

# Do You Know Where You Are?

## Lesson for Elementary Students using the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal*

*Note to Teacher:* The New York Geographic Alliance believes that it is very important for young students to gradually build skills using maps. They should be learning “location words,” such as “next to,” “inside of,” and “in between.” Then you can progress to directional words (“north” and “southeast”). The maps included in this lesson and in the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal* should help develop these important geographic skills.

1. World Maps: Color the continents! **North America**, **Europe**, **Africa**, **Asia**, **South America**, **Australia**, **Antarctica**.

Use a Wikki Stix to show the positions of the Equator and the Prime Meridian. Label the four hemispheres: **Northern**, **Southern**, **Western**, and **Eastern**.

Place a sticker (star) where New York is located. This means that New York is **inside** \_\_\_\_\_.

Label the four oceans on your world map: **Atlantic Ocean**, **Pacific Ocean**, **Arctic Ocean**, and **Indian Ocean**.

North America is \_\_\_\_\_ the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

The equator runs through the middle of the continent of \_\_\_\_\_.

What two continents are completely in the Southern Hemisphere?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Name a continent that is both in the Northern and the Western Hemisphere: \_\_\_\_\_

South America is in between the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ Oceans.

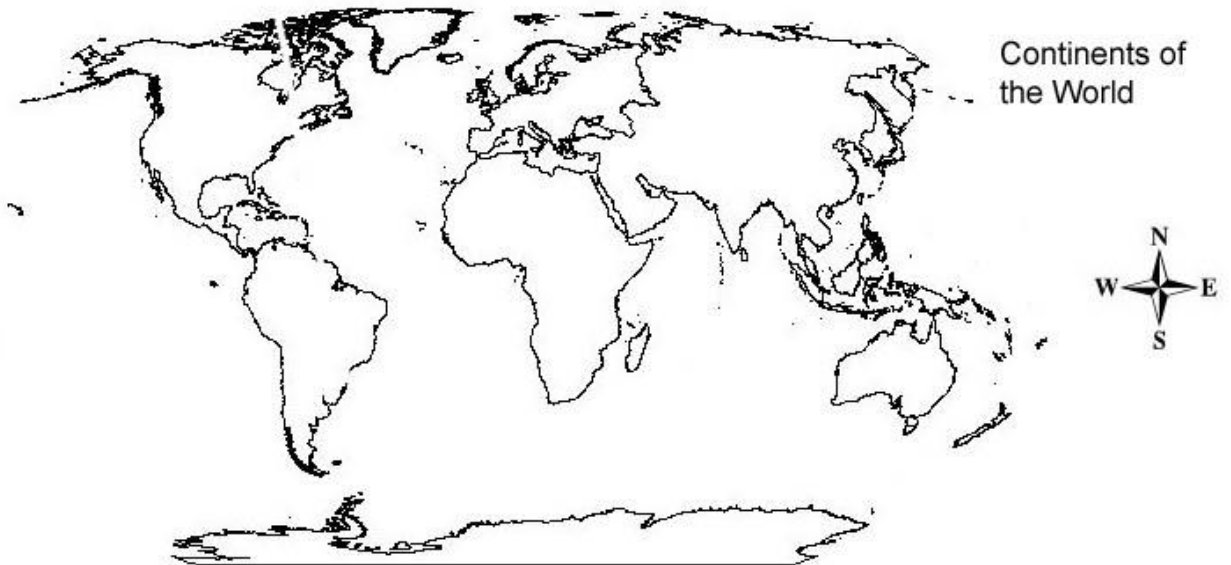
*Now use directional words (north, south, east, and west):*

Australia is \_\_\_\_\_ of Asia, and \_\_\_\_\_ of Antarctica.

The Atlantic Ocean is \_\_\_\_\_ of North America, but \_\_\_\_\_ of Europe.

The Arctic Ocean is \_\_\_\_\_ of Asia.

On the map that shows the countries of the world, color in the United States of America. Label **Canada** and **Mexico**.



