

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

► **3rd Grade | Unit 8**

.....

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 308

MOUNTAIN STATES

Introduction |3

1. Mountain Geography 5

States in the Mountain Region |6

Geographical Features |8

Weather |11

Self Test 1 |14

2. Mountain Resources 16

Natural Resources |18

Human Resources |21

Products and Industries |25

Self Test 2 |28

3. Mountain Community 30

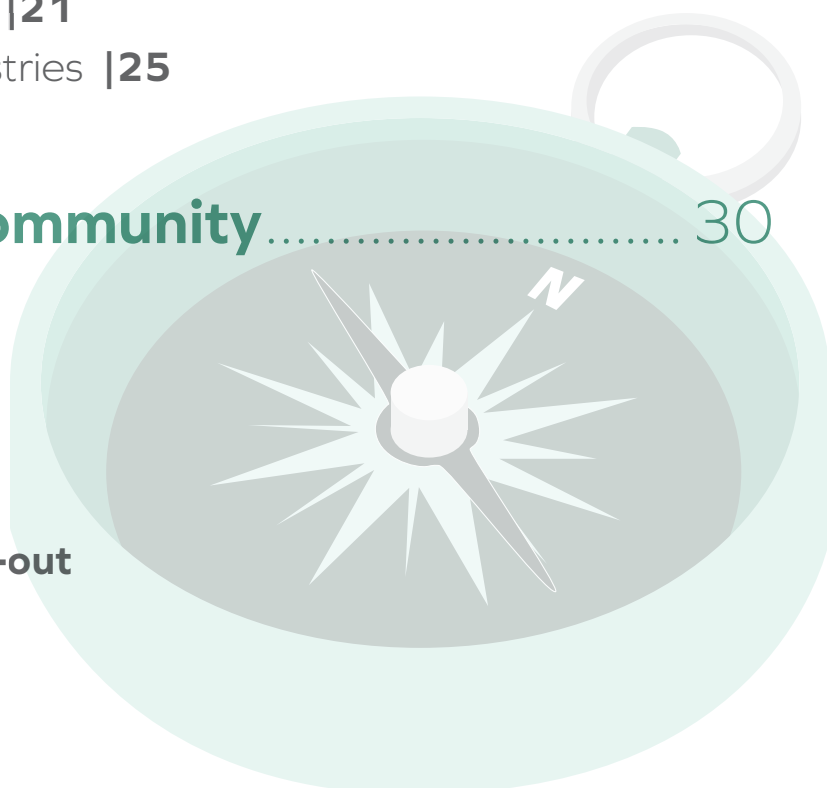
Culture |31

Cowboys |35

Recreation |37

Self Test 3 |40

LIFEPAC Test |Pull-out



Author:

Rachelle Wiersma, M.A.

Managing Editor:

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

Editor:

Laura Messner

Media Credits:

Page 3: © Stockbyte, Thinkstock; **5:** © Bkamprath, iStock, Thinkstock; **9:** © johnnya123, iStock, Thinkstock; **10:** © Comstock Images, Stockbyte, Thinkstock; © Ameng Wu, iStock, Thinkstock; **16:** © somchai, iStock, Thinkstock; **18:** © Andrew Zarivny, iStock, Thinkstock; **19:** © Dalgic, iStock, Thinkstock; **21:** © TongRo Images, Thinkstock; **22:** National Archives; **25:** © Ingram Publishing, Thinkstock; © Ciaran Griffin, Stockbyte, Thinkstock; **30:** © Comstock, Stockbyte, Thinkstock; **31:** © Nick Harris/Virgil Pomfret Agency, Thinkstock; **32:** © Jorge Barrios; **33:** © William E Jennings; **34:** © Andrew J. Russell, Yale University Libraries; **35:** © John Alves, iStock, Thinkstock; **36:** © dgphotography, iStock, Thinkstock; **37:** © smontgom65, iStock, Thinkstock; © Bartus Hendrikse, iStock, Thinkstock; **38:** © dell640, iStock, Thinkstock.

All maps are © Image Resources unless otherwise stated.



