

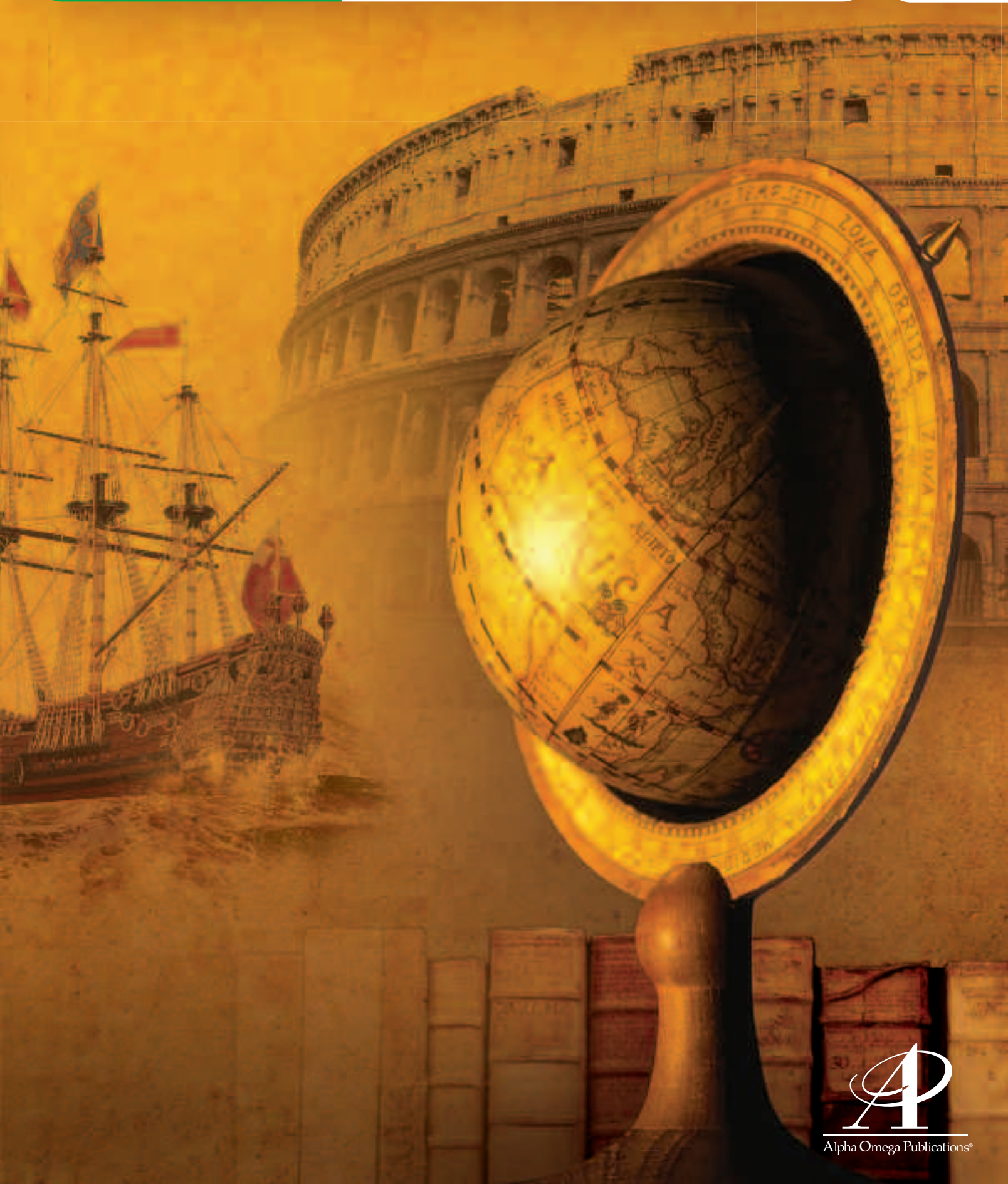


LIFE PAC®

History & Geography

Student Book

Grade 3
Unit 8



Alpha Omega Publications®



History & Geography 808

Mountain States

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Objectives	6
Vocabulary	7
I. Mountain Geography	9
Mountain States.....	10
Geographical Features	12
Weather	16
II. Mountain Resources.....	23
Natural Resources.....	24
Human Resources.....	27
Products and Industries.....	33
III. Mountain Community.....	42
Culture.....	43
Cowboys.....	47
Recreation.....	50
Poster Project.....	54
LIFEPAC Test	Pull-Out

