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The Great Barrier Reef

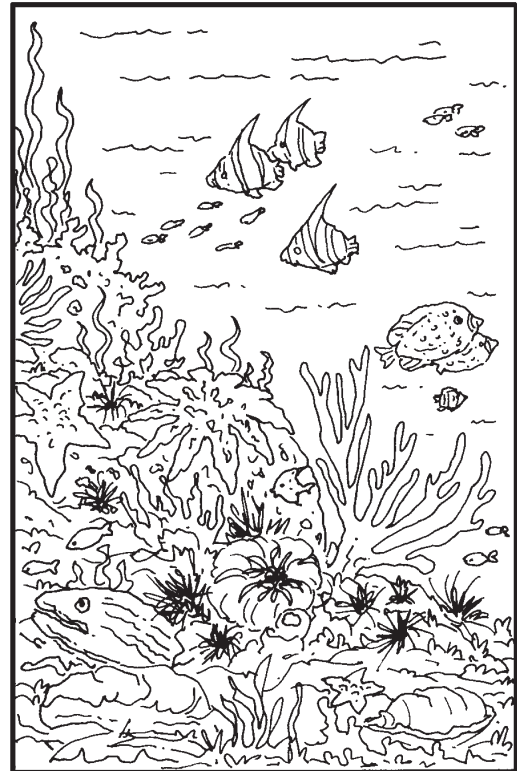
The Great Barrier Reef is a chain of thousands of coral reefs and small islands located along the northeast coast of Australia. A coral reef is a limestone formation that lies under or just above the surface of the sea. The coral that forms the reef is made of polyps, the hardened skeletons of dead water animals. Living coral polyps are attached to the reef by the billions. There are about 400 species of these in many shapes and in colors that include blue, green, purple, red, and yellow. Many sea animals also make the Great Barrier Reef their home.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Australia. There are many areas for swimmers and skin divers to explore along its 1,250 miles (2,000 km). It is also attractive to vacationers because the waters around the reef are warm the year round.

To learn more about coral reefs, do the following activity as a class.

Materials:

- Styrofoam packing material (“popcorn”)
- mural-sized butcher paper
- pencils
- paints
- paintbrushes
- thick paper or cardboard
- glue
- scissors



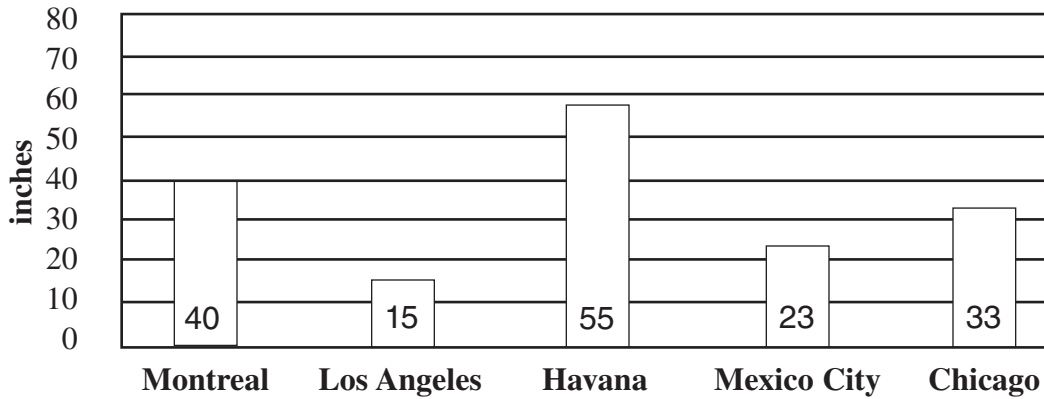
Directions:

- As a class, research the appearance and composition of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Sketch a small-scale version of one section of the reef. Use your imaginations for this. You do not need to copy the reef exactly.
- Once you are certain of your sketch, make a full-sized sketch on the butcher paper.
- Use the Styrofoam packing materials and cardboard cutouts to glue onto the butcher paper to make a three-dimensional mural.
- Paint over the Styrofoam and cutouts and paint in other details.

