

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class Period: _____

Class Work / Notes: What is Geography and Why is it Important?

Definition: Geography = The study of the earth and its features and of the way life is spread out on the earth, including human life, plant life, and animal life.

Discussion: Why is it Important?

Important Geographic Features of the United States

Directions: You and your partner will be given a laminated map of the U.S. and a dry-erase marker. Do the following:

- Find each feature below in the maps on page 12 of the class atlases and draw each one on the dry-erase map of the U.S.

- Now let's do some critical thinking. Why might each of these features be important for U.S. History? In the table, brainstorm ways you think that each feature is important for the United States as a country. We'll do the first one together.

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE	HOW COULD THIS BE IMPORTANT FOR U.S. HISTORY? (Pick <u>THREE</u>)
1. Appalachian Mountains	
2. Mississippi River	
3. Missouri River	
3. Great Lakes	
4. Great Plains	
5. Rocky Mountains	
6. Atlantic Coast / Atlantic Ocean	
7. Pacific Coast / Pacific Ocean	
8. Gulf of Mexico	

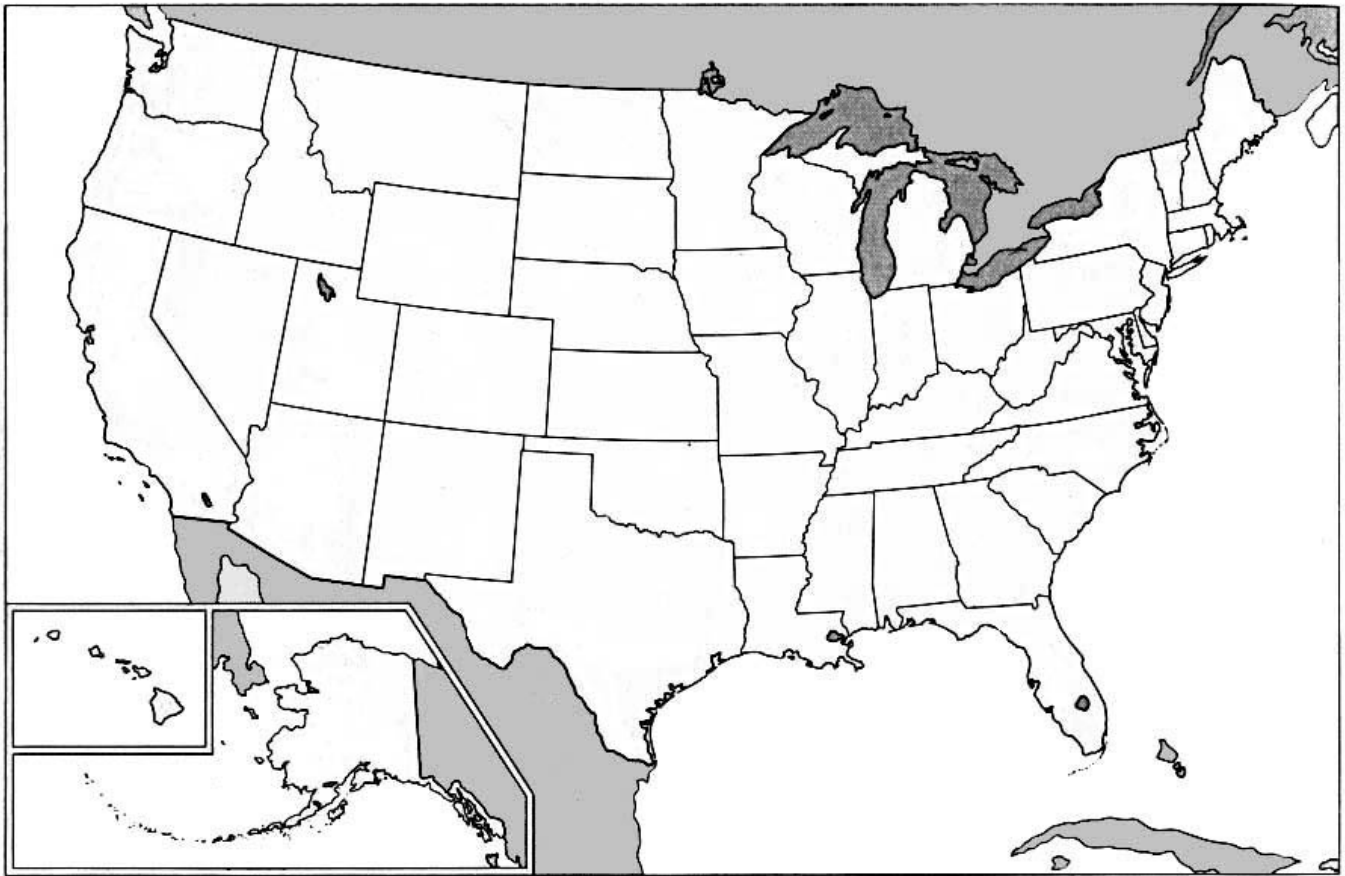
It's all in your head! Freehand map

This group assignment requires that you work with the members of your table to freehand a map of the good ol' U.S. of A!!! Please DON'T INCLUDE STATES (Texas is okay, ☺). But you must include, without using any resources other than yourselves, the following listed items. You have 15 minutes to get as many features as you can on your map, and then you will share your map!

- ___ Atlantic Ocean
- ___ Pacific Ocean
- ___ Mississippi River
- ___ Ohio River
- ___ Missouri River
- ___ Rio Grande River
- ___ Lake Huron
- ___ Lake Superior
- ___ Lake Ontario
- ___ Lake Michigan
- ___ Lake Erie
- ___ Great Salt Lake
- ___ Gulf of Mexico
- ___ Great Plains
- ___ Rocky Mts.
- ___ Appalachian Mts.
- ___ Washington, D.C.
- ___ NYC
- ___ Philadelphia, PA
- ___ Boston, MA
- ___ Houston, TX
- ___ San Francisco, CA
- ___ a peninsula
- ___ a gulf
- ___ Mexico
- ___ Canada

BONUS: On the BACK of your chart paper, draw a map of the whole world! Include:

- ___ South America
- ___ North America
- ___ Eurasia
- ___ Australia
- ___ Antartica



Label the nine geographic features from page 1 on this in order to study for your US Geography Quiz