Chapter 5

- Physical Geography of the United States and Canada
Canada is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest country in the world

The United States is the 3\textsuperscript{rd} largest country
Landforms and Resources

- Extend from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and from the Arctic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico
Landforms and Resources

Both countries rich in natural resources:
- Fertile soil
- Ample water supply
- Vast forests
- Variety of minerals
Many and Varied Landforms

- The Eastern Lowlands
  - Flat coastal plains that runs along the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico
  - **Piedmont**: low plateau between the Eastern Lowlands and the Appalachian mountains
    - Contains many fast-flowing rivers
Many and Varied Landforms

- Appalachian Mountains
  - West of the coastal plain
  - 1,600 miles long from Newfoundland to Alabama
  - Several mountain ranges
    - Green and Catskill in the North
    - Blue Ridge and Great Smoky in South
Many and Varied Landforms

- The Interior Lowlands
  - Covers interior of North America
  - Flattened by glaciers
  - Interior plains
  - Great Plains
  - Canadian Shield
Many and Varied Landforms

- Western Mountains, Plateaus, and Basins
  - Rocky Mountains
  - Continental Divide
  - Sierra Nevada
  - Cascade Range
  - North America’s highest peak = Mt. McKinley
Many and Varied Landforms

- The Islands
  - Ellesmere, Victoria, Baffin Islands
  - Aleutian Islands
  - Hawaiian Islands
Oceans and Waterways

- Great Lakes
- Mississippi River = longest in continent
- Mackenzie River = Canada’s longest river
North America is the world’s leading food exporter
  Much of this agricultural land is found in the plains region and in river valleys
  1/2 of Canada and 1/3 of the U.S. is covered by forests
Canada = iron ore, nickel, copper, gold, uranium
Both countries = coal, natural gas, oil, energy producing fossil fuels
Climate and Vegetation

The map illustrates various climate zones across North America, including:

- **Polar**
- **Cold and Snowy**
- **Moderate and Semiarid**
- **Cold and Snowy, No Drought - Cool Summer**
- **Temperate Humid, No Drought - Hot Summer**
- **Hot and Arid**

The map shows the geographical distribution of these climate zones, with different colors representing each zone.
Colder Climates

- Artic coast of Alaska and Canada
- Winters = long and bitterly cold
- Summers = brief and chilly
- Rocky Mountains and Pacific Ranges = highland climate and vegetation
Shared Climates and Vegetation

- Moderate Climates
  - Humid continental
  - Pacific west coast
  - Prevailing Westerlies
Differences in Climate and Vegetation

- Milder climates
  - Long growing season for variety of crops

- Dry Climates
  - Great Plains and northern part of Great Basin
Differences in Climate and Vegetation

- Tropical Climates
  - Hawaii and Southern Florida
  - Florida Everglades
Human Environment Interaction
Settlement and Agriculture
Alter the Land

- First inhabitants were nomads; people who move from place to place
  - Beringia: land bridge that once connected Siberia and Alaska
Settlement Agriculture Alter the Land

- Early settlements became permanent about 3,000 years ago
  - Agriculture
  - Changed the landscape to meet their needs
Building Cities

- Montreal, Quebec (1642): Canada’s 2nd largest city and a major port
- Los Angeles: 2nd most populous city in U.S.
  - Metropolitan area spreads over 4,060 square miles
Population of Canada

- one dot represents the location of one enumeration area
Overcoming Distances

- Trails and Inland Waterways
  - St. Lawrence Seaway: N.A.’s most important deepwater ship route
    - Connects Great Lakes to Atlantic
  - Oregon and Santa Fe trails
St. Lawrence Seaway

[Map of the St. Lawrence Seaway showing major cities and waterways such as Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the Great Lakes.]

Profile drawing after H. Bernhard and E. Winkler

Mean altitude above sea level

© Baedeker
St. Lawrence Seaway: series of Locks
St. Lawrence Seaway

Hyperlink: click on picture
Overcoming Distances

- Transcontinental Railroads
  - 1st one completed in U.S. in 1869
  - Trans–Canada railroad completed in 1885
Transcontinental Railroad

Hyperlink: click on picture
Overcoming Distances

- National Highway Systems
  - Trans–Canada Highway
  - U.S. interstate system is a network of more than 46,000 miles of highway