On the next page is a map of the World showing the countries. Label these important countries: **United States of America, China, Russia, Canada, India, Mexico, Brazil, Germany, Australia, and South Africa.**

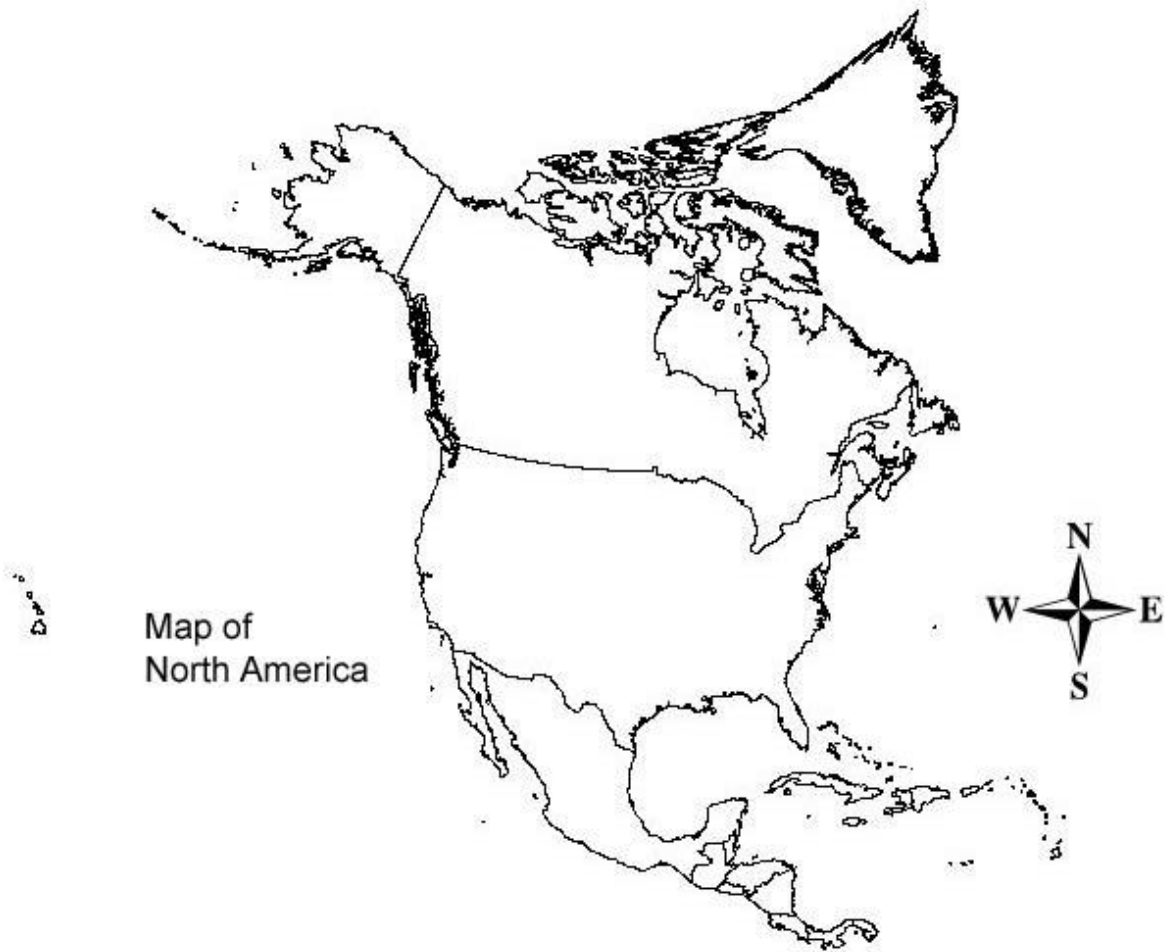
Notice that Antarctica is missing from this map. Why do you think the map-makers left it off? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# World Map with Country Borders



