

Vocabulary Word Sort

Human and Physical Characteristics

Place Names (locations)

Relative Location Terms (north, south, east, west)

lake	woods	pipeline	north
south	east	west	plains
agricultural	industrial	bald eagle	Quebec (city)
mountain	landmark	city	skyscrapers
Liberty Bell	plaza	tundra	Prudhoe Bay
New Orleans	orchards	coast	swamps

Name _____

Record of Edgar's Trip Across North America

Record the following for each section of the story. If your Description includes an historical event that took place in this location, circle it.

Place Name

Description

Theme

Suggested **Answer Key** Record of Edgar's Trip Across North America

Answers can vary depending on what the student focuses on....be generous in grading.

<u>Place Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Wausau, Wisconsin	woods, lake	Place
Great Lakes	water, transportation	Movement
Quebec City	built to protect itself, French influence war in 1759	HEI, Region or Place
New York City	skyscrapers, Statue of Liberty	Place or Movement
Philadelphia	Liberty Bell, Independence Hall	Place or Movement
Any one: Baltimore	National Anthem, War of 1812	Place
Wash DC	Capitol bldgs.	Place
Appalachians	green	Place or Region
Tenn River Valley	dams	HEI
Miss. River	muddy river, fish to eat	HEI or Region
New Orleans	French Quarter, jazz	Place or Movement
Southern U.S	swamps, cypress trees	Region
Texas	grasslands, flat, oil,	Region or HEI
Pueblo County	Native American homes	HEI
Santa Fe	Spanish influence since 1610	Movement or Region
Rocky Mts	rugged, snow	Region
Salt Lake City	LDS come in 1847, farmed, locusts	HEI
Washington	redwoods, salmon	Place or Region
Victoria	boats, English influence	Movement
Islands, cold place	glaciers, icebergs, tundra	Region
Prudhoe Bay, Alaska	oil, pipeline, northern lights	HEI or Region
Canadian Rockies	snowy, jagged	Region
Prairie Provinces	plains, farms, grain	HEI or Region
Minnesota	lumberjack, Babe, forests	HEI
Lake Itasca	source of Mississippi River	Place or Region

Name: _____ **Edgar's Trip across North America (Variation)**

Pick any 4 of the locations that Edgar visits and complete the following:

Location:

Illustration:

Description: _____

Theme: Location Place Region
Human/Environmental Interaction
Movement

Location:

Illustration:

Description: _____

Theme: Location Place Region
Human/Environmental Interaction
Movement

Location:

Illustration:

Description: _____

Theme: Location Place Region
Human/Environmental Interaction
Movement

Location:

Illustration:

Description: _____

Theme: Location Place Region
Human/Environmental Interaction
Movement

Edgar Eagle's Journey through North America

Edgar was a young bald eagle who lived a contented, but sheltered life in the woods near Wausau, Wisconsin. He had built a fine nest in an old pine tree and fished for food in a nearby lake. He spent his days soaring over the woods, never venturing very far.

One day, his friend, Oscar Osprey, came to visit. As they flew to the lake to catch some lunch, Edgar commented on how grand a lake it was.

"Grand?" replied Oscar. "There are lakes far greater than this just to the east. Haven't you ever seen them?"

"No," answered Edgar, "I am happy here with my woods and my lake."

"You should get out more," retorted Oscar. "There is a big world full of interesting places just waiting to be seen."

"Someday," mumbled Edgar, and he dove towards the lake to catch a fish.

Later, after Oscar had left for home, Edgar got to thinking. Could there be lakes bigger than mine? What do they look like? What's in the world outside my woods? Maybe I should go see? Maybe tomorrow. With that, he settled into his nest for a good night's sleep.

The next morning, Edgar flew towards his lake to find breakfast. On the way, he decided to take Oscar's advice and fly farther east to see these Great Lakes.