Credits

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My name is Benny and this is Bella. We're going to help you learn about the history and geography of the United States.



When you see a picture of us or one of our many friends, you'll know it's time to complete an exercise on what you've learned.

Learning is
an adventure
so let's get started!





This study guide belongs to: (write your name here)

MOUNTAIN STATES

Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico

The next region of the United States you will study is the Mountain states. The Mountain states stretch from the Canadian border in the north to the Mexican border in the south. The Rocky Mountains run through these states and play an important role in their geography. The mountains also created challenges for the early settlers. Today the mountains provide abundant natural resources as well as recreational opportunities for the people living in the region.





READ THESE UNIT OBJECTIVES.

The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this **LIFEPAC**.



When you have finished this **LIFEPAC**, you should be able to:

1. Locate the Mountain states.
2. Know the geography of the Mountain states.
3. List natural resources found in the Mountain states.
4. State the types of businesses and employers found in the Mountain region.
5. Know some Mountain state's settlers.
6. Recognize the importance of cowboys in the Mountain states.
7. Identify the pastimes of the people living in the Mountain states.

STUDY THESE NEW WORDS.

Learning the meaning of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this **LIFEPAC**.



adapt (ə-dăpt') To change to fit a situation.

dam (dăm) A structure which stops the flow of water.

evaporation (i-văp'ə-rā'shən) To change from a liquid form to a vapor.

geyser (gī'zər) A hot spring of water which sends occasional jets of water into the air.

hydroelectric (hī'drō-i-lĕk'trik) Creating electricity through the use of water.

interpreter (in-tûr'pri-tər) A person who explains information to another.

pacifist (păs'ə-fĭst) Opposed to violence as a way to solve disagreements.

predictable (pri-dĭkt'ă-bəl) To know ahead of time.

reservoir (rĕz'ər-vwăr', -vwôr', -vôr') A place where water is collected or stored.

stampede (stăm-pĕd') A rush of panicked animals.

Vocabulary continued.

turbine (tûr'bin, -bîn') The blades of a machine that are turned by water or wind and then turned into electricity.

These words will appear in **boldface** (thicker print) the first time they are used.



PRONUNCIATION KEY:

hăt, āge, cāre, fār, lět, ēqual, ít, íce,

/û/ as in term and squirm, hőt, ōpen, ôrdər, /oi/ as in oil,

/ou/ as in out, cŭp, /ö/ as in put, /ō/ as in rule,

/ch/ as in chıld, /ng/ as in lông,

/th/ as in thĭn, /th/ as in thĕn, /zh/ as in measure,

/ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil,

/o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus

I. MOUNTAIN STATES GEOGRAPHY

You will begin this **LIFEPAC** by studying the geography of the Mountain states. You will learn the names of some of the Mountain states' land features. You will also learn the names of the Mountain states' major cities. The Mountain states' location impacts the types of food people grow, the places they live, and the activities they do.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:



1. Locate the Mountain states.
2. Know the geography of the Mountain states.

Restudy these vocabulary words:

adapt
evaporation



Ask your teacher to say these words with you.