## 2. North America Map:

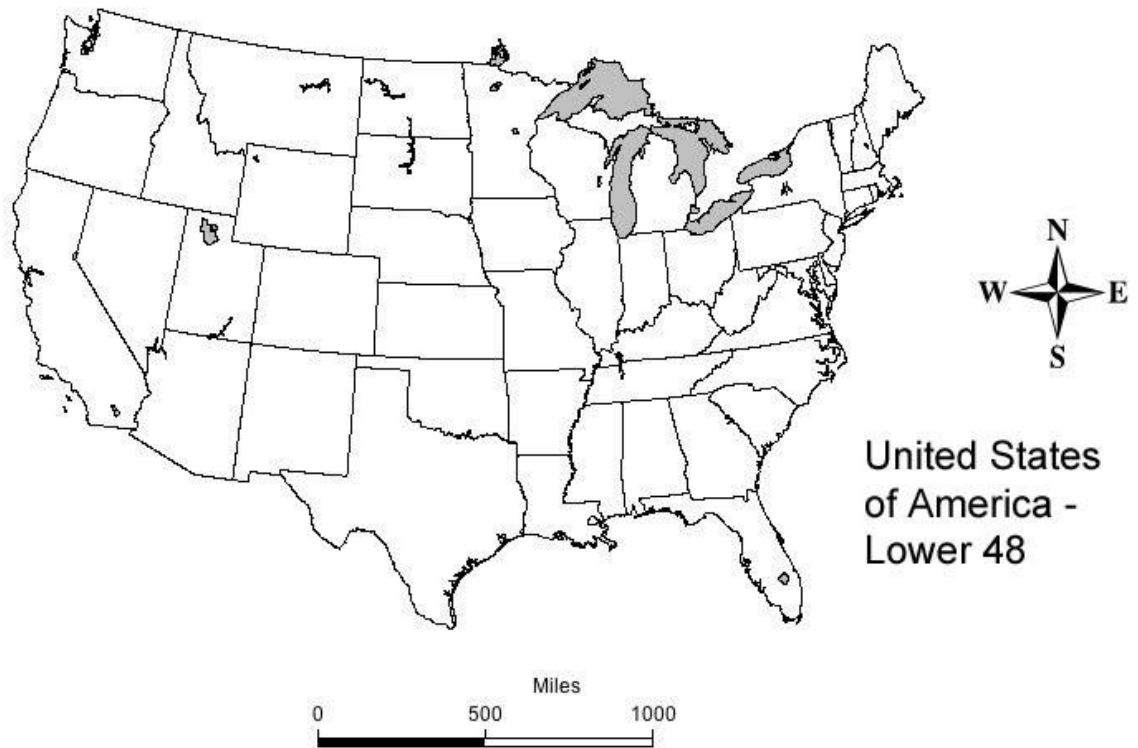


Label these oceans on the map above: **Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic**. Color the United States **blue**, Canada **red**, and Mexico **green**. Don't forget Alaska and Hawaii.

Put a sticker on New York. The United States is \_\_\_\_\_  
Canada and Mexico. Canada is \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States, but Mexico is  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the United States.

Hawaii is surrounded by the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean. The Arctic Ocean is  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Alaska and Canada. The \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean is found  
east of the United States.

## 3. United States Map:



What two states are missing from this map? \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

Color these important states on the map: **New York**, **California**, **Florida**,  
**Michigan**, **Maine**.

If you want to fly to Florida for vacation, what *direction* must you go?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Michigan is \_\_\_\_\_ of New York, but Maine is \_\_\_\_\_ of New  
York. This means that New York is \_\_\_\_\_ these two states.

California is next to the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean, so it is on the  
\_\_\_\_\_ coast (west or east) of the United States. Maine and New  
York both touch the Atlantic Ocean, so we are on the \_\_\_\_\_ coast.

**Challenge Question!** We can also use terms like *northwest*, *southeast*,  
*northeast*, *southwest*. This means that New York is in the \_\_\_\_\_  
part of the United States. California is the \_\_\_\_\_ part.

#### 4. Northeast US Map:



**Color** in New York. Also, *label* these important bodies of water: **Atlantic Ocean**, **Lake Ontario**, and **Lake Erie**. Also label **Long Island**.

What **very big** country is found just north of New York? \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Ontario is located \_\_\_\_\_ New York and Canada.

Lake Champlain is found in the northeast corner of New York. **Label it!** This means that Lake Champlain is in between New York and \_\_\_\_\_.

New York City is found *in between* New Jersey and Long Island. Put a *sticker* on the map to show the location of New York City.

