

Children's  
**ATLAS**  
of God's

WORLD



Craig Froman





# INTRODUCTION

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precious family for their prayerful  
love and support.*

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There are many natural wonders in God's world . . . deserts, rainforests, frozen tundra, mountains, valleys, oceans, and more, including all the diversity of life. It is amazing when we realize just how much life fills our earth — a relatively small planet floating in space 93 million miles from the sun. Just as Job said, "He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing" (Job 26:7).

We really are flying as we float through space, as the Bible made clear, and fast! Did you know that the earth rotates about 1,000 miles per hour at the equator? Also, it revolves around the sun at about 66,600 miles per hour. And finally, it is traveling around the galaxy at about 500,000 miles per hour. Amazing!

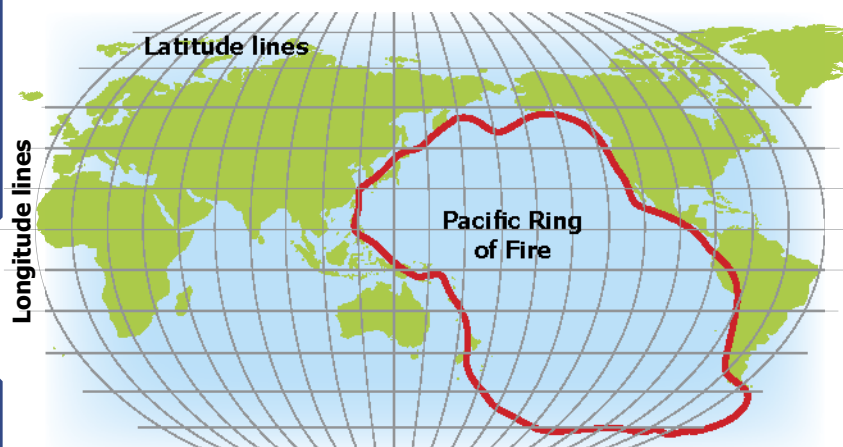
**JUST FOLLOW THE LINES!** Though the earth is round, or at least somewhat pear shaped, it is shown flat on a map. Maps often include lines to mark distance for people who travel by plane or boat. Latitude is a created measure that marks how far north or south something is on the earth. These are shown on a map as horizontal lines, sometimes called parallels.

Longitude measurements are similar. They mark how far east or west something is on the earth, and are called meridians. These are shown on the map running from pole to pole. The Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in London, is on the prime meridian. This is the very first longitude line on a map or globe!

The directions on a compass are generally shown the same way on every map. You move north as you move up a map. You move south as you move down a map. You move east as you move right on a map. You move west as you move left on a map.

**WHERE AND WHY TIME CHANGES!** Most maps show both the land and the water on the earth. This includes rivers, lakes, and oceans, as well as mountains, deserts, forests, and more. Sometimes maps will show roadways, cities, and countries. Often they will show where certain time zones start and finish. Because the earth is so big, there are time zones to separate the hours. You see, it might be noon where you are, but midnight somewhere else! The 24 standard times zones around the world were developed in 1884 in an effort to coordinate time schedules for the railroad system.

**WATER MAKES OUR PLANET BLUE!** Though the largest areas of water on earth all cycle together, there are five distinct oceans recognized in the world. Here they are in order of size: the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, and Arctic Ocean. The Pacific Ocean is the largest on earth, and is surrounded by an area of volcanic activity named "the Ring of Fire."



The deepest place in the ocean, the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, lies deep below the Pacific. The longest underwater mountain range, the Mid-Atlantic





Ridge, is found in the Atlantic Ocean. In the southern region, tropical storms can turn into deadly hurricanes, while in the northern waters icebergs have been known to sink ships, the most famous being the 1912 RMS *Titanic* disaster.

The Indian Ocean borders eastern Africa, up to India, and across to Australia, and connects to the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Bay of Bengal. Much of the world's oil supply travels by ship across these waters. The most recently recognized ocean is the Southern Ocean around Antarctica and the southern hemisphere. On the northernmost part of earth and bordered by Europe, North America, and Asia is the Arctic Ocean, the smallest ocean and often covered in thick layers of ice.



