

Territories & Terrains

Eastern Woodlands: mainly east of Mississippi River up through the Great Lakes. The woodlands of the northeast part of the United States is a land of rivers, streams, lakes, and, most of all, trees and plants. The weather isn't too harsh. The summers are hot and humid, and winters are cold and snowy. There is a lot of rain so plants grow well. Where there are many plants, there are many animals. The Woodland Indians did not have any trouble finding and growing food. The land of the southeast woodland Native Americans stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Ohio River. What are now the states of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida are in the southeastern region. The natives of these territories were the first to meet the European Colonists.

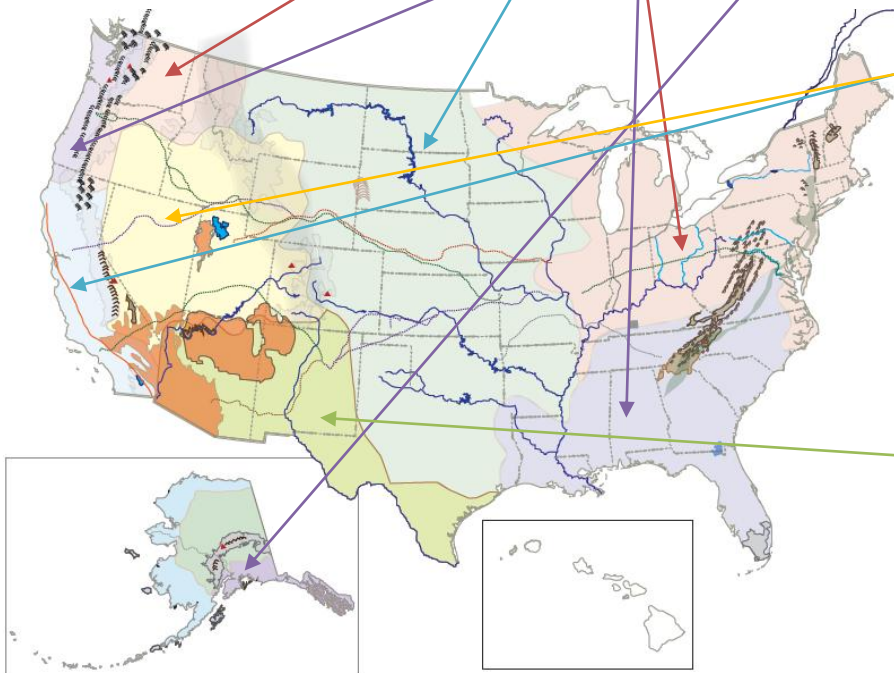
Plains: lays immediately east of the Rocky Mountains. The Great Plains are a huge grassland in the center of the United States. Snow covers the ground in the winter and it gets very cold. It can get very hot in the summer. There are flash downpours of rain that last only a few minutes. There are few trees on the plains, but there are rivers and streams. The land is hilly, with waves of grass and wild flowers dotted with groves of trees. There is more rain in the eastern region than in the west, so the grass is taller in the east.

Plateau: Covers eastern Oregon and Washington, northern Idaho, and western Montana. In the northern area, the plateau, there are mountains and forests. Spruce, balsams, and aspens grow higher in the mountains.

Northwest Coast: is a narrow strip of land between the Pacific Ocean on the west and mountains in the east. The coast is jagged with many inlets and islands. The mountains trap the wet ocean air so that summers are cool, and winters are mild and wet, so there are many trees and plants. There are frequent rain storms and winters could suddenly get very cold.

California & Great Basin: The Great Basin lies between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada's and includes Utah, Nevada and parts of Wyoming and Colorado. It largely consists of desert so water and food were hard to come by. It was named because its location between the 2 mountain ranges prevented the rivers from flowing to the ocean. California is the area west of the Sierra Nevada mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Northern California has a cool, moist climate. There are dry, hot deserts in eastern California, and southern California is sunny and mild.

Southwest: Covers Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Mexico. In the northern region of the southwest are tall mountains and deep canyons where rivers flow. The Grand Canyon is in this region. Forests of pine, juniper, and piñon grow on the mountains in the middle of the region. The south is mostly desert with sagebrush and cacti. The days can be very hot and the nights very cold because the air is dry. There is not much rain.



Deserts



Mohave Desert: (or Mojave Desert) located in southeastern California and portions of Nevada, Arizona, and Utah; the smallest of the four North American deserts; found at elevations of 2,000 to 5,000 feet, and is considered a "high desert". It is a transition desert between the hot Sonoran Desert to the south, and the cold Great Basin Desert to the north. The Colorado River runs through the east of it, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the west.



Sonoran Desert: located in North America and covers the southwestern parts of the state of Arizona, southeastern parts of the state of California in the United States and the state of Sonora in Mexico. More rain falls on the Sonoran Desert than any other desert. The Sonoran Desert is located in two states, Arizona and California, and two countries, Mexico and United States. The rivers that flow through the desert are the Colorado River and the Gila River.



Colorado Desert: part of the larger Sonoran Desert; encompasses approximately 7 million acres, reaching from the Mexican border in the south to the higher-elevation Mojave Desert in the north and from the Colorado River (for which it was named) in the east to the Peninsular mountain range in the west. The region experiences greater summer daytime temperatures than higher-elevation deserts and almost never experiences frost.



Painted Desert: located in Northern Arizona; covers 93,500 acres and stretches over 160 miles; east of Grand Canyon; derives its name for the multitude of colors ranging from lavenders to shades of gray with vibrant colors of red, orange and pink.



Great Salt Lake Desert: located southwest of Great Salt Lake; part of the Great Basin Desert (the largest US desert); noted for its white sand.