

[Shaping America \(click for more detail\)](#)



Connect: Bristol – transatlantic travel; Explorers and settlement

Our investigation into the shaping of the continent of North America will pull together our prior learning about aspects of physical geography and we will develop our understanding of rivers, a recurring theme in each of the previous year groups. We will look at the impact of migration on the continent, linking back to our earlier work on exploration and invasion. We will use the Grand Canyon and New York as case studies for our research.

- How has North America (with a focus on USA) been shaped?
- How might it change in the future?
- What are some of the main physical and human factors that have shaped the USA?
- How have rivers shaped USA and what has been the impact on people?
- How does water, and the lack of water, challenge people?
- Why are population centres where they are? How have they changed over time?
- How does human and physical geography interact in farming?
- What factors have influenced the development of New York?

Preview: WW2 – American role in the conflict; Other civilisations.

Shaping America



Key vocabulary:

Meander, channel, erosion, valley, gorge, canyon, sediment, ox bow lake, waterfall, tributary, estuary, delta

Significant people: Leif Erikson ([link to The Explorers \(Y5\)](#)), John Smith

Subject specific skills

- Name and locate countries in **North America** and describe absolute location with reference to lines of latitude and longitude and relative location with each other and countries considered in earlier years
- Compare the physical processes that shaped the development of two rivers in different continents (Bristol and USA) and the impact on human activity
- Describe and understand physical geography, including:
 - river formation and sections
 - the water cycle

Essential knowledge

- Name the three largest countries in North America plus approximate populations and surface area
- Name the three sections of a river (upper course, middle course, lower course) and one key fact about each
- Describe the water cycle and impact on rivers
- Name 3 most populous and least populous states in USA and give a reason for the differences
- Name 3 reasons for the growth of New York

Cross curricular opportunities

- Maths- data handling (population growth)
- Art- Frida Kahlo (Mexico), Frank Lloyd Wright (USA)
- RWV- How do people express beliefs and identity (El Salvador focus)

Builds on:

[Bristol](#) (Y3)- Rivers and settlement growth, [Egypt](#) (Y3) Rivers, [Earth Explorers](#) (Y4)- mountains and volcanoes, [Explorers](#) (Y5)- Exploration and map skills, [The Rainforest](#) (Y5) Biomes, Weather and climate and settlement growth

Prepares for:

Human and physical geography study at KS3. Interpreting Ordnance Survey maps. Use GIS to view, analyse and interpret place and data