Teacher check

Initial _____

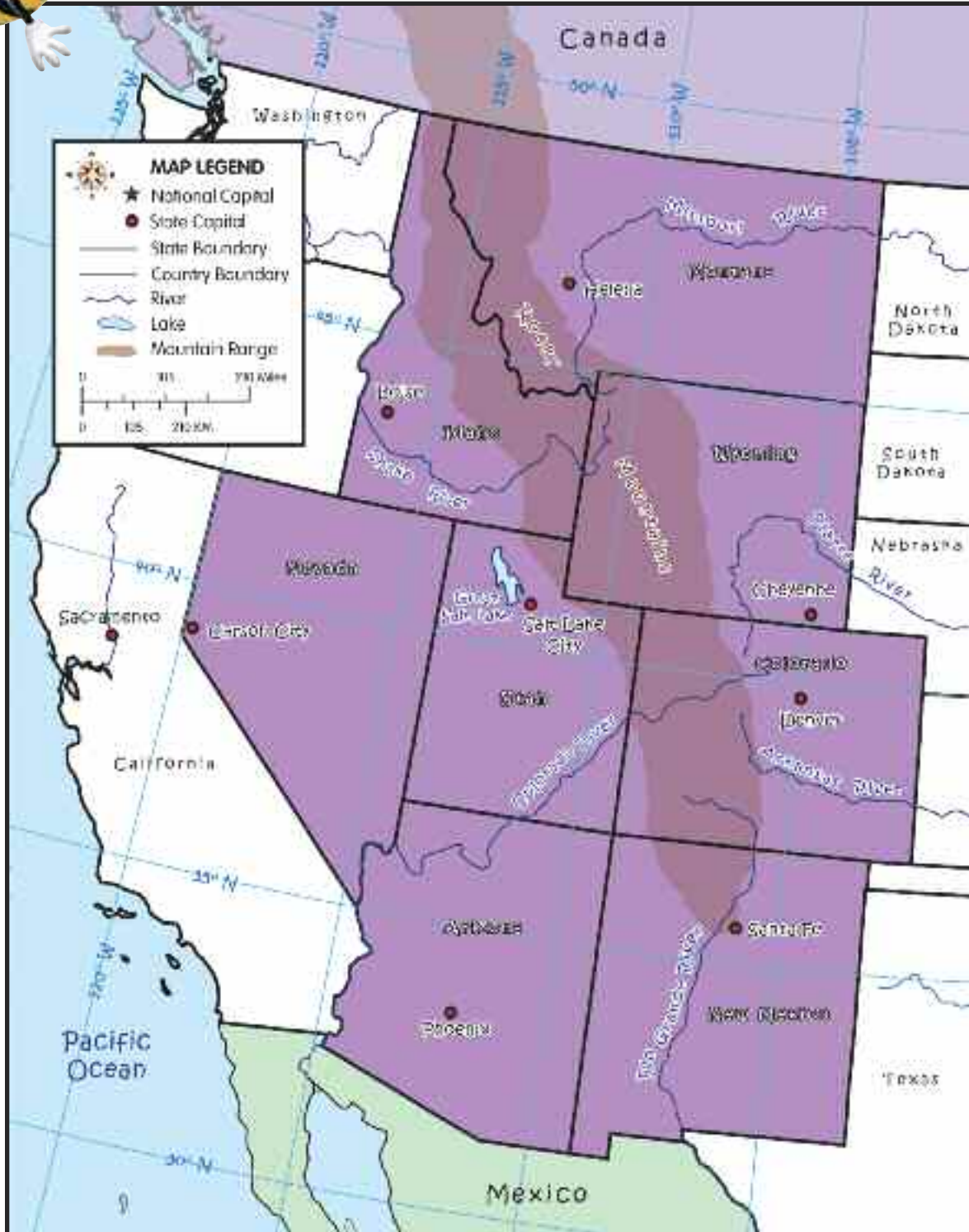
Date _____



== STATES IN THE MOUNTAIN REGION ==



Before you study the Mountain states, look at the map below. The map will introduce you to the Mountain area.





Answer the questions based on the map.