**GOD AND OUR CREATED WORLD!** In the New Testament, Paul shared something similar many years later when talking with people who did not yet know of God. Paul said, “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:24–27). He mentioned again how the world was created by God, and how God brought all things to life on earth . . . and how every nation has come from His design. God desires everyone to know Him and His love.

This atlas is about God’s amazing world. He has made it so diverse and fascinating, and we’re still learning about it. It makes every day a wonder to wake up to. So let’s start exploring!

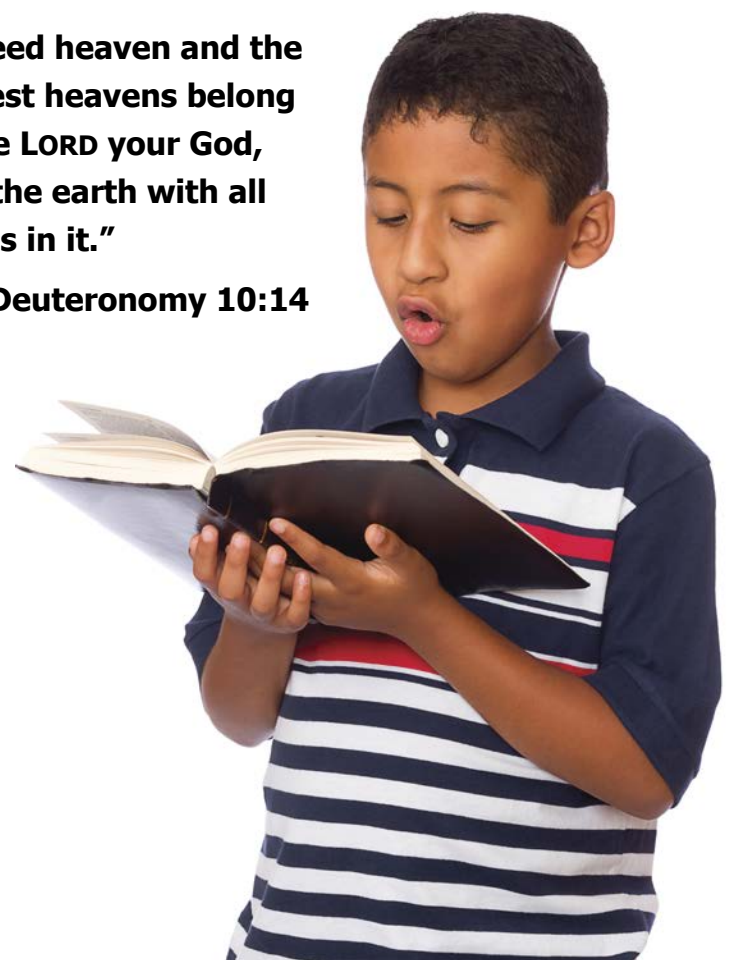


**GOD’S WONDERFUL PLAN!** There are now over 7 billion people living on earth. We live in cities, called urban areas, as well as the country, or rural areas. It is estimated that 100 million people in the world are homeless. Some of this is because of war, or lack of jobs, or disasters that destroy homes. Remember to be thankful for your home and to pray about what you can do to help those in need. God put us all here to know Him and to show His love to others.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). This powerful verse written by Moses begins God’s Word . . . the Bible. Here in Genesis we come to know that God made everything, including us, and that we can know that the world is no mere accident or caused by a random explosion in the universe. Our world was planned by Him, and we’re a part of His great plan. Because we are all descendants of Adam and Eve, on earth there is really only one race of people . . . the human race.

**“Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.”**

**—Deuteronomy 10:14**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



THE KEY TO YOUR  
CHILDREN'S ATLAS  
OF GOD'S WORLD

Welcome to your wondrous journey of God's amazing world! Here's what to watch for along the way to help you get the most out of each step.



## Christian History & Tradition

The flag with the Cross marks information about Christian history, people of faith, and Christian traditions around the globe.



## Red Pins

When you see a red pin in the book, you'll find that numbered pin on the map marking a landmark, a river, or other geographic location.





## Green Highlights

Words that are highlighted in green are cities or sites you'll find on the map, so peek over!