In no time at all, Edgar was nearing the shore of a great, vast lake. It was huge! He soon discovered that there were five of these Great Lakes, and each had a name: Michigan, Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. On their shimmering blue waters sailed huge boats. Large cities with factories dotted its shores. Railroads spread out from these cities to faraway destinations. Edgar realized that Oscar was right, that these were great lakes. They made a vast internal waterway connecting the industrial centers of the East to the agricultural lands of the Great Plains. Cars, iron ore, wheat, corn, and steel could be loaded onto boats and sent anywhere along these lakes. At their destination, they could be processed into products that could be taken to other places on the railroad. What an interesting place were these Great Lakes!

Now Edgar began to wonder what was even further east. So off he went. He followed a river that flowed into the last of the Great Lakes. In no time, he was at a wonderful city built on a bluff overlooking the river.

This city was Quebec. Samuel de Champlain, who was French, founded it in 1608. That explained why the people here spoke French. They built this city in a strategic spot on the river since nothing can pass by without being noticed from the city up above. That river, the St. Lawrence, connects the Atlantic Ocean to those Great Lakes. Being on a high bluff, invaders would have to come by land. Pretty smart. Perhaps that is why the French and British fought over it in 1759. The British won, but the city stayed French. The old sections of the city with the Chateau Frontenac and buildings with mansard roofs looked like they were plucked up from France and placed here. That, the fact all signs are in French, and the overwhelming presence of French culture shows that the British may have won the war, but not the city.

Edgar now decided to try flying south. He passed over another big lake called Champlain and followed a river called Hudson through a vast agricultural valley studded with

towns and cities. Suddenly, the river entered a huge city. Bigger than any city Edgar had ever seen!

“I must go see this place,” thought Edgar. So into the city he went.

This was New York City. He flew through the canyons of skyscrapers. Over a forest in the city called Central Park. Then he saw a strange statue on an island in the midst of the city. It was of a woman with a spiked headdress, long draping gown, and she was holding a torch. All gray, except for the flame of the torch which was golden, she seemed like some sort of beacon. She also held a book of some kind. Edgar flew in closer to see what it said.

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I light my lamp beside the golden door!”

“Could that refer to the millions of people who came to America by boat from Europe landing here and then heading west?” pondered Edgar.

A plane zoomed by and startled Edgar.

“I’m heading further south where it is less congested!”

Heading southwest, Edgar passed over one city after another until he reached another large city at the mouth of a river. This was Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love. William Penn founded it in 1682 as a haven for Quakers. The Quakers were fleeing religious persecution in England. It was here on July 4, 1776, that the colonists declared their independence from England and where the Constitution was written in 1787. Edgar soared around Independence Hall where both documents were written and even caught a glimpse of the Liberty Bell. It was rung on July 4 to proclaim the colonies’ independence and got its famous crack in 1835 when it was rung to mourn the death of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

“A nice city,” thought Edgar, “but still too congested. I must continue on.”

Edgar continued in his southwesterly flight and passed over even more cities, like Baltimore, where the Star-Spangled Banner was written during the bombardment of Ft. McHenry during the War of 1812, and Washington, D.C. where he saw the gleaming white capitol building of the United States. On he went across the Appalachian Mountains that were covered with dense, green forests, and the Tennessee River Valley with its dams and lakes, and into the forests of northern Mississippi. Here he saw a broad, muddy river flowing south. It was lined with trees to rest in and was full of fish to lunch on. A peaceful ribbon of water, he thought. Since it was far less congested than those eastern rivers, Edgar decided to follow it for a while.

Near the mouth of this river, which he learned was called the Mississippi, Edgar came across a most unusual sight. Here was a city built in a swamp between a large lake and the river. In fact, much of the city lay below sea level and was protected from flooding by walls called levees.

“What an odd place to put a city,” thought Edgar. “I must get a closer look.”

The city, Edgar discovered, was called New Orleans. It was founded in 1718 by the French to protect where the Mississippi River emptied into the Gulf of Mexico. The architecture here showed the influence of the French, Spanish, and Americans. The Vieux Carre or the

French Quarter, was the oldest part. Edgar decided to check it out and compare it to that other French city he had visited, Quebec.

