

Geographic Regions: Locations and Physical Characteristics (SOL 2b)

1. Coastal Plain

- Located along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico
- Broad lowland providing many excellent **harbors**.

2. Appalachian Highlands

- Located west of the Coastal Plains
- Old, eroded mountains

3. Canadian Shield

- Wrapped around Hudson Bay in a horseshoe shape
- Hills worn by erosion and hundreds of lakes carved by **glaciers**.
- Holds some of the oldest rock formations in North America.

4. Interior Lowlands

- Located west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the Great Plains
- Rolling **hills** with many rivers, valleys, and grassy hills.

5. Great Plains

- Located west of the Interior Lowlands and east of the Rocky Mountains
- **Flat** land that gradually **increases** in elevation westward; grasslands

6. Rocky Mountains

- Located west of the Great Plains and east of the Basin and Ridge
- Rugged mountains stretching from **Alaska** to **almost Mexico**; high elevations
- Contains the **Continental Divide** which determines the directional flow of rivers

7. Basin and Range

- Located west of the Rocky Mountains
- Area containing isolated mountain ranges and **Death Valley**; the lowest point in North America

8. Coastal Range

- Rugged mountains along the **Pacific Ocean** that stretch from California to Canada

- Contains **Fertile** valleys