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

The lettered green flags denote special sites recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Look them all up at [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

## Biomes

Watch for the "Biomes" symbols to read about habitats around the world, including forests, deserts, grasslands, tundra, and more!



# NORTH AMERICA

## COUNTRIES

Anguilla	Haiti
Antigua and Barbuda	Honduras
Aruba	Jamaica
Bahamas	Martinique
Barbados	Mexico
Belize	Montserrat
British Virgin Islands	Nicaragua
Canada	Panama
Cayman Islands	Puerto Rico
Costa Rica	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cuba	Saint Lucia
Dominica	Saint Pierre and Miquelon
Dominican Republic	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
El Salvador	Trinidad and Tobago
Greenland	Turks and Caicos Islands
Grenada	United States
Guadeloupe	U.S. Virgin Islands
Guatemala	

The continent of North America reaches from the coldest regions of **Canada** (the largest nation of North America at 3,855,103 square miles), down through the **United States** and **Mexico**, and all the way to the tropical islands of **Barbados, Trinidad, and Tobago**. Every biome of the earth can be found here. Biomes are communities of similar plants and animals. In North America they include the uplifted **Rocky Mountains** running down through Canada and the United States. You also find them in the tundra of the far north, wetlands of the south, deserts in the southwest, the grasslands of the great plains, deciduous forests of the east coast, rainforests of Central America, and islands in the Caribbean Sea.



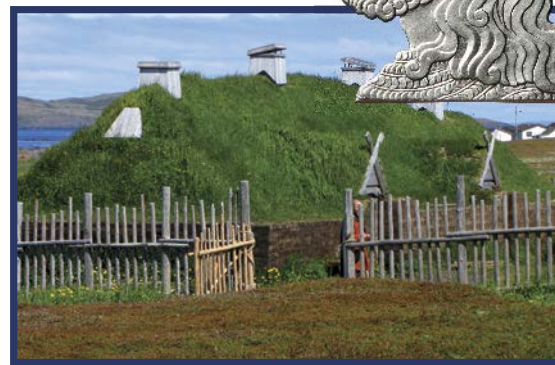
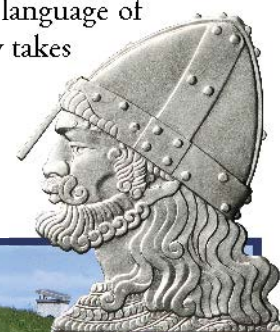
① Begun in 1881, the work on the Panama Canal took over 30 years to finish. Since 1914, it has provided a waterway for ships passing through the narrow land area between the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. This 48-mile passage has locks at each end to raise ships up above sea level. A lock for ships is like a water elevator that can raise or lower them. The canal is considered by some to be one of the seven wonders of the modern world.



③ The largest island in the world is Greenland. It is geographically considered a part of North America, though Denmark in Europe still has some basic control of their foreign affairs and financial policies.



② Mount McKinley is the highest mountain on the continent of North America at 20,320 feet (6,194 meters). The first successful ascent was in 1913. It is also known as *Denali* (meaning "the high one" in the Athabaskan language of Koyukon), and typically takes three weeks to summit.



Leif the Lucky introduced the gospel message to Greenland and possibly Vinland (Newfoundland) in as early as A.D. 1000. Christianity was accepted by the parliament (Alþingi) of Iceland at this time; the first time Christianity came to North America.



Viking ships often had ornately carved dragon heads on the prow or front of their longships. This fierce dragon symbol that often struck fear in the hearts of their enemies was very likely patterned after the last of the dinosaurs that survived beyond the Ice Age.







## UNITED STATES



## FLAG AND MEANING:

There are 13 equal horizontal stripes of red and white; there is a blue rectangle in the upper corner bearing 50 small, white, five-pointed stars. The 50 stars represent the 50 states, the 13 stripes represent the 13 original colonies; the blue stands for loyalty, devotion, truth, justice, and friendship; red symbolizes courage, zeal, and fervency, while white denotes purity.