As he neared the French Quarter, he heard all manner of raucous sounds. There was a huge parade winding down the narrow streets. Marching bands played jazz and costumed people on lavishly decorated floats tossed all manner of trinkets to the crowds that lined the streets shouting for them. Everywhere people were having fun. What was this celebration? It was Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, an old French custom. People held a big party during the last days before Lent. Edgar enjoyed watching the people having so much fun. He soared over the parade route several times to take it all in. Finally, he swooped down to snatch a string of beads as his souvenir of Mardi Gras and New Orleans. Time to move on.

At this point, Edgar decided to change course and headed due west. This was very different territory now. Different than any he had covered before. The air was balmy. The land was covered by vast swamps that were crisscrossed with numerous waterways called bayous. The trees were called bald cypress. They only had a leafy crown and the rest of the branches were bare except for the clumps of gray Spanish moss that hung from them. This was nothing like his woods of Wisconsin.

On he flew across the coastal plain of East Texas and the Hill Country of Central Texas. An ocean of grass and wildflowers replaced the trees. He flew into West Texas with its flat grasslands studded by oil derricks. Finally, he reached another river, the Rio Grande. Here he decided to travel north.

He flew over a broad agricultural valley filled with orchards of pecan and fruit trees and fields of cotton and chilis. This gave way to a broad expanse of high desert covered with shrubs, cactus, and clumps of grass. Soon he was in Pueblo Country where the Native Americans built their adobe villages high on mesas. Finally, he reached a mountainous area that the river cut through. Here were mountains and canyons covered by pine forest. And by the river, a city even more different than the ones he had seen. Time to investigate.

This was a very old city. The Spanish established it in 1610 as the capital of their southwestern territories. The old center was typical of the Spanish cities of the time. The most important buildings surrounded a plaza or public square. Radiating from it were streets lined with homes and shops in long continuous rows. The architecture was adobe in a mix of Spanish and Native American styles. Rising from this dusty brown mass of buildings was the gleaming white mission church that served the people of Old Santa Fe. Hanging in bunches in front of some of the buildings were strings of deep red pods. They looked yummy, so Edgar snatched one of the pods and flew away to taste it.

“Not bad,” he thought. “Spicy but not too hot. I can see why the people here use them so much in their food.”

After resting in an old pine tree in the Sangre De Cristo Mountains for the night, Edgar decided to fly northwest to explore the mountains.

These mountains were not at all like the Appalachians. There were called the Rocky Mountains, and Edgar understood why as he soared over them. They were tall, rugged mountains where jagged peaks stabbed the blue sky. The forests crept up the sides until it was

too cold for trees to grow. These barren tops remained covered in snow even during the summer!

Suddenly, the mountains opened up into a broad basin. In this basin was a huge salty lake and desert flatlands covered with salt. It looked like the most inhospitable place, yet a city lay near this lake. Called Salt Lake City, it was founded by Latter Day Saints in 1847. They had fled west to escape persecution. After a long, difficult journey, they settled here. They made the desert bloom and they prospered. Very interesting to Edgar was their memorial to sea gulls. It seems that a plague of locusts attacked their fields in 1848, but a flock of sea gulls arrived and consumed them, thus saving the settlement. The Mormons commemorated this by erecting Sea Gull Monument.

“This must be a fine place if they honor birds,” thought Edgar.

With more mountains to cover, Edgar pushed on northwest. Across high mountains, desert basins, and raging rivers flew Edgar until he finally reached the redwood forest coast of Washington. Time to rest in one of these giants among trees and feast on the salmon that inhabited the rivers.

Rested and refreshed, Edgar followed the coast north. This was a wild and rugged coast. In places, the mountains seemed to end right at the edge of the ocean. Trees, too, seemed to grow right to the water’s edge. Islands appeared to be tree covered mountain peaks jutting out of the ocean. At times it was misty and gray, at others it was bright and blue. This was not at all like Wausau.

At the tip of one very large island, Edgar spotted the city of Victoria. He veered over to check it out. It looked like a bit of England had been plunked down in the midst of this wilderness. Boats carrying cars and people connected it to the cities and towns on distant shores for there were no bridges to connect this city to the mainland.