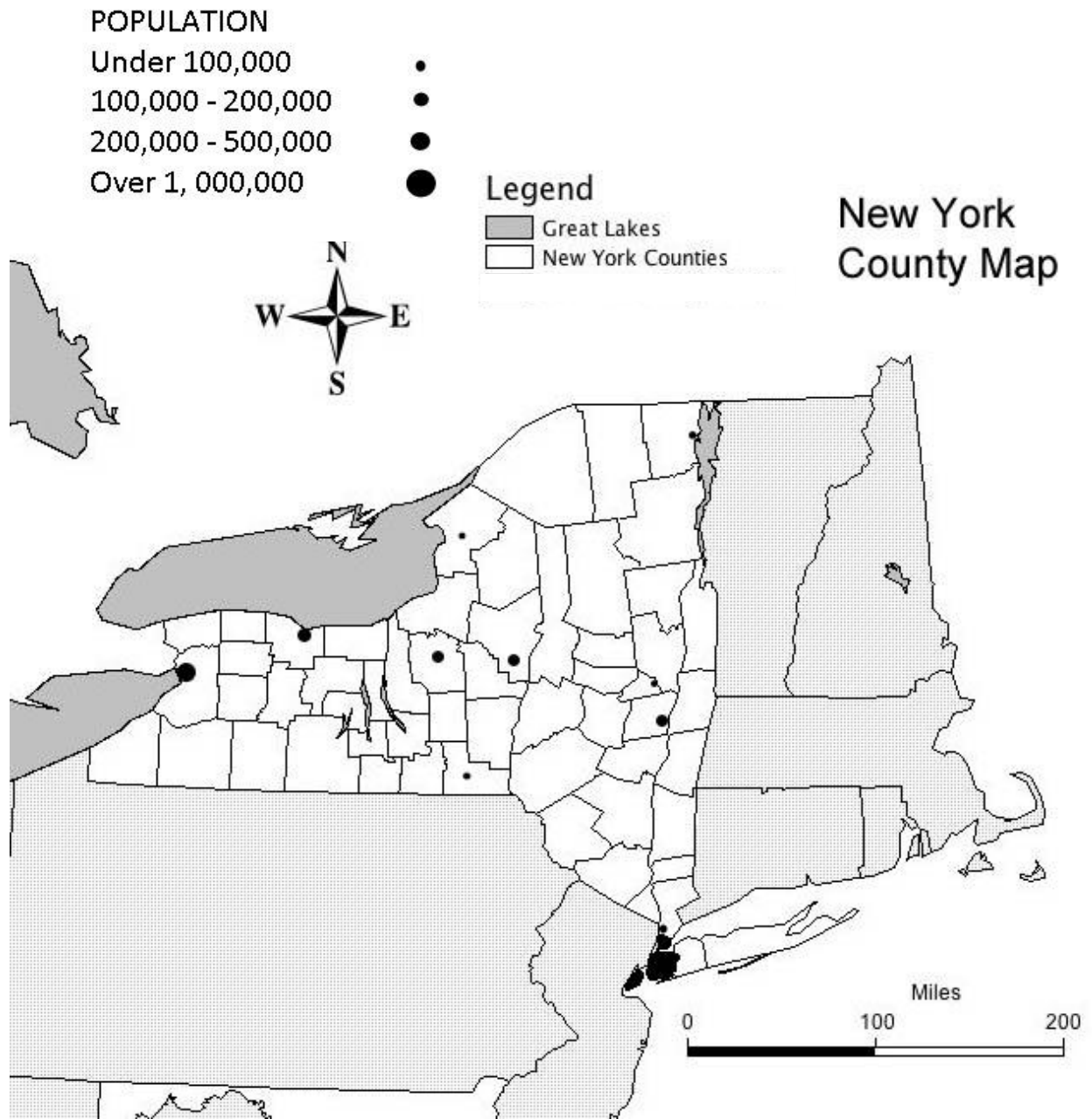
If you travel **northeast** from New York City, what state do you reach first?

\_\_\_\_\_

What state is found in between New York and Maryland?

\_\_\_\_\_

5



Label these cities: **Rochester, New York City, Albany, Binghamton, Syracuse, Buffalo, and Utica** (use the Atlas back cover to help you).

If you travel from New York City to Albany, what direction do you go? \_\_\_\_\_

What city is around 50 miles west of Utica? \_\_\_\_\_

After New York City, which city is the largest in population? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know that? \_\_\_\_\_