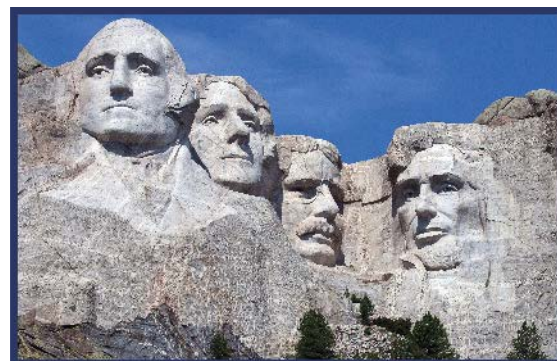
Capital City	Washington, D.C.
Government System	Federal republic; strong democratic tradition
Primary Languages	English and Spanish
Population	313,847,465
Monetary Unit	The dollar
Area	6,106,013 sq. miles
National Symbol	Bald eagle (bald refers to the white color)
National Anthem	"The Star-Spangled Banner"
Largest City	New York City 8,244,910



The United States is made up of 50 states, with two of these, **Alaska** and **Hawaii**, being separated from the other 48 by land or water. The United States has become the homeland for people from nearly every nationality, gaining it the name "the melting pot." The land stretches from Maine in the farthest northeast corner across to the islands of Hawaii far west in the Pacific Ocean and the **Aleutian Islands** of Alaska that are actually directly south of Russia.



① Formally called the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., is the capital city of the United States. Named after George Washington, the first president, this area was created for use by the federal government on July 16, 1790. It is not actually a part of any state. The United States Congress has authority over the mayor and the council of the District of Columbia.



② Sculpted in the stone of the Black Hills of South Dakota and completed in 1941, Mount Rushmore National Memorial was designed and carved by Gutzon Borglum and his son, Lincoln Borglum. The four sculptures represent the likenesses of four U.S. presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln, each about 60 feet high.



③ Once the longest suspension bridge in the world, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco Bay is perhaps the most photographed bridge by far. A suspension bridge is one that has several tower structures with cables connecting them and giving the roadway support. Completed in 1937, it took four years to build.

