

Name _____

date _____

The Grand Tour of North America



SITUATION: You are working for a travel agency. You have been signed the job of researching either a parallel of latitude or a meridian of longitude that crosses the continent of North America. You will “travel” (virtually, that is) through the United States and maybe Canada, Mexico, Central America, or the Caribbean.

TASK #1: *Getting Started*

Locate *ten* cities that fall within one degree (1°) of your parallel of latitude or within two degrees (2°) of your meridian of longitude. List them in order here:

Next locate *at least* five natural areas (parks, seashores, wilderness areas) and places of historic importance found along your parallel or meridian: _____

PLACE THEM ON THE PRACTICE MAP! _____ (Teacher initials)

List here the references you used to complete Task #1: _____

The Grand Tour of North America

TASK #2: Getting Geographic Data

As you make your “journey”, you need to record some important geographic data about climate, topography, biomes, population, and historic events. This information should be recorded on the **DATA CHART** (on the next page).

Make sure that you list the ten cities in the correct order, starting from the one either farthest west or farthest south.

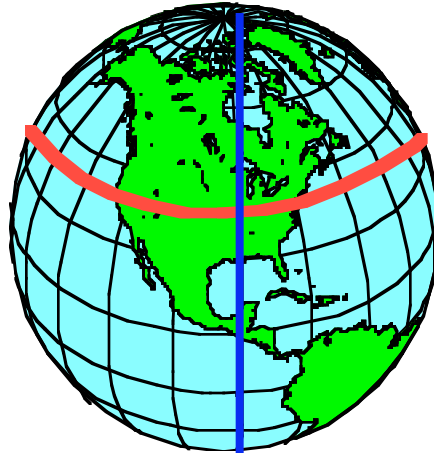
What reference books did you use for this information? _____

What internet sources did you use to obtain this information? List the websites here:



The Grand Tour of North America

TASK #3: Mapping Geographic Data



Mrs. Trachtman will give you a high-quality map of North America. *You only get one map per group, so be sure that you have all the correct data before drawing on it.*

Perform these tasks on the **political** map:

- (1) Draw your meridian or your parallel on the map and label it.
- (2) Locate and label all ten cities and the five parks and/or historic sites on this map.
- (3) Locate and label all the important geographic features: *mountains, lakes, islands, rivers, plateaus, etc.* that you cross on the journey.

Complete the final task on the **physical** map:

- (4) Label the **biomes** you cross (*tundras, deciduous forests, grasslands, deserts, coniferous forests, tropical rainforests*).

What references did you use to complete Task #3? _____

The Grand Tour of North America

TASK #4: Graphing Geographic Data

The data you obtained in **Task #2** should show patterns and relationships that we will interpret, but first you need to graph the results so they become more clear. You need to produce three graphs, using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.

- (1) **Double Line Graph** with the degrees of latitude or longitude on the horizontal axis and the January and July Average Temperatures on the vertical axis.
- (2) **Bar Graph** with the ten cities on the horizontal axis and the annual precipitation on the vertical axis.
- (3) **Circle Graph** of the state populations (or province or country) that you cross on the journey. Each state forms a *sector* on the graph.

CONCLUSIONS:

What pattern does graph #1 show? How does latitude or longitude affect the temperatures?

Do you notice any exceptions to this pattern? _____ If so, can you explain it? _____

What must you conclude from the patterns on Graph #2? _____

Now look at Graph #3 and then the other two. Try to finish this sentence:

Generally speaking, the states with the highest population have _____

The Grand Tour of North America

TASK #5: Planning the Trip!

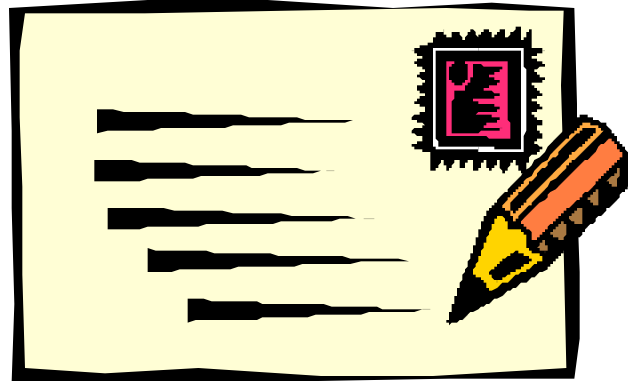
Since you are a travel agent, it is your job to prepare materials to help the customer plan the family vacation. They will expect to visit cities, national parks, historic places, and “fun places” found along your chosen parallel or meridian.

Your packet of materials should include:

- (1) A road map with the route of travel traced out with a highlighter.
- (2) You can't see America if you drive more than 500 miles per day. So, you must design a **Daily Travel Chart** which includes where they will stay each night, the mileage they will travel, and the estimated time of travel. You also need to recommend one place to visit during the day (a park, a museum, battlefield, amusement park).
- (3) Now turn your attention to the **Daily Budget Chart**. Plan out their expenses for each day of the trip - lodging, meals, gas, entertainment costs, shopping, etc.
- (4) Design a travel brochure for your customer. This should include information about the state they most wish to visit. It must include descriptions of an historic event, a place of natural and scenic beauty, and general information about the city and state (population, geography, history). *Illustrations are required!*
- (5) Describe for the client any *health or safety concerns* for their trip (vaccinations, clothing, dietary precautions). Make sure they are prepared for the planned recreational activities (hiking, scuba diving, rock climbing, etc.)
- (6) Make a **visual display** for the presentation (Task #6). This could include one of the following: a diorama, a Power Point presentation, a travel video, a poster.
Examples: a slide show of Boston's historic sites, a diorama of a Civil War battle, or a video of a day in Las Vegas.

The Grand Tour of North America

TASK #6: The Presentation



In your **Language Arts** class, your group will be making a travel presentation about your proposed trip across the continent. Aim for ten (10) minutes for the presentation.

Make sure you include

- Describe the major points of interest for the trip.
- Discuss the budget for the trip and how you arrived at those figures.
- Show the class your travel brochure, and briefly describe it.
- Talk about your visual display that you made in Task #5.