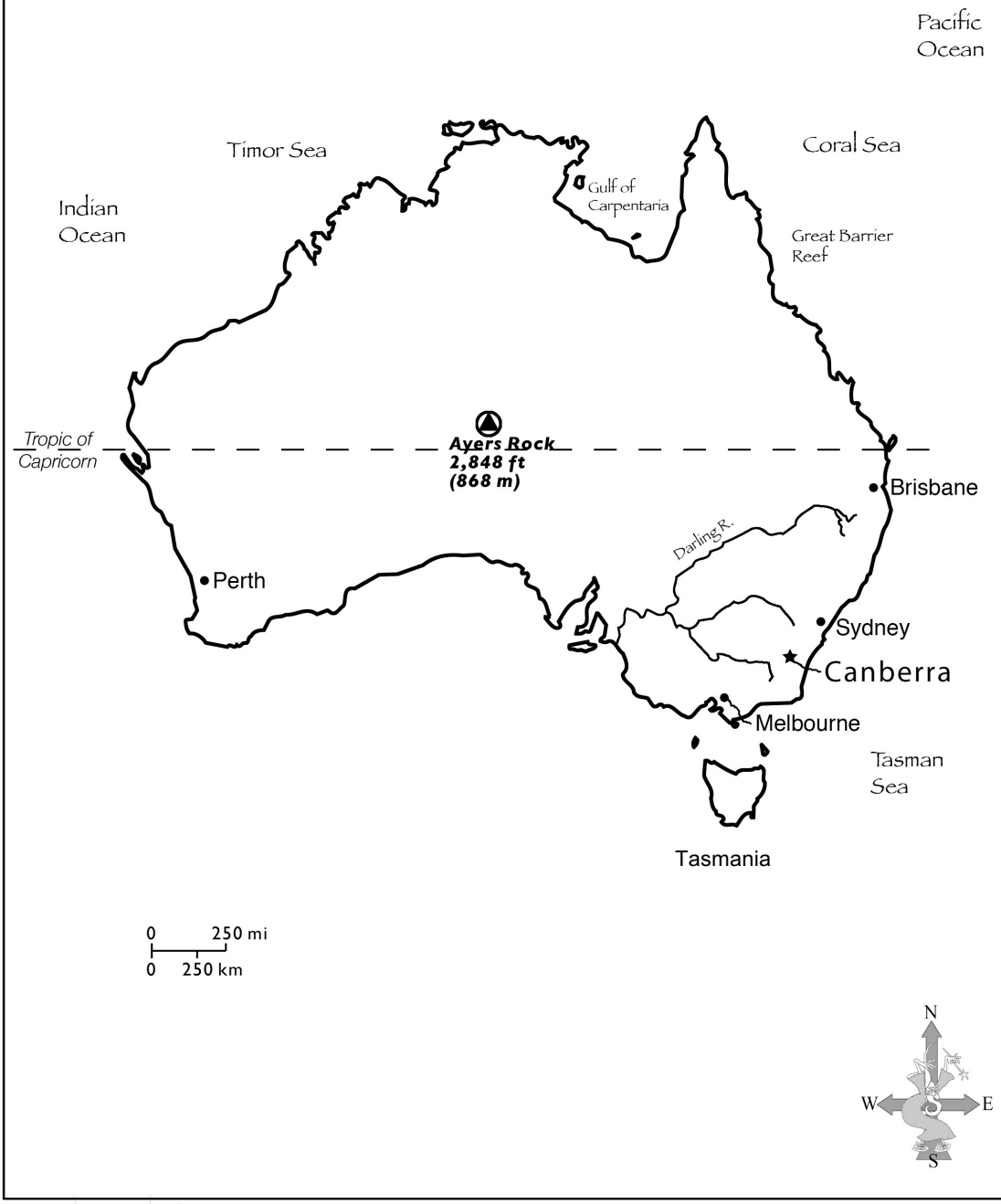
4. Antarctica is not a country and has no government. Under the Antarctica Treaty, it is shared by all nations for the purpose of scientific research. There are no cities or towns, but there more than 50 research stations. One important area that is researched is the _____ Ice Shelf, in the western part of the continent. Highlight it on the map.

