

# Notes Log: Identifying Main Ideas: Social Studies Sample

Topic/Title: North America's location, physical features, and distribution of natural resources		Pages: 70-83
<p><b>Main Ideas</b></p> <p>The waters surrounding North America isolated it for many years.</p> <p>Improvements in shipbuilding and ocean navigation brought settlers to the continent.</p> <p>Vegetation zones are determined by climate and geography.</p>	<p><b>Notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arctic Ocean (north) to the Gulf of Mexico (south)</li> <li>• Pacific Ocean (west) to the Atlantic Ocean (east)</li> <li>• Unique plants (sequoia tree and saguaro cactus)</li> <li>• Unique animals (bald eagle and alligator)</li> <li>• Difficult for people to reach (early settlers and attackers during WWI and WWII)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earliest settlers arrived 12,000 to 35,000 years ago</li> <li>• Introduced new plants and animals from home countries</li> <li>• Used internal waterways (rivers) and Native American guides to travel throughout continent</li> </ul> <p><b>Polar and tundra</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Canada and Alaska</li> <li>• Above freezing for only 2 months of year</li> <li>• Precipitation from 4-20 inches/year</li> <li>• Frozen ground</li> </ul> <p><b>Forest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conifer (evergreen) and broadleaf trees cover Canada and the northwest, northeast, and southeast of the U.S.</li> <li>• Precipitation from 10-80 inches/year</li> <li>• Temperatures middle to cold</li> </ul> <p><b>Rainforest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pacific coast</li> <li>• Precipitation up to 167 inches/year</li> <li>• Trees up to 300 feet tall</li> <li>• Ground covered in smaller vegetation</li> <li>• One acre of rainforest can have 6,000 pounds of moss and lichen</li> <li>• Temperature moderate and rarely below freezing</li> </ul> <p><b>Grassland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Center of North America</li> <li>• Precipitation from 15-30 inches/year</li> <li>• Grow grain and rice</li> </ul> <p><b>Desert</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southwestern U.S.</li> <li>• Precipitation less than 10 inches/year</li> <li>• Plants (shrubs, small trees, cacti) must survive harsh sun, high temperatures, and little rain</li> </ul>	

*Log continued on the next page.*

<p>Rich natural resources have influenced North America's economic development.</p>	<p>Natural resources in North America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmlands of midwestern U.S. and prairies in central Canada have rich soil</li> <li>• Forests in northwest, northeast, and southeast</li> <li>• Oil fields in Alberta, Texas, California, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Alaska, and Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>• Coal in western Canada, Appalachian Mountains, Illinois, Indiana, and Wyoming</li> </ul> <p>Cities and businesses first grew around waterways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still used to ship resources</li> <li>• Supply drinking water, power, irrigation</li> <li>• Support fishing industry</li> </ul> <p>Trade exceeds \$1 billion/day Must cooperate on national security, environment, air traffic, and fishing regulations</p>
<p><b>Main Idea of Section:</b></p>	
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	

## ***Social Studies TEKS***

### **Grade 6**

- (5) Geography. The student understands how geographic factors influence the economic development, political relationships, and policies of societies. The student is expected to:
- (B) identify geographic factors such as locations, physical features, transportation corridors and barriers, and distribution of natural resources that influence a society's ability to control territory; and
  - (C) explain the impact of geographic factors on economic development and the domestic and foreign policies of societies.

SOURCE: TEA, 2010.