**804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759**

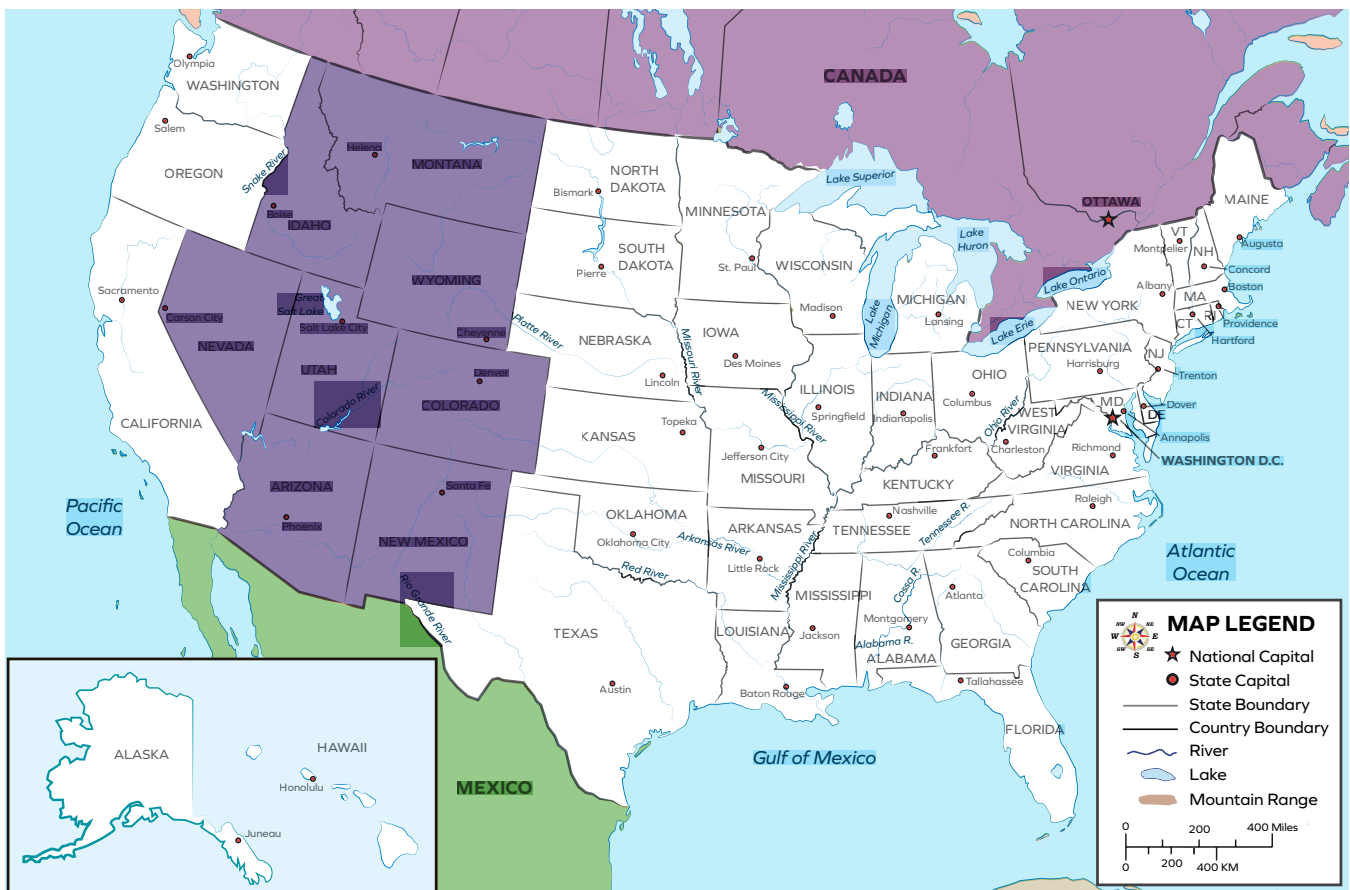
© MMXI by Alpha Omega Publications, a division of Glynlyon, Inc. All rights reserved. LIFEPAK is a registered trademark of Alpha Omega Publications, a division of Glynlyon, Inc.

