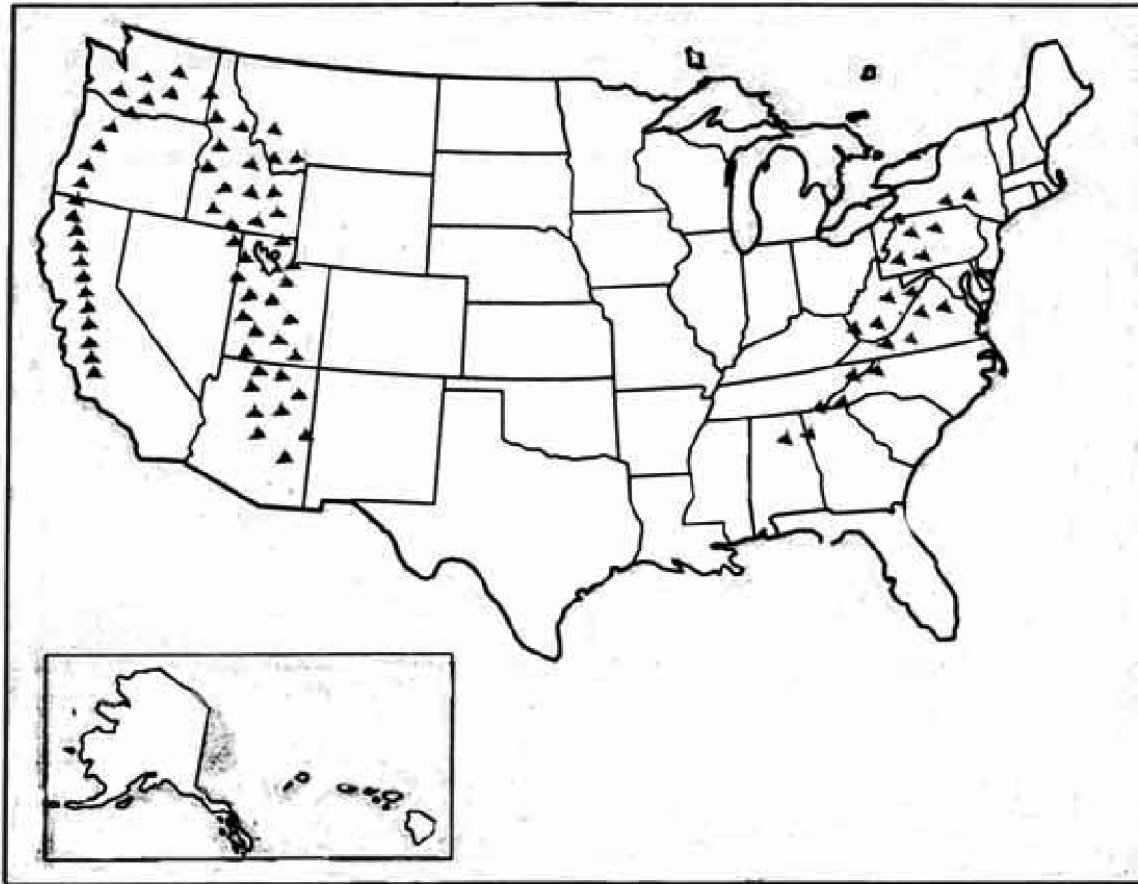


MAP EXERCISE

THE PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL SETTING

The North American continent is an essential factor in the history of the American people. This is vital to the understanding of the history of the United States to understand the physiographical features of its land—its topography, climate, vegetation, and soils. The natural environment has played important roles in shaping the settlement, culture, and political life of the United States.



MAPPING AMERICA

1. Label: Cascade Mountains, Sierra Nevada, Great Basin, Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, Appalachian Mountains, Atlantic Coastal Plain;
2. Label: Mississippi River, Ohio River, Rio Grande, Columbia River, St. Lawrence River, each of the five Great Lakes, Great Salt Lake, Chesapeake Bay.
3. Draw light lines to designate, then label: 70th, 100th, and 125th meridians; 25th and 50th parallels.

READING THE MAP

1. Name two states that contain portions of the Cascade Mountains or Sierra Nevada.

2. Name two states whose western borders are formed by the Mississippi River.

3. Name two states whose northern borders are formed by one or more of the Great Lakes.

4. Name three states that contain a portion of the Rocky Mountains.

5. Name three states that contain a portion of the Appalachian Mountains.

6. Name three states that contain a portion of the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

7. Name three states that contain a portion of the Great Plains.

8. Name two states, portions of which lie within the Great Basin.

9. Between what lines of latitude and longitude lay the forty-eight contiguous states of the United States?

_____ and _____ latitude;

_____ and _____ longitude

INTERPRETING THE MAP

1. North America has been settled primarily from the water. What natural obstacles have Americans encountered in their movement from coast to coast?
2. What significant climactic and topographic differentiation occurs near 100° W longitude?
3. How did the physical characteristics of the continent affect settlement patterns, exploration routes, and transportation systems?
4. How were Native American groups distinguished and affected by the environments in the areas where they lived?
5. How did the natural environment influence the relationships between Native American groups and Europeans? When did the environment act to the Native American's advantage?

6. What group of states appear to have their borders defined by irregular natural features and which by symmetrical land-survey lines? How did this happen?