



# North America

## Vocabulary

North America	A large continent where the countries of Canada, the USA and Mexico are located.
United States of America	The name for the country in North America that consists of fifty states and the District of Columbia. It is bordered by Canada in the north and Mexico in the South.
State	An area with a government that can make decisions and pass laws for that area. In the USA, the states are joined in political union.
Biome	A community of plants and animals that have common characteristics reflecting the environment in which they live.
Urbanisation	The increase in number of people living in cities.

### Canada



#### Capital: Ottawa

- Flag: maple leaf representing cultural heritage & natural resources of Canada.
- Colour red represents hope & prosperity
- Colour white represents peace and neutrality.

### United States of America



#### Capital: Washington DC

- Flag shows fifty white stars representing the fifty states of America.
- Thirteen red stripes represent the thirteen British colonies that declared independence from Great Britain and became the first states.

### Mexico



#### Capital: Mexico City

- Flag shows national coat of arms, based on the Aztec symbol for Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City)
- Eagle sitting on a cactus eating a serpent
- Red, white & green- colours of the national Mexican army.

## Key Knowledge

- North America is a continent consisting of the USA, Mexico and Canada.
- The climate varies across the continent - colder in the North, and warmer in the South as you near the Tropic of Cancer.
- Canada is very cold, with Tundra and Taiga (Coniferous forest) ecosystems.
- Mexico City, the capital of Mexico, is on the site of the Aztec city Tenochtitlan.
- Indigenous Native American civilisations dominated North America until the invasion of European explorers.
- People have settled in different areas of USA for different reasons including availability of land for farming, potential minerals in the ground, climate, access from the sea.
- The USA is the largest economy in the world.