All trademarks and/or service marks referenced in this material are the property of their respective owners. Alpha Omega Publications, a division of Glynlyon, Inc. makes no claim of ownership to any trademarks and/or service marks other than their own and their affiliates, and makes no claim of affiliation to any companies whose trademarks may be listed in this material, other than their own.

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.



Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, 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 settlers of the Mountain states.
6. Recognize the importance of cowboys in the Mountain states.
7. Identify the pastimes of the people living in the Mountain states.



1. MOUNTAIN GEOGRAPHY

You will begin this LIFEPAK 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.

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.

Vocabulary

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAK.

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

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

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, ĭce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rŭle; child; long; thin; /ʦH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

Ask your teacher to say these vocabulary words with you.

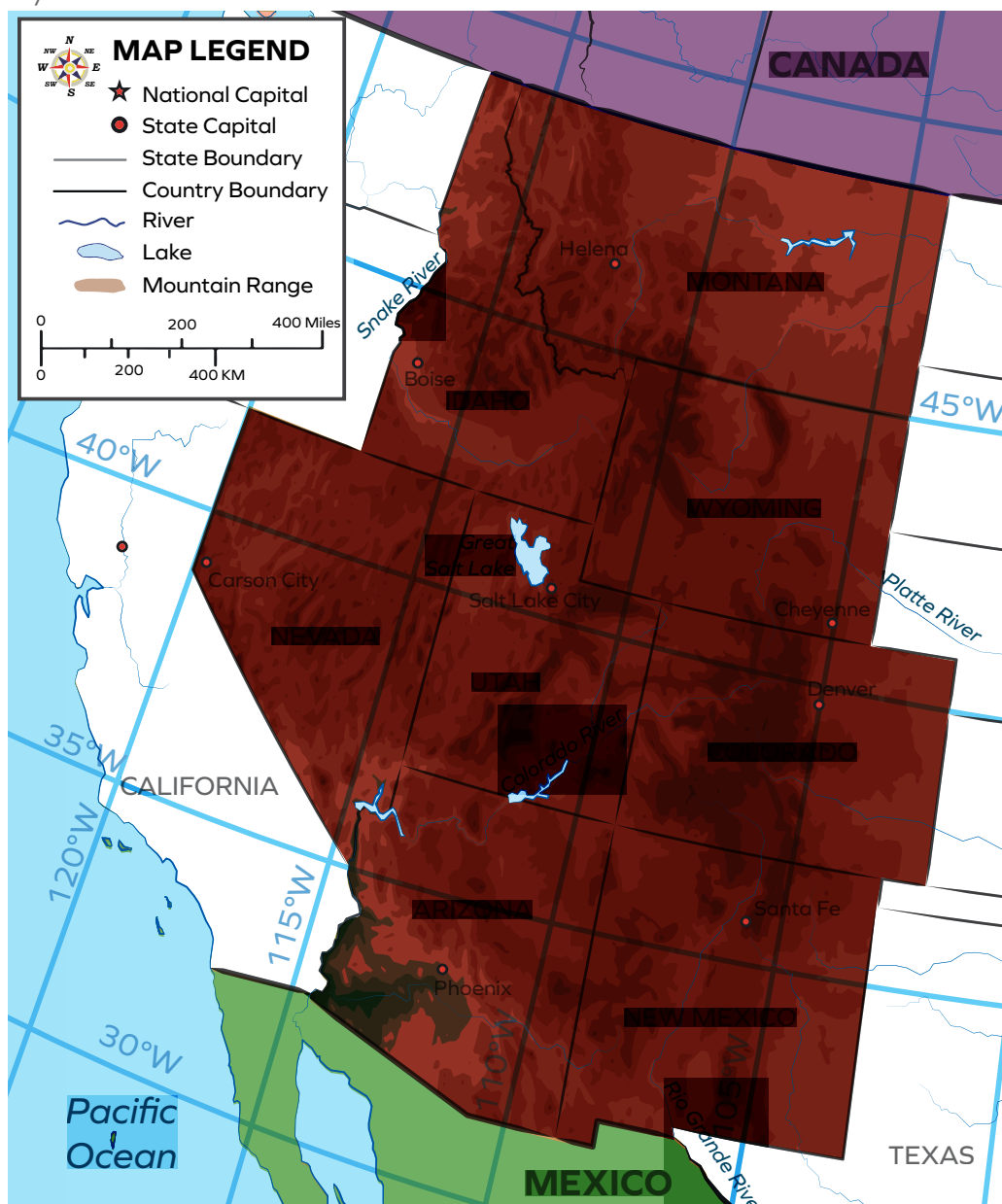


Teacher check:

Initials _____ 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.



