

# World Geography

## Chapter 5

# Regional Atlas: Introduction to the United States and Canada

# World Geography

## Chapter 5: Regional Atlas: Introduction to the United States and Canada

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# Historical Overview



**By the early 1500s, Native Americans were joined by Europeans and Africans as inhabitants of North America.**

- Spanish, French, and English settlers founded **colonies** in North America.
- French Quebec came under British rule, and the British colonies gained independence as Canada and the United States of America.
- Both Canada and the United States expanded westward through **annexation**, wars, and treaties in the 1800s.
- Regional differences led to **civil war** in the United States.
- The new technology of the **Industrial Revolution** fueled economic growth.
- The United States and Canada assumed roles of world leadership in the 1900s, and common interests forged close ties between the two countries.



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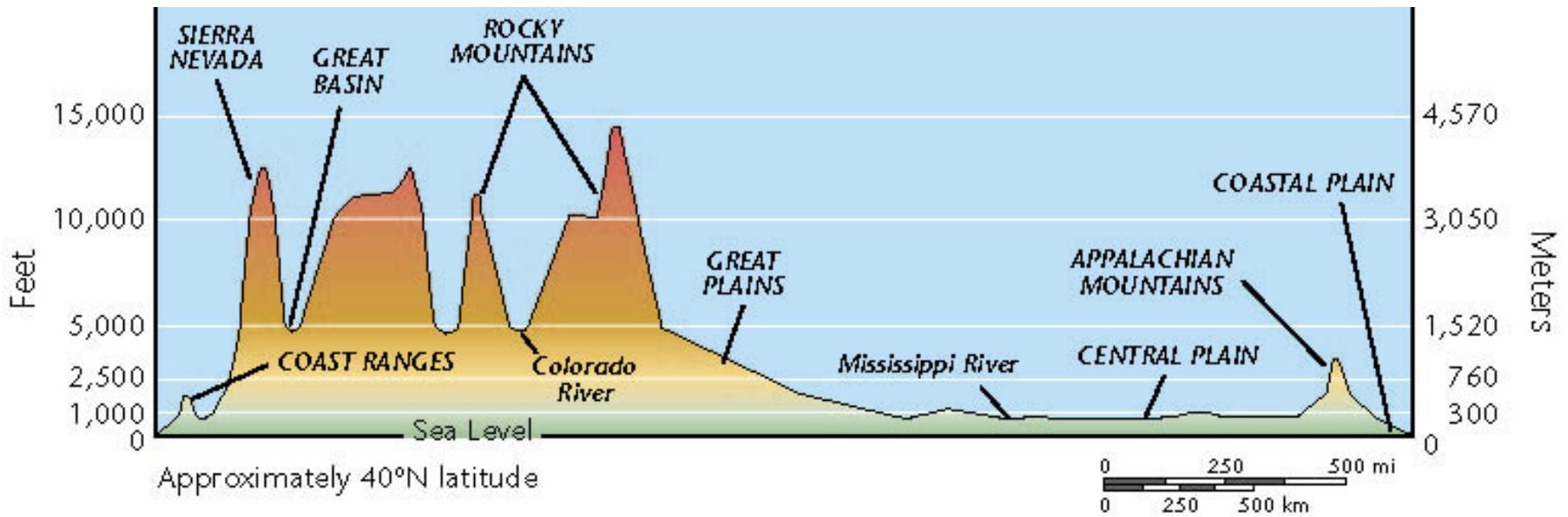
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# Physical Characteristics



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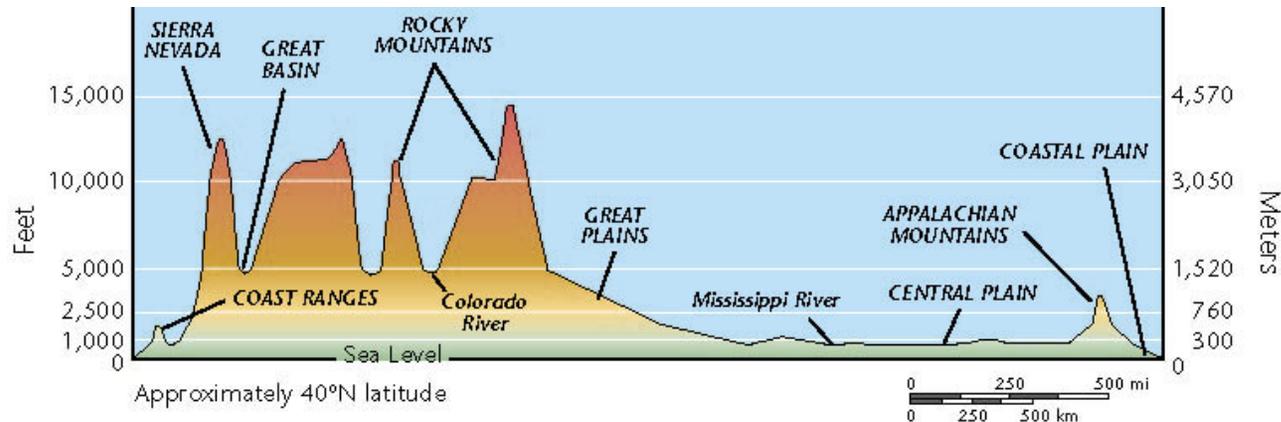
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# Physical Characteristics