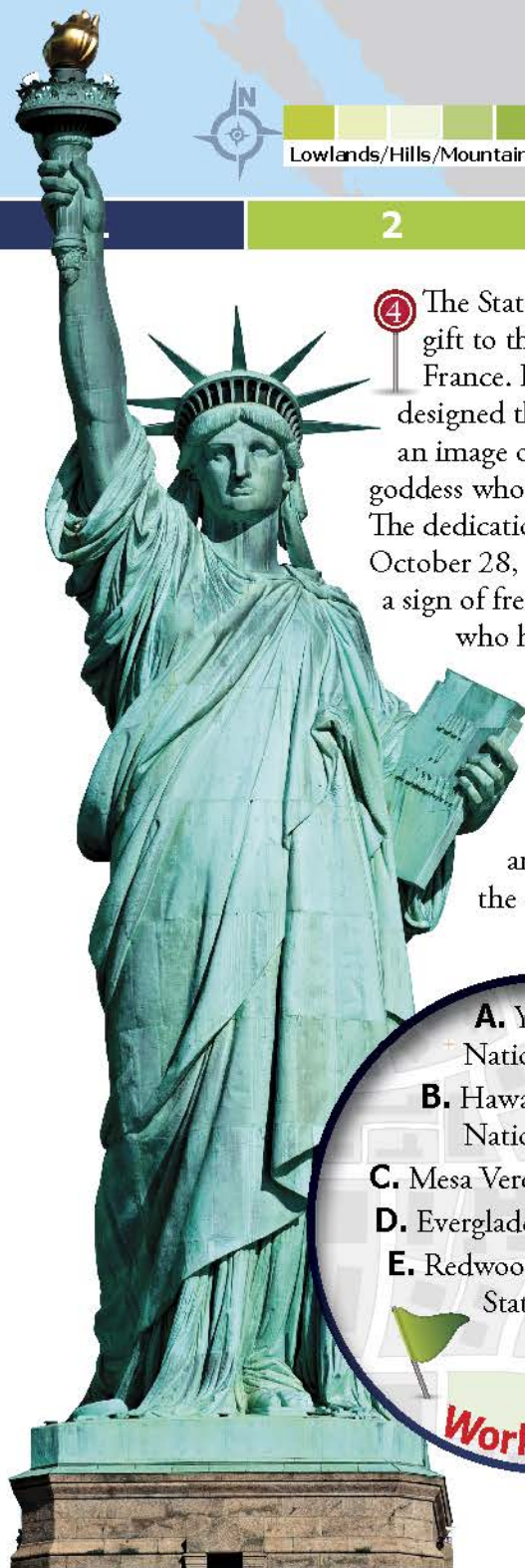


American astronaut Neil Armstrong made history on July 20, 1969, as the first man to walk on the moon. The American flag still stands 238,712 miles away! Fellow astronaut and Christian Buzz Aldrin took part in a religious ceremony not broadcast to earth, as NASA had been sued for allowing Apollo 8 astronauts to read from the Bible.

Missionaries are associated with exotic lands — yet here you find amazing examples of those who devoted their lives to missions. From early European settlements to active ministry today, Christians like David Brainerd, who endured illness to share Christ with the Delaware Indian community, inspire others to serve.

On July 4, 1776, representatives from the then 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence. These signers appealed to God: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."





④ The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from France. Frédéric Bartholdi designed the statue, which is an image of Libertas, a Roman goddess who represented freedom. The dedication took place on October 28, 1886, and has been a sign of freedom for millions who have entered the country. It stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor and in her hands she holds a torch and a tablet that has the date July 4, 1776.

- A. Yosemite National Park
- B. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
- C. Mesa Verde National Park
- D. Everglades National Park
- E. Redwood National and State Parks

**World Heritage Sites**



Hawaii was the last of the 50 states, joining the Union in 1959. It is a grouping of volcanic islands located in the Pacific Ocean. The name *Hawaii* means "homeland," and comes from the Hawaiian language spoken on the islands.





## UNITED STATES



◀ Navajo Indian boy in Native American traditional dress

The Bald Eagle appears on the national Seal of the United States and is designated as the national bird. It faced localized extinction in the continental United States in the late 20th century. Populations have recovered so the species was removed from the U.S. government's list of endangered species in 1995 and transferred to the list of threatened species.



George Washington, the first president, was known by those closest to him as a strong man of faith. In a book first published in 1842 called *Life of Washington* by Anna C. Reed, many who knew Washington gave firsthand accounts of his prayerful life. On one occasion, someone asked Mr. Secretary Thomson how he might recognize Mr. Washington from the others in Congress. Mr. Thomson replied, "You can easily distinguish him when Congress goes to prayers — Mr. Washington is the gentleman who kneels down."



Thanksgiving in the United States is a special time for families to give thanks to the Lord for His many blessings. Always the fourth Thursday of November, the holiday is linked to the Pilgrims in 1621 who celebrated with the Wampanoag, a Native American people who helped them know the land and its best crops. The turkey is associated with the holiday, and was suggested for designation as the national bird by Benjamin Franklin.



In some marshes or bogs where there is less nitrogen for nutrients, some plants have been designed to find what they need by eating insects. These amazing plants include the Venus flytrap (shown above), found in certain areas of North and South Carolina.

Millions of bison used to roam the vast American grasslands. Often called buffalo, these massive mammals provided food, clothing, and even tools for Native Americans who hunted them. The ground would actually shake when the huge herds were running past. Sport hunting in the 1800s by non-Native Americans brought bison numbers to near extinction.