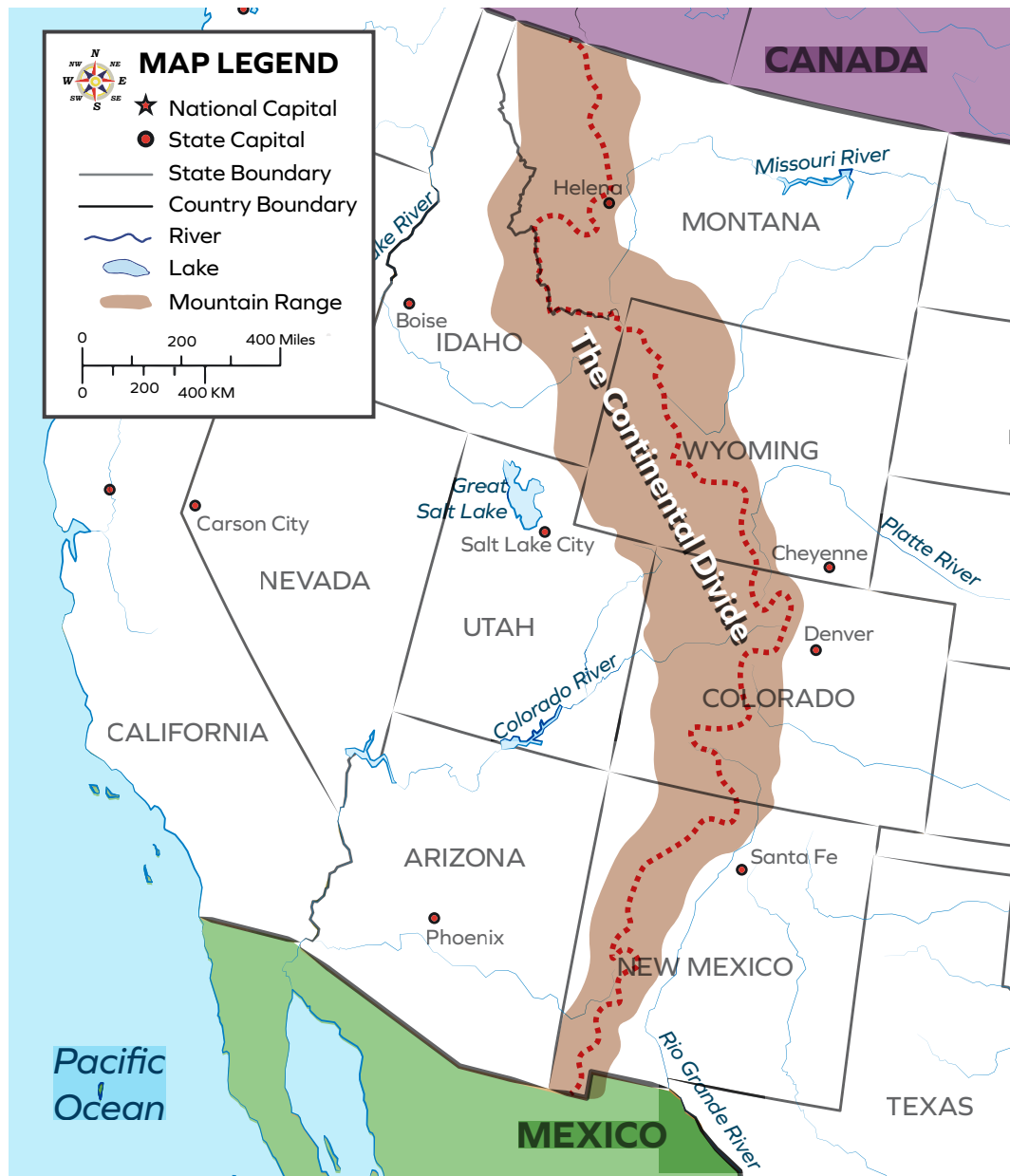


Answer the questions based on the map of the Mountain Region.