**Canada and the United States share a number of physical characteristics:**

- **High mountains in the west that form the continental divide**
- **Plains in the central area**
- **Lower mountains in the east**



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## Climate Conditions of Selected U.S. Cities

City	Average Monthly Temperature (°F)		Average Annual Precipitation (in.)	Average Annual Precipitation (days)	Average Annual Snowfall (in.)
	January	July			
Chicago, IL	21	73	33.3	127	40.3
Dallas–Ft. Worth, TX	44	86	29.5	78	3.1
Miami, FL	67	83	57.6	129	0.0
New York, NY	32	76	42.8	119	26.1
Seattle, WA	39	65	38.6	158	12.8

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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**Latitude, elevation, and distance from the oceans affect the climates of the United States and Canada.**

- **Tropical wet--covers southeast region of United States**
- **Humid continental--surrounds the area of the Great Lakes**
- **Subarctic--stretches across northern North America (Canada and Alaska) from the Atlantic to the Pacific**
- **Western parts of North America are comprised of many climates such as Highlands, Semiarid, Marine west coast, and Mediterranean.**



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# Chapter 5 , Section 4 Ecosystems



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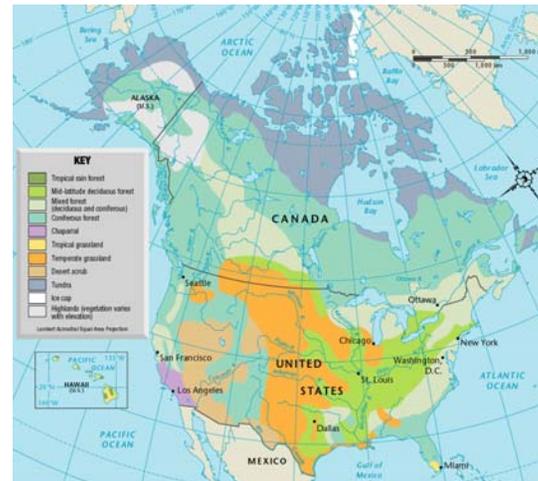
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# Ecosystems



**The variety of ecosystems found in the United States and Canada includes arctic tundra, forests, grasslands, and desert scrub.**

- **Temperate grasslands exists in the central plains region.**
- **Desert scrub and chaparral cover parts of the southwest and west of the United States.**
- **Coniferous, deciduous, and mixed forests cover much of North America.**
- **Tundra stretches across parts of Alaska and northern Canada.**



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# People and Cultures



**While the population of the United States is much larger than Canada's, there are many similarities.**

- **Both countries emerged from large English colonies.**
- **Both countries have become home to large numbers of immigrants.**
- **While most people now live in urban, not rural, areas, both countries have seen a rise in their suburban populations.**
- **The populations of both countries have long life expectancies.**
- **The educational systems of both countries contribute to high rates of literacy.**



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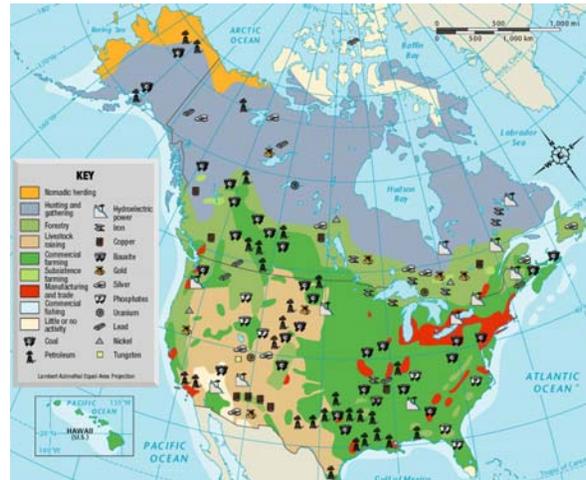
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# Economies, Technology, and Environment



# Economies, Technology, and Environment



**Both the United States and Canada have a wide variety of resources and economic activities.**

- The people of both countries enjoy a high **standard of living**.
- Manufacturing and trade are important to large parts of both countries.
- Commercial farming and livestock raising are also very important.



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- **Canada and the United States are two of the world's largest energy producers and consumers.**
- **While the United States relies on mostly fossil fuels, Canada's main source of power is hydroelectricity.**
- **Although total electricity consumption is higher in the United States, Canada uses more electricity **per capita**, or per person.**
- **Since 1969, Canada has exported more energy than it has imported.**
- **The United States purchases more than 90 percent of the energy Canada sells.**



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