ON THE MAP OF THE WORLD

Ganges River
Bay of Bengal
Afghanistan
Iraq
New Zealand
Sumatra
Alaska

ON THE MAP OF THE U.S.

Bay of Fundy
Cascade Range
Mexico

ON THE MAP OF THE WORLD

GEOLOGY 141(A)
Spring, 2017

World Geography Review

This initial exercise is intended to re-familiarize you with some of the basic geography of the world, particularly with places we'll be mentioning in class, as well as the locations of the home countries of your international classmates. This is a take-home exercise and you are STRONGLY urged to use an atlas or other good reference if you are unsure about the location of any place I've asked you to locate. On-line references are generally (but not always) reliable; be sure to use one with enough detail that you're not misled.

This exercise is due NO LATER THAN 3:30 p.m. on Friday, February 3rd. It may be given directly to me or left in my mailbox in the Department of Geology office (Mudd 209). DO NOT slide it under my office door! The exercise will be worth 25 points toward your semester total. NOTE: since this is a take-home, open-book exercise, 3 points will be deducted for each major error (e.g., labeling Delaware "Maryland," or leaving a feature unlabeled). PLEASE use a fine-tipped pencil or pen and write neatly, so labels don't overlap and can be easily read. If the feature or locality is small, put the label in an open area and draw a SHARP arrow to the location of that feature. Do not make up and use a numbered key, even partial - any such maps or labels will not be graded, and will receive a grade of "0". Please remember that it's to your benefit that I understand what you've written & what feature you've identified!

The following page contains two maps for the exercise, one of the United States and one of the world.

* YES, this material WILL appear on each of the exams during the semester.

ON THE MAP OF THE U.S., please locate and properly label:

- Each of the 48 states in the conterminous U.S. (please label both peninsulas of Michigan)

  TWO-LETTER POSTAL CODES ARE ACCEPTABLE ONLY IF THEY ARE CORRECT!

  e.g., I will not accept 'MA' for Maine, 'MI' for Minnesota, 'NB' for Nebraska or 'AK' for Arkansas!
  (Be careful not to forget or miss the small states like Delaware and Rhode Island!)

- Each of the eight bordering Canadian provinces (including Nova Scotia)

- Each of the 5 Great Lakes (NOTE that the name of each includes the word "Lake", e.g., "Lake Ontario")

Mexico
Cascade Range
Bay of Fundy
Pamlico Sound

ON THE MAP OF THE WORLD, please indicate the precise location of each of the following features or places (as noted above, use a SHARP arrow from your label to the smaller ones):

- Alaska
- Sumatra
- New Zealand
- Syria
- Iraq
- Afghanistan
- Puerto Rico
- Bay of Bengal
- Ganges River
- Ural Mountains

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) [formerly Zaire, BUT ≠ Republic of Congo, a totally different country!]

Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands (both appear on both sides of this map; label both on each side) <<<

>>> PLEASE BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR SPELLING !!! <<<

(All you have to do for most hard-to-spell items is COPY the name from the list above!)

NOTE: Please hand in the stapled two-page set intact (including this sheet); please put your name on both sheets, in the spaces provided, in case they become separated.
Young Americans Geographically Illiterate, Survey Suggests

John Roach

for National Geographic News; May 2, 2006

Young adults in the United States fail to understand the world and their place in it, according to a survey-based report on geographic literacy released today.

Take Iraq, for example. Despite nearly constant news coverage since the war there began in 2003, 63 percent of Americans aged 18 to 24 failed to correctly locate the country on a map of the Middle East. Seventy percent could not find Iran or Israel.

Nine in ten couldn't find Afghanistan on a map of Asia. And 54 percent were unaware that Sudan is a country in Africa.

Remember the December 2004 tsunami and the widespread images of devastation in Indonesia? Three-quarters of respondents failed to find that country on a map. And three-quarters were unaware that a majority of Indonesia's population is Muslim, making it the largest Muslim country in the world.

"Young Americans just don't seem to have much interest in the world outside of the U.S.,” said David Rutherford, a specialist in geography education at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. (National Geographic News is part of the National Geographic Society.)

New York City-based Roper Public Affairs conducted the survey for the National Geographic Society. In total, Roper carried out 510 interviews between December 17, 2005, and January 20, 2006. The average respondent answered 54 percent of the questions correctly.

"Alarming." "Discouraging" Results

"The Roper poll is alarming, as it has been continuously for the past several years," said Douglas Richardson, executive director of the Association of American Geographers in Washington, D.C. Richardson added that geographic knowledge is essential for survival in our rapidly globalizing world, a notion that is beginning to gain traction at the university level, where enrollment in geography classes is up.

"We need to really now catch up in offering the foundation for students in geography in the middle schools and the high schools," he said.

Survey results published in 2002 were also disappointing. The 2002 project also surveyed 18- to 24-year-olds in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, and Great Britain. The U.S. trailed every other country in that survey, except Mexico, which did only slightly worse.

"It's discouraging that so many young Americans have so little understanding of the world," said Robert Pastor, vice president of international affairs at American University in Washington, D.C.

Geography Schmeography?

Even for U.S. geography, the survey results are just as dismal.

Half could not find New York State on a map of the United States.

A third of the respondents could not find Louisiana, and 48 percent couldn't locate Mississippi on a map of the United States, even though Hurricane Katrina put these southeastern states in the spotlight in 2005.

Many young Americans also lack basic map-reading skills.

Told they could escape an approaching hurricane by evacuating to the northwest, only two-thirds could indicate which way northwest is on a map.

Perhaps even more worrisome is the finding that few U.S. young adults seem to care. Fewer than three in ten think it's absolutely necessary to know where countries in the news are located. Only 14 percent believe speaking another language fluently is a necessary skill.

Fewer than one in five young Americans own a world map.

This geographic ineptitude was further emphasized when young Americans were asked questions on how the United States fits into the wider world.

Three in ten respondents put the U.S. population between one and two billion (it's just under 300 million, according the U.S. Census Bureau). Seventy-four percent said English is the most commonly spoken native language in the world (it's Mandarin Chinese).

And what about India, which features prominently in the job-outsourcing debate? Forty-seven percent of young Americans were unable to locate where their jobs may go on a map of Asia.

Rutherford, who is also a graduate of the Ph.D. program in geographic education at Texas State University in San Marcos, said improving the geographic literacy of tomorrow's leaders is crucial.

"In our country—where the decisions we make on a daily basis have far-reaching ramifications—it is profoundly important for our people to have a better grasp of geographic literacy," he said......

(read the complete article at  http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/05/0502_060502_geography.html)