- 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? _____
- 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.



| 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 United States. 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

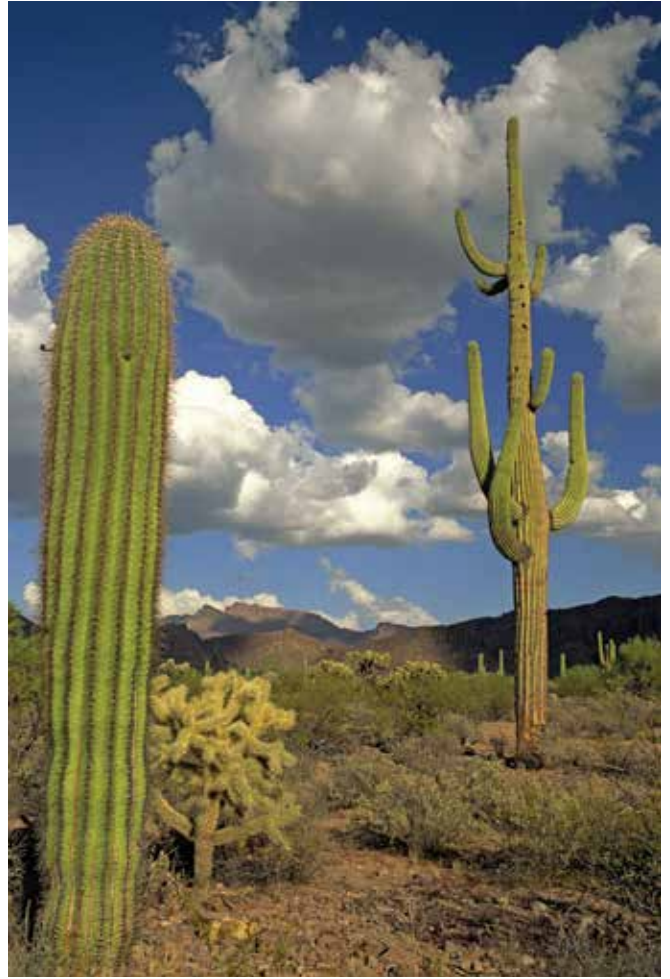


| The Great Salt Lake

salt makes it easy for people to float. One of the minerals taken 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 to 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 native to the Sonoran Desert.

It is the largest cactus in the United States. The cactus grows slowly and can live to be 200 years old. Cactus plants have shallow roots and store water for when there isn't rain. In fact, the majority of a cactus plant is water.



| Saguaro cactus



**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 _____ in the United States.
- 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