Did you know?

- 98% of Antarctica is covered in ice.
- 90% of all of the earth's ice is located in Antarctica?
- In winter (June through August in the Southern Hemisphere), Antarctica doubles in size due to the sea ice that forms around its coastline.
- In 2000, an iceberg the size of Connecticut broke free from the Ross Ice Shelf.

Additional information available at:
coolantarctica.com; extremescience.com;

Australia Reference Map



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Australia

The answers to the questions on this page can all be found on the Australia Reference Map on the preceding page

1. Australia is both a country and a continent. Name the two oceans bordering Australia. _____ and _____

2. The capital of Australia is located in the southeastern part of the country. Name the capital. _____ Highlight the capital on the map.

3. The largest coral reef in the world is located off the northeast coast of Australia. Name the reef _____ ,name the famous sea in which it is located _____.

4. The world's largest monolith (single rock) is located in central Australia. It is a sacred aboriginal site. Name this famous monolith _____

5. Australia's largest city is famous for its beautiful Opera House, which looks like the sails of a ship. The city is located northeast of Canberra on the coast. Name the city. _____

6. Australia is crossed from east to west on the map by an imaginary dotted line. This line marks the southern boundary of the tropics, the hottest part of the world. This line is called the Tropic of _____

7. This island, south of Melbourne, is the home of many unusual plants and animals including the Tasmanian Devil. If you travel straight south from here, the next land you'll see is Antarctica. Name the island. _____

8. The Darling River is over 2000 miles long and flows to the south. The region is called the Murray-Darling River Basin and is Australia's most important agricultural region. However this area has suffered from record droughts and many Australians are concerned that this is an aspect of climate change and the amount of crops coming from this region will shrink dramatically. Color the river blue.

Did you know?

- Australia is the 6th largest country in the world.
- There are 2 active volcanoes in Australia.
- Australia has 6 states.
- The vast, remote, desert-like interior of Australia is known as "the Outback."
- Australia's summer is December through February.

- Continents, Countries and Capitals

Fill in the capital and continent or region for each country covered in this packet, and use this sheet to study.

Continent / Region	Country	Capital
	United States	
	Canada	
	Mexico	
	Belize	
	Costa Rica	
	El Salvador	
	Guatemala	
	Honduras	
	Nicaragua	
	Panama	
	Cuba	
	Jamaica	
	Puerto Rico	
	Dominican Republic	
	Haiti	
	Colombia	
	Venezuela	
	Guyana	
	Suriname	
	French Guiana	
	Ecuador	
	Peru	
	Brazil	
	Bolivia	
	Paraguay	
	Uruguay	
	Argentina	
	Chile	
	Australia	

Glossary

Aborigines:	The native people of Australia
Aztecs:	The original inhabitants of Mexico
Bay:	An inlet of the sea or ocean, smaller than a gulf
Canal:	A man-made waterway
Capital:	A city that is the seat of government for a state, province or country
Colony:	A territory that is controlled by another country
Coral reef:	A chain of rocks or coral, near the ocean surface, which is home to several varieties of fish and other sea creatures
Crater Lake:	A lake that is found in the top opening of a dormant volcano
Desert:	Dry land, with little or no rainfall
Elevation:	Height above sea level
Equator:	The imaginary line that divides the earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres
Frigid:	Intensely cold
Gulf:	An inlet of the sea or ocean, larger than a bay
Hemisphere:	Half of the earth – Northern and Southern or Eastern and Western
Incas:	The original inhabitants of Peru
Isthmus:	A narrow strip of land that connects two larger land areas
Landlocked:	Surrounded on land on all sides; a landlocked country has no coastline
Latitude:	Imaginary lines that circle earth from east to west
Longitude:	Imaginary lines that circle earth from north to south
Maritime:	Bordering on the sea or ocean
Mayans:	The original inhabitants of Central America
Monolith:	A giant stone
Peninsula:	Land surrounded by water on three sides
Rainforest:	A tropical woodland with at least 100 inches of rain per year
Reef:	A chain or rocks or coral near the water's surface
Strait:	A narrow passageway connecting two large bodies of water
Treaty:	An agreement between two countries