Edgar decided to follow one of the boats on its northward path. He encountered whales and otters frolicking in the waters. Other eagles shared the sky with him. Island after island, each covered with forest, dotted this passage. The air, however, got cooler. And the mountains changed, too. Many had great sheets of ice called glaciers creeping down their sides. When the glacier met the ocean, great chunks fell off and floated away. These were icebergs. The boat he was following pulled into a port town and Edgar continued north across the land.

Over snowy mountains and forests and glaciers he flew. The air was getting even colder. Finally, the land flattened out. It looked like a frozen desert; this was tundra. Flat, no trees, short grasses and shrubs, and so very cold. Nothing could live here. Yet Edgar did see some animals, and strange ones they were. He saw white bears called polar bears. Herds of deer-like creatures, but with much bigger antlers, roamed about; these were caribou. And small groups of shaggy beasts with horns that lay on the sides of their head traveled in tight groups. These were musk oxen. All these animals seemed perfectly content to live here, but it was too cold for Edgar.

When this frozen land met the frozen sea, Edgar decided it was time to turn south. Before he did, though, two things caught his eagle eyes. One was a Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. Humans had drilled into this frozen soil called permafrost and brought up oil. An elevated silver pipeline snaked it way south carrying this oil to coastal towns where it was put into tankers to be shipped out. It was a marvel of human ingenuity. The second was the Northern Lights.

Sheets of yellow, green, red, and pink lights shimmered across the night sky. It was as though a curtain of color had descended from heaven. This was a marvel of nature's ingenuity!

"I wish I could see these in Wisconsin," murmured Edgar.

About then, a gust of frigid air hit Edgar. He thought his talons would freeze solid or that he would shiver so hard his feathers would fall out! Time to find a warmer climate. Edgar headed southeast over the Canadian Rockies. These were just like the Rocky Mountains further south: jagged, tall, and snowy. Eventually, the land flattened out to a vast plain that seemed to stretch forever. Edgar had reached the Prairie Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Like their counterparts to the south, the Great Plains, this was the Breadbasket Region of Canada. Vast fields of wheat stretched as far as the eye could see. A golden sea broken only by farmhouses and grain elevators.

Growing weary, Edgar decided to head home. Passing over northern Minnesota he spied a huge statue of a man dressed like a lumberjack. Standing tall and proud in his red plaid shirt, brown pants, and black boots, he surveyed the forests that he harvested. Beside him was a blue ox named Babe, his constant companion. Perhaps Babe was blue because she had spent too much time up in the tundra? Further on, he flew to Lake Itasca, where the Mississippi River began. From such a small trickle did a mighty river begin. On into Wisconsin where Edgar sighted his old pine tree and lake. Circling a couple times, he finally settled into his comfortable nest.

"This truly is an amazing continent," he thought. "I have flown from coast to coast, north to south, and just barely saw all it has to offer. Tomorrow, I will tell Oscar all about it."

He nestled down, closed his eyes, and dreamed of all the places he had seen on his journey through North America.

Name _____

Scoring Guide for Straight-Line Map

Name and title (10 points) _____

Includes at least 10 stops (5 points per stop = 50 points maximum) _____

Illustrates each stop (2 points per stop = 20 point maximum) _____

Neatness (20 points) _____

Total Points (100 possible) _____

Name _____

Scoring Guide for Straight-Line Map

Name and title (10 points) _____

Includes at least 10 stops (5 points per stop = 50 points maximum) _____

Illustrates each stop (2 points per stop = 20 point maximum) _____

Neatness (20 points) _____

Total Points (100 possible) _____

Name _____

Scoring Guide for Student Story
(For Extension #1 on Lesson Plan)

Cover with title and author (10 points) _____

Has 10 stops (1 point per stop = 10 points maximum) _____

Uses the Five Themes (4 points per theme = 20 points maximum) _____

Uses each theme twice (3 points per use = 30 points maximum) _____

Illustrates each stop (1 point per stop = 10 points maximum) _____

Neatness (20 points) _____

Total Points (100 possible) _____