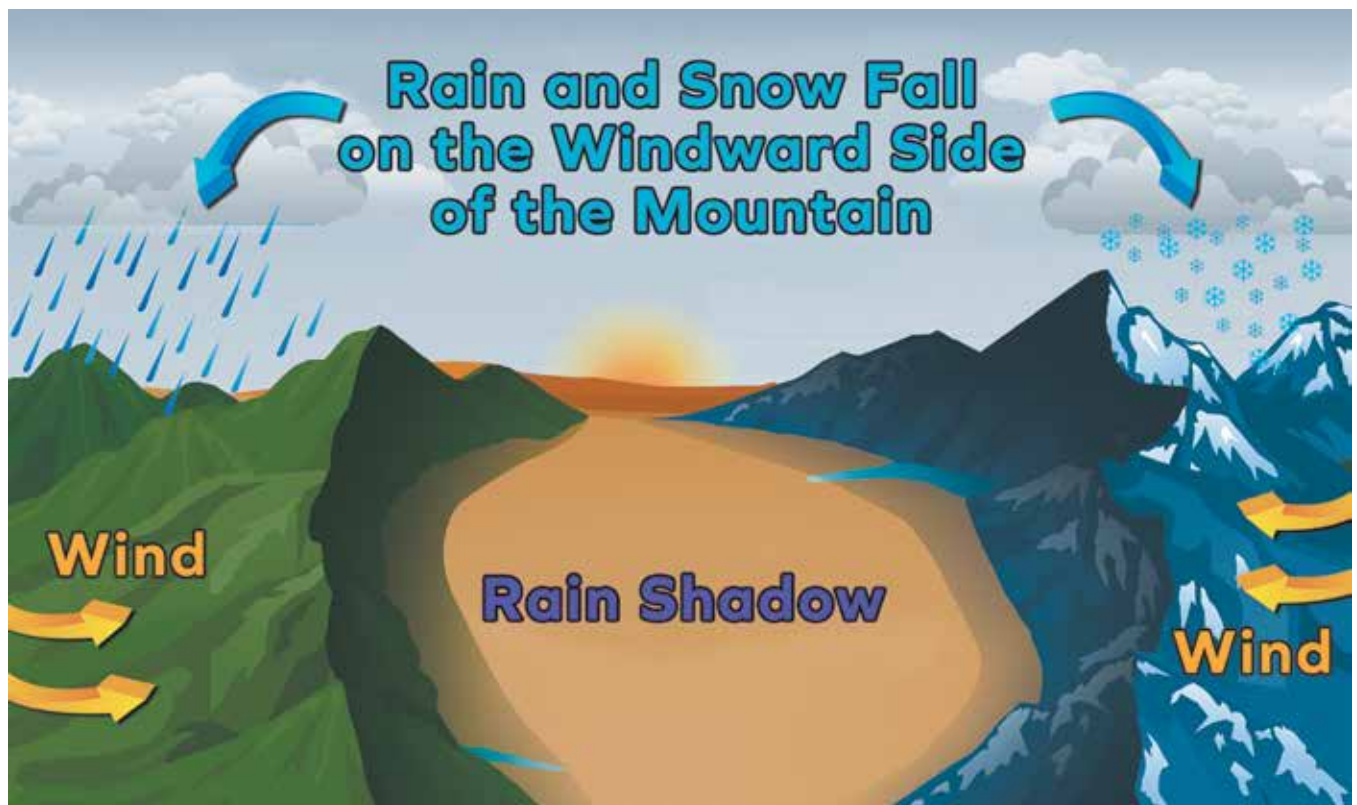
The weather varies greatly from the northern to the southern states in this region. The weather also varies from the high elevations of the mountains to the lower desert regions. One weather feature that all the states share is that they are dry. The Mountain states are at higher elevations and away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

summer, the daytime temperatures soar to 100 degrees F or higher. At night, the temperature in some areas might drop to 40 degrees F. Between October and April, the weather cools. During winter, daytime temperatures average between 60 and 70 degrees F. Nighttime temperatures might dip below freezing.

In the mountains, the weather is cold in the winter with frequent snowfalls. 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 mountainside, away from the direction of the wind. As rain or snow falls on a mountain, most of the moisture lands on the windy, or windward, side. Little rain or snow falls on the other side of the mountain. Some of the world's largest deserts are in the rain shadows of mountains. The mountain peaks prevent 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 Mountains.





Answer *true* or *false*.

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



Teacher check:

Initials _____ Date _____



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

SELF TEST 1

Each answer = 1 point

Choose 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

Answer true or false.

- 1.07** _____ The Great Basin is a large lake in the middle of Nevada.
- 1.08** _____ The Mountain states are generally wet.
- 1.09** _____ The word "adapt" means that something changes to its surroundings.
- 1.010** _____ The state of Nevada is west of Colorado.

Fill in the blank.

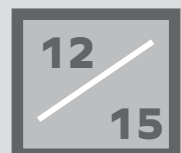
- 1.011** A(n) _____ shadow forms on the side of the mountain away from the wind.
- 1.012** _____ takes place when water disappears into the air.
- 1.013** The state of New Mexico is directly east of _____ .
- 1.014** The Great Salt Lake is located in the state of _____ .
- 1.015** The saguaro cactus is mostly made up of _____ .

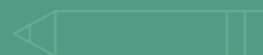
**Teacher check:**

Score _____

Initials _____

Date _____





804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
www.aop.com

HIS0308 – Jan '16 Printing

ISBN 978-0-7403-2447-5



9 780740 324475