MAJOR MOUNTAINS / DESERTS OF THE WORLD

Directions: Read the below paragraphs and label the map on the reverse of this page with the mountains and deserts listed below.

Many cultures have settled at the base of mountains for the natural barriers that they provide and the fresh water that flows down. Thus they act as natural barriers that separate people and cultures. High mountains can also be a source for inspiration and mystery.

On the other hand, deserts have generally not been generous for cultures to develop. They are harsh environments with little fresh water. Consequently, they also serve as barriers between cultures.

MOUNTAINS AS BARRIERS
Large mountains have long been a dividing factor that has separated people and their ability to spread ideas, cultures, languages, inventions, and goods. For example, Europe and Asia are on the same landmass but are separated by several mountain ranges and thousands of miles. Before the age of Exploration, the movement of ideas, natural resources and inventions from Europe to/from Asia was very slow. After about 1500 trade increased tremendously and the two regions were connected like never before. So we recognize Europe and Asia as two continents even though there are no oceans or bodies of water between them.

MOUNTAINS AS INSPIRATION
Ancient Greeks revered Mt Olympus as the home of the gods. In other cultures as well, mountains are looked at with awe and mystery and are the inspiration of many poems, novels, songs and other art.

MOUNTAINS AS WATER SOURCE
Mountains also provide the foothills with rivers and streams. With natural springs and melting snow, mountains are the source of many rivers and allow people to settle in their shadow.

DESERTS AS BARRIERS
Before modern water systems such as aqueducts, canals, and water wells, it was difficult for large groups to settle in deserts. Being difficult to travel across, deserts have separated people, culture and nations.

MOUNTAINS / DESERTS TO LABEL ON MAP

2. Alps (Italy) 14. Coast Mountains (Canada) 26. Mojave Desert (US)
3. Altai Mountains (Mongolia/China) 15. Ethiopian Highlands/Plateau (Ethiopia) 27. Pindus Mountains (Greece)
4. Andes (Chile/Peru) 16. Gibson Desert (Australia) 28. Pyrenees (France/Spain)
5. Apennines (Italy) 17. Great Dividing Range (Australia) 29. Rocky Mountains (US/Canada)
6. Appalachian Mountains (US) 18. Great Salt Desert (Dasht-e Kavir in Iran) 30. Sahara Desert (Northern Africa)
7. Arabian Desert (Saudi Arabia) 19. Great Sandy Desert (Australia) 31. Sierra Madre Oriental (Mexico)
8. Atacama Desert (Chile) 20. Great Victoria Desert (Australia) 32. Sierra Nevada (US)
11. Carpathian Mountains(Ukraine/Romania) 23. Hindu Kush Mountains (N. Pakistan) 35. Verkhoyansk Mountains (Russia)
12. Cascade Range (US/Canada) 24. Iberian Mountains (Spain) 36. Zagros Mountains (Iran)