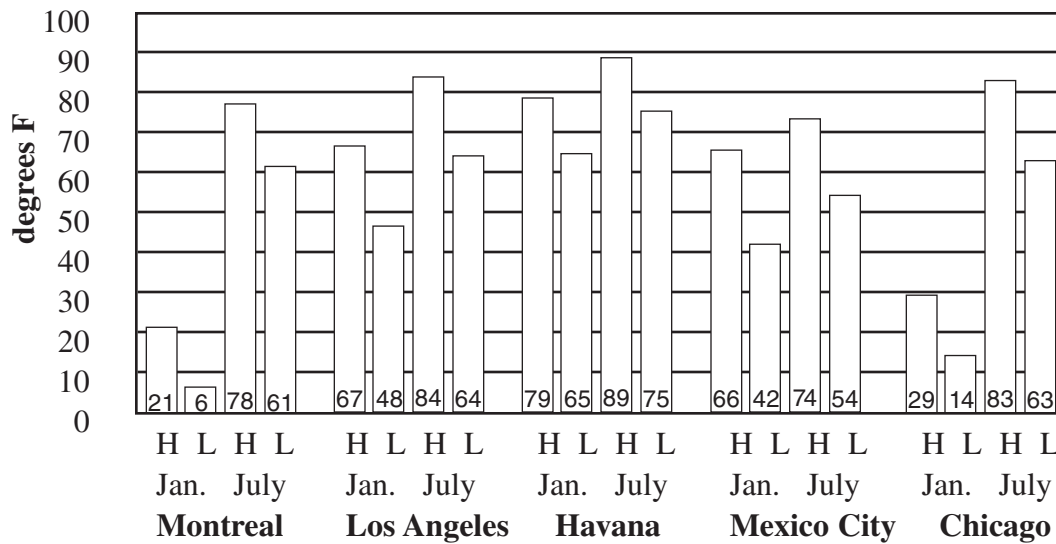
Extension: Individuals or small groups can write reports about the various features of the reef. Orally share the reports with the class. Keep the reports on display with the mural.

Climate of North America

Average Yearly Precipitation



Average January and July Temperatures



Growing Seasons

Montreal	Los Angeles	Havana	Mexico City	Chicago
3 to 6 months	8 to 12 months	12 months	8 to 12 months	3 to 6 months

Use the data to determine if the statements are true or false. Rewrite the false statements to make them correct.

- _____ 1. Havana and Chicago experience the greatest average precipitation.
- _____ 2. Montreal experiences the greatest difference between January and July high temperatures.
- _____ 3. The difference between the January and July low temperatures in Mexico City is about 10 degrees.
- _____ 4. Los Angeles and Mexico City have the same growing season because their average precipitation is similar.
- _____ 5. Only people in Chicago are able to grow crops outdoors in winter.

Products and Resources of North America

Use the Internet, an encyclopedia, and/or atlas to find the information needed to complete the chart. One is given as an example. (Note: Use *agriculture, manufacturing, mining, forestry, or fishing* for “Type of Product.”)

Product	A Leading North American Producer	Type of Product	World Rank
bauxite	Jamaica	mining	fifth
cattle			
coal			
copper			
cotton			
forest products			
iron			
natural gas			
oats			
oranges			
petroleum			
sugar beets			
tungsten			
uranium			
wheat			

Use information on the chart to answer the questions.