- 1.1 List the capitals of the Mountain states:
- a. Montana _____
 - b. Idaho _____
 - c. Wyoming _____
 - d. Nevada _____
 - e. Utah _____
 - f. Colorado _____
 - g. Arizona _____
 - h. New Mexico _____
- 1.2 What country is south of New Mexico? _____
- 1.3 The 110 degree line of longitude runs through which Mountain states? _____

- 1.4 The 35 degree line of latitude runs through which Mountain states? _____

- 1.5 What river forms the border between Arizona and California? _____
- 1.6 What is the name of the large lake in Utah?

Fill in the Blank continued.



- 1.7 What state is west of Nevada? _____
- 1.8 What state is north of New Mexico? _____
- 1.9 Which Mountain state is the most western?

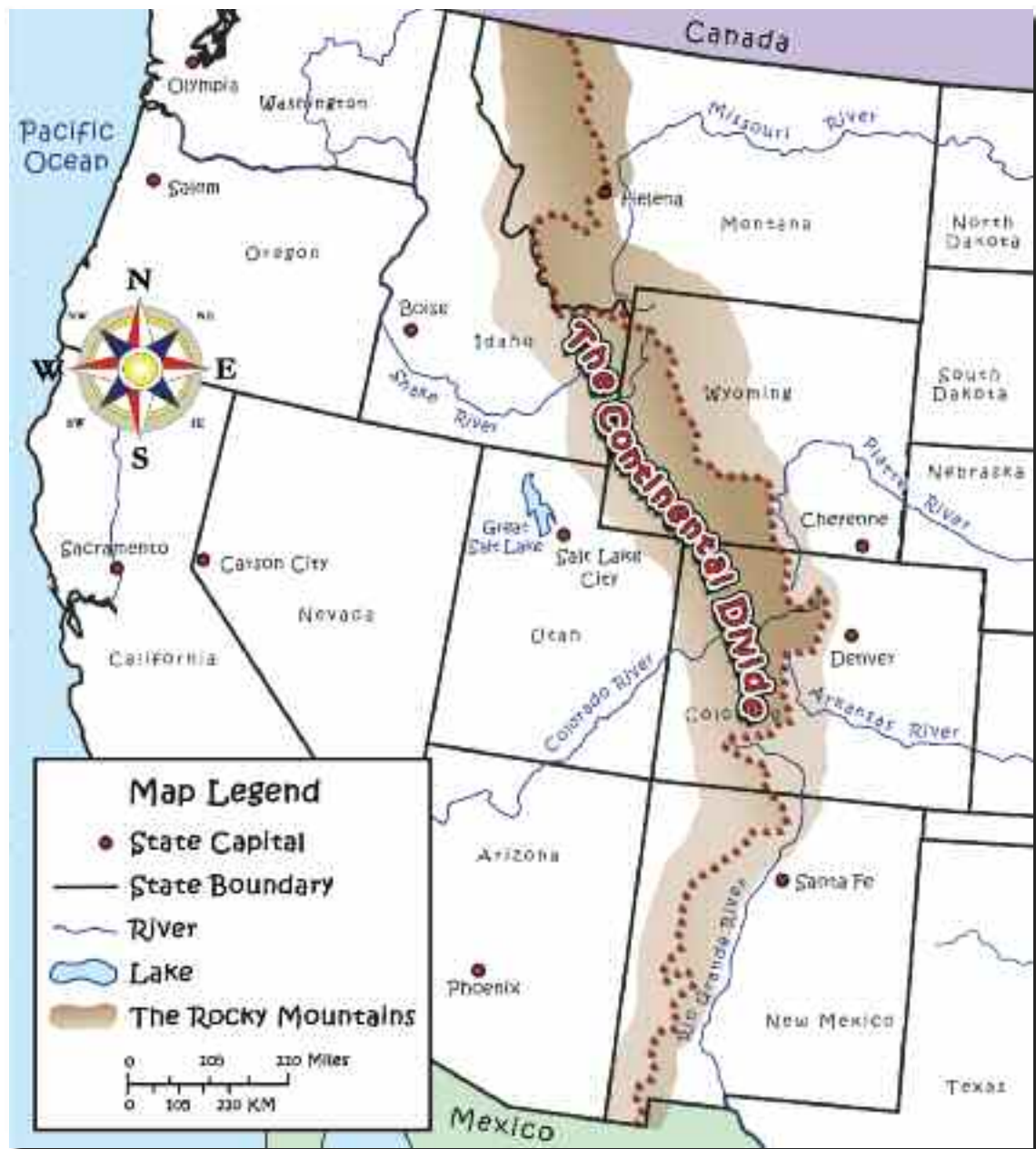
- 1.10 Which state is the most eastern? _____
- 1.11 What state has the most northern capital city of the region? _____

===== GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES =====

The geography of the Mountain states is much different than that of the Midwestern states. Where the Midwestern states were largely flat and good for planting crops, the Mountain states are rugged and better suited for cattle grazing. The highest peak in this region is Mt. Elbert in Colorado at 14,433 feet. The Rocky Mountains extend over 3,000 miles from Canada to the southern U.S. border. The Rocky Mountains also form the Continental Divide.



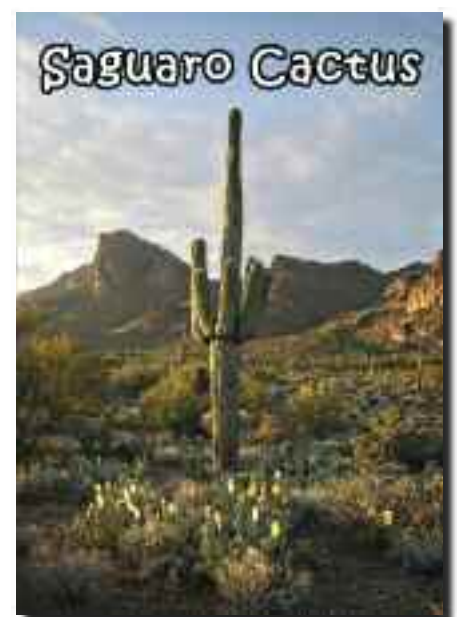
The Continental Divide is an imaginary line that follows the highest peaks of the Rocky Mountains from north to south. The Continental Divide separates the streams that flow into the Pacific Ocean from those flowing into the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico. The Colorado River forms on the western side of the Continental Divide and flows into the Pacific Ocean. The Missouri River forms on the eastern side of the Continental Divide and flows into the Gulf of Mexico.





The Great Salt Lake is found in Utah. It is the largest salt water lake in the U.S. Four rivers and numerous streams flow into the Great Salt Lake but none flow out of it. Because of this, **evaporation** is the only way in which water exits the lake. When water evaporates, it leaves behind salt and other minerals in the water. The lake is much saltier than the ocean. Only a few animals can survive in the salty water. However, large populations of ducks, pelicans, and swans live around the lake. Visitors come to the lake for the beautiful beaches. They also enjoy swimming in the lake because the salt makes it easy for people to float. One of the minerals harvested from the lake is table salt.

The region is also home to deserts. One of the best known is the Sonoran Desert found in Southern Arizona and California. The desert also extends into Mexico. The Sonoran Desert receives



about 10-12 inches of rain a year. While this doesn't sound like much, it is actually one of the wettest deserts in the world. Because a desert is hot and dry, animals and plants need to **adapt** to the environment. Mountain lions, snakes, and lizards make their homes in the desert. A variety of plants also live in the desert. The Saguaro cactus is a special type of cactus that makes its home in the Sonoran desert. It is the largest cactus in the U.S. The cactus grows slowly and can live to be 200 years old. The cactus has shallow roots and stores water for when there isn't rain. In fact the majority of the cactus plant is water.





Fill in the Blank.