◀ Bald Eagle



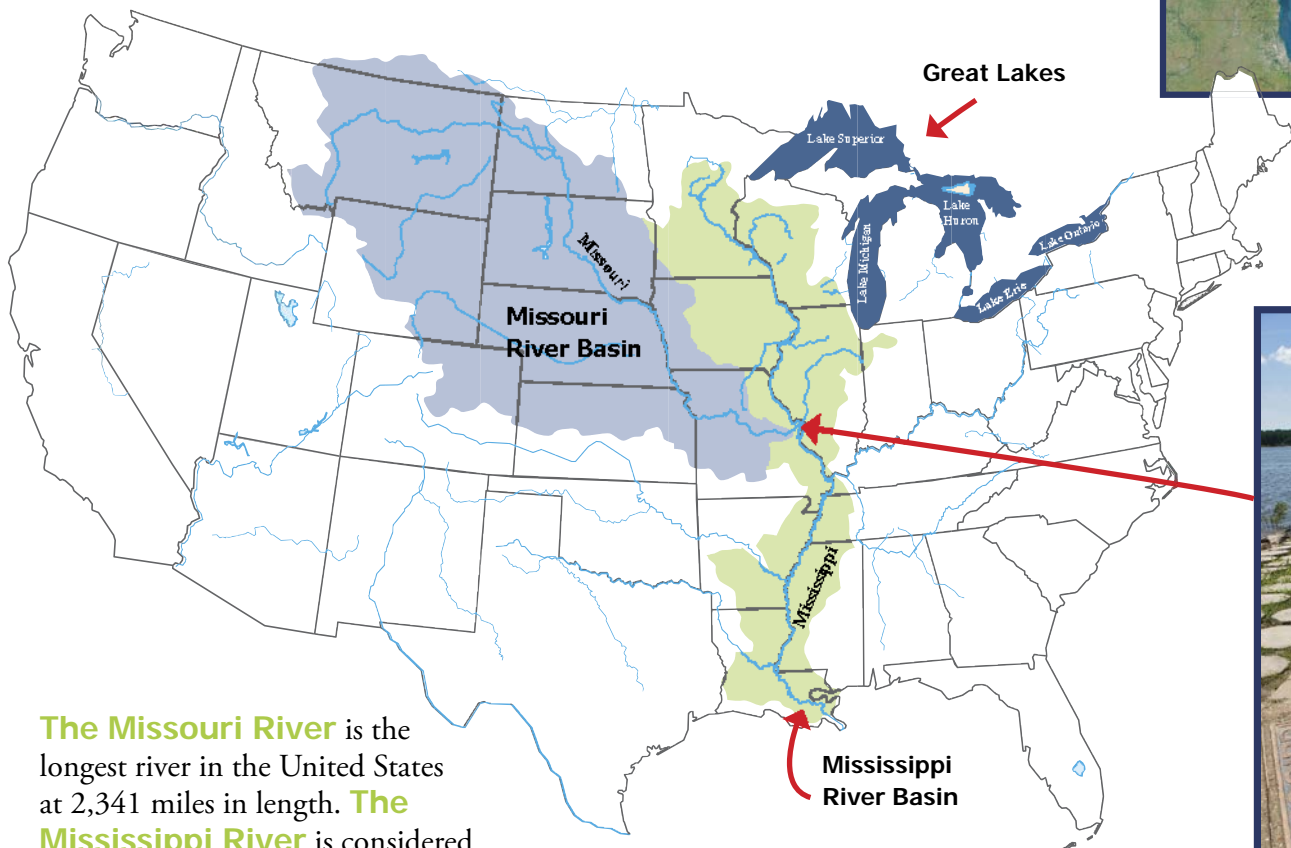


- ⑤ Yellowstone National Park was set aside as the first national park in the world in 1872. It contains the world's largest collection of geysers, and is within the states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Much of the landscape here is covered with trees. That forest land is mostly coniferous, which means having trees with cones and needles. Other kinds of forests include rainforests (forests with lots of rain and trees that never lose their leaves) and deciduous forests (forests with trees that lose their leaves in the fall).



- ⑥ The Grand Canyon, stretching 277 miles across Arizona, can be up to 18 miles wide and over a mile deep in places. The massive canyon was carved by the retreating waters after the Great Flood, revealing its deposits of sediment in the walls. The massive volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980 showed the world the earth-transforming power a cataclysmic force can unleash in a very short amount of time, leaving behind canyons and other newly formed landscapes.

The Great Lakes can be seen clearly from outer space. NASA image. ➔



The **Missouri River** is the longest river in the United States at 2,341 miles in length. The **Mississippi River** is considered the largest river because of the amount of water it carries, starting in Lake Itasca, Minnesota, and flowing down to the Gulf of Mexico. The **Great Lakes** in the northeastern portion of North America consist of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario, and contain just over 20 percent of the world's fresh water.



↑ The point where the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers meet is found just north of St. Louis.