



North America Biome Mat

Guide to Presentation

2021 edition

North America Biome Mat

(suitable for children 6 to 12 years of age)

Contents of North America Biome Mat:

- North America Biome Mat and storage bag
- 37 Geographical Feature Cards
- North America Biome Mat Command Cards (20 per level) with wooden storage box
- tyvek control chart

Additional Related Products:

- *North America Biome Cards - Elementary*
- *North America Biome Cards - Primary*
- *North America Stencil*

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Introduction

This mat is designed for elementary aged children. It offers a pictorial view of the biomes of North America. Familiarity with the different biomes explored in our Introduction to the Biomes with Curriculum and the Biomes of the World Mat is extremely useful prior to the use of this mat. Children learn the names of the eight different biomes and gain a general understanding of the conditions and adaptations of plants and animals in each biome through these materials.

The North America Biome Mat can be used in conjunction with the North America Biome Cards - Elementary as a reference. In the study of each continent, student research is structured to discover different plants, animals, and people and how they adapt to their biome. Our North America Biome Cards - Primary are available for younger children on a lower reading level.

Geographical Feature Cards

You will need: North America Biome Mat, Geographical Feature Cards.

Purpose: To become familiar with the biomes of North America and learn about its geographical features.

1. Lay out the North America Biome Mat, note the compass rose for orientation and go over the legend with the children. Identify the different biomes and where they are located on the mat.
2. Note that the temperate forest is subdivided into deciduous and coniferous forests. Discuss the difference and locate each kind of temperate forest on the mat.
3. Using the Geographical Feature Cards look at the picture and find the site depicted on the card on the biome mat. Place the arrow label on that part. (Cards can be limited to just a portion of the set for a single lesson.) Go back and read the labels once they are placed. With independent practice, the children may be able to read the labels and place them using the large card as a control for error.
4. Find rivers on the mat and trace their courses making sure to find their sources.
5. Discuss the rain shadow effect. Find dry regions on the other side of mountain ranges.

North America Biome Mat Command Cards: Level One

You will need: North America Biome Mat, Level One North America Biome Mat Command Cards.

Purpose: To actively engage the child in identifying biomes through their relationships to geographical features on the continent.

Note: The command cards are designed in three levels of difficulty. Level One corresponds to the second period of the three period Montessori lesson where the child has plenty of practice with pointing to the place or things with the name given. The Level One North America Biome Mat Command Cards require familiarity with the eight biomes,

directional orientation, names of basic land and water forms, and familiarity with the Geographical Features Cards for the North America Biome Mat.

1. Lay out the North America Biome Mat and review the compass rose.
2. Have the child pick a command card and carry out the instructions.
3. Once familiar with the Level One cards, have the child work independently, or with another child, through the rest of the Level One cards.

North America Biome Mat Command Cards: Level Two

You will need: North America Biome Mat, Level Two North America Biome Mat Command Cards, atlas.

Purpose: To master geographical features of the continent and actively engage in navigating to and from these forms using directions.

Note: The command cards are designed in three levels of difficulty. Level Two uses the third period when the child will be asked to supply the name. The Level Two North America Biome Mat Command Cards require the ability to name geographical features on the mat and use an atlas. Familiarity with plant life found in each biome will also be helpful.

1. Have the child pick a command card and carry out the instructions.
2. Once familiar with the Level Two cards, have the child work independently, or with another child, through the rest of the Level Two cards.

North America Biome Mat Command Cards: Level Three

You will need: North America Biome Mat, Level Three North America Biome Mat Command Cards, atlas, access to research resources (books or internet), journal, paper, pencil.

Purpose: To exercise their knowledge of geographical features of North America and directional guidance by planning journeys and giving directions. To expand their knowledge of North America through research about geographical features and exploration of the continent.

Note: The command cards are designed in three levels of difficulty. Level Three uses higher forms of understanding outlined in Bloom's Taxonomy to include application and synthesis wherein a child is using their knowledge of the nomenclature to create something original or applied. The Level Three North America Biome Mat Command Cards require the ability to conduct independent research and to access research resources (such as books or the internet).

1. Have the child pick a command card and carry out the instructions.
2. Once familiar with the Level Three cards, have the child work independently, or with another child, through the rest of the Level Three cards using the additional materials for activities suggested by the cards.