- 1.12 The Continental Divide separates rivers which flow into the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico from those flowing into the _____.
- 1.13 The Saguaro is the largest _____ is the U.S.
- 1.14 The Great Salt Lake is located in the state of _____.
- 1.15 The only way water leaves the Great Salt Lake is through _____.
- 1.16 The large desert in southern Arizona and California is called the _____ Desert.

WEATHER

The weather varies greatly from the northern to the southern states in this region. The weather also varies from the high elevations of the mountains to the lower desert regions. One weather feature that all the states share is that they are dry. The Mountain states are at higher elevations and away from any large bodies of

water. These are two of the reasons the states in this region are dry.

The Great Basin is a particularly dry area which covers most of Nevada and parts of the surrounding states. The Cascade Range, Rocky Mountains, and Sierra Nevada surround the area keeping moisture from falling in the region. The desert area within the Great Basin is so dry that the water from the rivers flowing in the area evaporates. The rivers end in the desert rather than flowing into a larger body of water.

Many people think of hot temperatures when they think of a desert. While deserts are hot during the days, they are not at night. In the summer the temperatures range from 100 degrees during the day to the 30's to 40's at night. In the winter months from October to April, the weather cools. Temperatures in the winter months vary from the 60's to 70's during the day to below freezing at night.



In the mountains, the weather is cold in the winter with frequent snow falls. During the summer months, the mountain region has mild temperatures with cold nights. A weather feature unique to mountains is a rain shadow. A rain shadow is a dry area of a mountain side away from the direction of the wind. As rain or snow falls on a mountain, most of it lands on the side from where the wind is blowing. Little rain or snow falls on the other side of the mountain. Some of the world's largest deserts are on rain shadow sides of mountains. The mountain peaks prevent the moisture from traveling to the far side of the mountain and surrounding area. Earlier you learned that the Great Basin is surrounded by mountains. The Great Basin is in the rain shadow of two mountain ranges: the Cascade and Sierra Nevada.





True/False: circle the correct answer.

- 1.17 Deserts are always hot even at night. T F
- 1.18 A rain shadow is a dry area of the mountain away from the direction of the wind. T F
- 1.19 Mountain temperatures are cold all year long. T F
- 1.20 The Great Basin is the name given to a huge lake in Nevada. T F

Teacher check _____
Initial Date



Time to study and review for Self Test 1.

Study
State
Facts!



Know
State
Geography!

For this Self Test, study what you have read and done.
The Self Test will check what you remember.

SELF TEST I



Multiple Choice: fill in the correct answer.

- 1.01** The Continental Divide separates rivers flowing from the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico from those flowing into the _____ .
a. Indian Ocean b. Great Salt Lake c. Pacific Ocean
- 1.02** The capital of Colorado is _____ .
a. Denver b. Boise c. Cheyenne
- 1.03** The highest mountain peak in this region is called _____ .
a. Mt. Elbert b. Pike's Peak c. Mt. St. Helens
- 1.04** The Saguaro cactus can live to be _____ years old.
a. 50 b. 100 c. 200
- 1.05** The Great Salt Lake has many rivers and streams flowing into it and _____ streams flowing out.
a. 0 b. 5 c. 10
- 1.06** Deserts tend to be hot during the day and _____ at night.
a. hot b. warm c. cool



True/False: circle the correct answer.

1.07 The Great Basin is a large lake in the middle of Nevada. T F

1.08 The Mountain states are generally wet. T F

1.09 The word "adapt" means that something changes to its surroundings. T F

1.010 The state of Nevada is west of Colorado. T F



Fill in the Blank.

1.011 A(n) _____ shadow forms on the side of the mountain away from the wind.

1.012 _____ takes place when water disappears into the air.

1.013 The state of New Mexico is directly east of _____.

1.014 The Great Salt Lake is located in the state of _____.



Fill in the Blank continued.

1.015 The Saguaro cactus is mostly made up of

12/15

Each question is worth one point. The passing grade for Self Test I is shown in the box to the left. Write your score in the box to the right. How did you do?



Teacher check _____
Initial Date