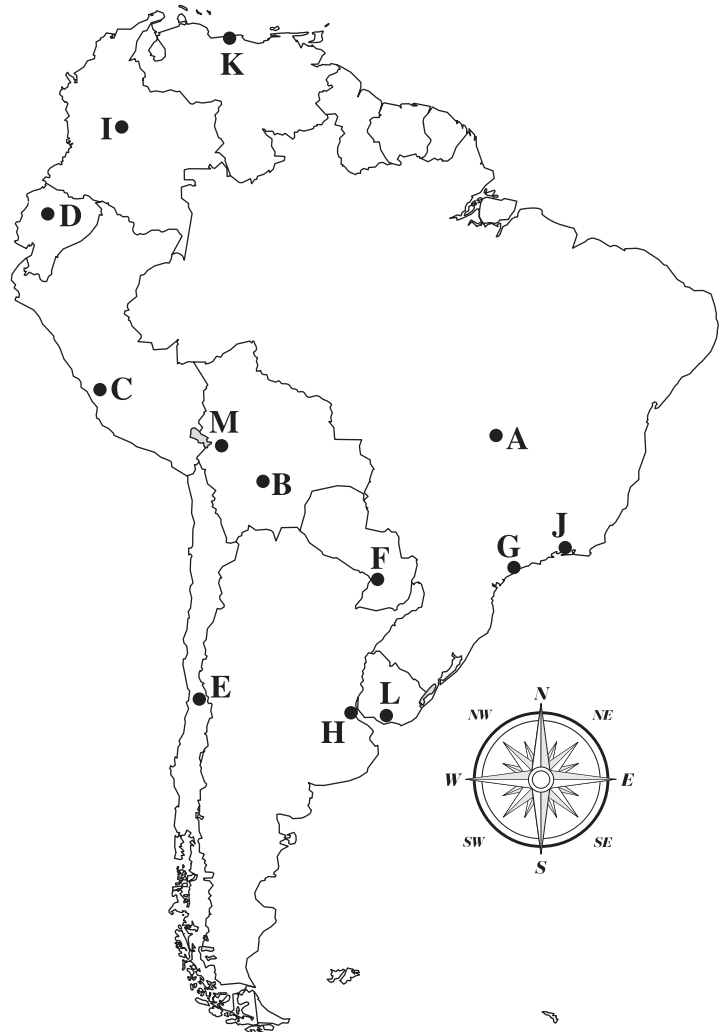
1. How many different countries are listed on your chart? _____
2. Which country is most often listed? _____
3. What type of product is most often listed? _____
4. Which country listed seems to be the wealthiest? _____
 Why? _____

5. In what parts of North America are most of these countries located? _____

Cities of South America

This map of South America is labeled with letters that mark the locations of important cities. Match these letters with the correct names. Use the information provided below to help.

- _____ 1. Asunción
- _____ 2. Bogota
- _____ 3. Brasilia
- _____ 4. Buenos Aires
- _____ 5. Caracas
- _____ 6. La Paz
- _____ 7. Lima
- _____ 8. Montevideo
- _____ 9. Quito
- _____ 10. Rio de Janeiro
- _____ 11. Santiago
- _____ 12. São Paulo
- _____ 13. Sucre



1. This city is the capital, largest city, and chief port of Paraguay.
2. This city is the capital and largest city of Colombia.
3. Located about 600 miles (960 km) from Rio de Janeiro is this city, the capital of Brazil.
4. This city is the capital, largest city, and chief port of Argentina.
5. This city is the capital and largest city of Venezuela.
6. This is the largest city in Bolivia. It is about 12,000 feet (3,600 m) above sea level.
7. This city is the capital and largest city of Peru.
8. This city is the capital, largest city, and chief port of Uruguay.
9. This capital of Ecuador is located in the Andes Mountains.
10. Famous for the annual carnival, this is the second largest city of Brazil.
11. This city is the capital and largest city of Chile.
12. This is the largest city in Brazil and South America.
13. This is the official capital of Bolivia.

Idea Bank

Map Work

1. Have students outline the nations of the world, coloring and labeling them appropriately.
2. Have students mark significant physical features with symbols and label them on the maps provided.
3. Have students make raised relief maps of the continents, using plaster of Paris or a salt and flour mixture.
4. Give the students world maps and have them color and label the continents and oceans.
5. On a map of an ocean, have students plot and label significant features of the ocean floor.
6. Have students make specialty maps showing seasonal temperatures, precipitation, population distribution, major transportation routes, land use, etc.
7. Have students work in teams to divide the world map into time zones.

Continental Fair

Assign an inhabited continent to each of six groups. Have them organize booths and/or activities that reflect one or more cultures of their continents. The results might include food and food preparation, recordings of music, recordings of people speaking corresponding languages, folk dances, maps, charts, models, dioramas, products, crafts, artwork, pictures, or writings. Host a continental fair and invite parents or other classes to attend.



National Symbols

Have students recreate flags of the present and past, coats of arms, seals, and other symbols of the world's nations. Include brief descriptions of what the elements of each symbol represent and their significance to the nation's history or present time.