

Hunter College of the City University of New York
THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

REQUIRED LANDSCAPE EXERCISE

The purpose of this Web-based exercise, which is worth 25% of your final grade, is to increase your awareness and knowledge of selected human and physical landscape features that characterize various parts of the United States and Canada.

You are required to submit a **20-unit portfolio of landscapes** to which is attached **(1) a cover page** with your name, course number and date; **(2) a table of contents** with the names of the landscape features numbered 1-20, state or province location of the feature, and page number where the landscape feature description is found; and **(3) a map of North America** showing the location of each feature listed in the table of contents by using the corresponding feature number (1-20).

Each landscape portfolio page is to be headed by a title that corresponds to an item in the list at the end of the instructions. The contents of each page must consist of the following **minimum** requirements:

1. one thumbnail locator map showing the feature's location in North America;
2. one detailed readable map of the landscape feature that shows local information;
3. one photograph or illustration of the feature in question; and
4. a half-page written description of the subject and its significance.

The written description **MUST** be in your own words, and **NOT** something that you have cut-and-pasted from an online source. (Everyone has their own writing style as do on-line sources!) The verbal portion should be done in regular 12-point type and take up at least half the page. Typing should be single-spaced and have standard 1-inch margins to either side (just like this page).

The 20 landscape features you choose should be varied and represent different areas of the US and Canada – from the Arctic to the Everglades, from the mountains to the plains, from urbanized areas to rural towns, from manufacturing complexes to wilderness areas as discussed in the 18 textbook chapters. A mix similar to the following would provide diversity to your portfolio:

- 5 physical features
- 5 cultural features
- 3 environmental impact features
- 3 features from National Park Service sites
- 2 features from colonial times
- 2 features from urbanized areas

EXTRA CREDIT: You may earn up to 4 points added to your final course average by including extra landscape units in your portfolio on the formula of **1/2 point per feature**. **A maximum of 4 points** (for 8 additional features) **may be earned**. If you opt for extra credit, include the additional pages at the end of the portfolio in a section labeled APPENDIX and number the features A1-A8.

While information may be gathered from anywhere on the Web, information that is photocopied from a book, atlas, road map, topographic map or other hard copy source is permitted. Every illustration must have a caption. Sources of information (citations) are to be placed at the end of the write up. Sources of the maps, photos, diagrams or other illustrations may be placed either below it or at the end of the write up. Use web addresses or hardcopy publisher information. Failure to do so will cause a reduction in points. A separate bibliography is **not** required.

COVER PAGE

A Sample of Landscapes found in the US and Canada

Your Name

GEOG 251 *Geography of
the US and Canada*

Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Landscape Aa, p.2
2. Landscape Bb, p. 3
3. Landscape Cc, p. 5
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.



20. Landscape Tt, p. 26

APPENDIX (up to 8 extra credit
landscapes)

A1.....

A2.....



A8.....

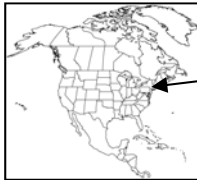
MAP of NORTH AMERICA (see p. 5 of this exercise)



Locate all your landscapes on
this map using numbers 1-20
for the required locations and
A1-A8 for the extra credit ones.

Landscape 1: The Narrows of NY Harbor

Locator map.



Site and situation of
The Narrows.



Location of the terminal
moraine of the continent-
al glacial.



Satellite view of The
Narrows and the Verra-
zано-Narrows Bridge.



V-N Bridge crossing The
Narrows from Ft. Ham-
ilton to Ft. Wadsworth.



The Narrows of New York Harbor is a gap in the terminal moraine created at the end of the last Ice Age as the glacial lake located behind the moraine was breached. It marks the entrance to New York Harbor, separating Upper New York Bay from Lower New York Bay. Its deep channel allows the largest ships to enter the harbor. Located between the Long Island and Staten Island, The Narrows protects Upper New York Bay from wind and waves originating in the Atlantic Ocean. Fort Wadsworth (Staten Island) and Fort Hamilton (Brooklyn), located on high ground overlooking The Narrows, historically protected NY Harbor from naval attack. The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, the world's longest suspension bridge when completed in 1964, spans The Narrows carrying traffic between Brooklyn and Staten Island. Its opening sparked the rapid growth of SI's population.

Etc., etc., etc. for additional information to fill at least a half-page of description and analysis.

Sources: United States Geological Survey (www.usgs.gov); Yahoo Images (www.yahoo.com); Schuberth, C. *The Geology of New York City and Environs*, New York: Natural History Press, 1968.

LANDSCAPE FEATURE TOPICS

Choose 20 landscapes from the 80 listed to include in your portfolio.

1. Alaska Pipeline
2. Aleutian Islands
3. Amish area (Ohio, New York or Pennsylvania)
4. Badlands topography
5. Baffin Island
6. Barrier islands of the East Coast
7. Basin and Range topography
8. Black Hills environment
9. Canadian Rockies
10. Canals and locks
11. Cape Cod
12. Clear cutting in the Pacific Northwest
13. Coal mining in Pennsylvania
14. Congressional Survey System
15. Containerization ports
16. Dams on the Columbia River
17. Death Valley
18. Desert landscape of southern Arizona
19. El Camino Real (California)
20. Everglades and vicinity
21. Farming in California's Central Valley
22. Feed lots of the Mid West
23. Finger Lakes of Upstate New York
24. Fjord coastline
25. Florida Keys
26. Folded Appalachians
27. Freeways of Los Angeles
28. French long lot system
29. Fruit orchard landscape
30. Ghost towns of the West
31. Great Salt Lake and vicinity
32. Hog farms
33. Hoh Rainforest
34. Hurricane (pick one) before and after landscapes
35. Influence of the (Dutch/English/French/Spanish) on the landscape
36. Inside Passage of the Pacific Northwest
37. Lake Tahoe and vicinity
38. Landscape of gentrification
39. Lava flows on the island of Hawaii
40. Location of a colonial fort
41. Meander loops and oxbow lakes of the Mississippi flood plain
42. Metes and bounds survey system
43. Mississippi River delta
44. Missouri River flooding

45. Monument Valley
46. Mountain ski resorts
47. Napa Valley wine country
48. New England townscapes
49. New Orleans flood control
50. Northern estates
51. Open pit mines
52. Pacific Coast Highway
53. Pearl Harbor
54. Pivot irrigation system
55. Portland, ME vs. Portland, OR
56. Redwood forests
57. Rocky Mountain passes
58. Rocky shorelines
59. Rust belt landscapes of the northeast US
60. Salton Sea and vicinity
61. San Andreas Fault zone
62. Sandy shorelines
63. Santa Fe Trail
64. Shopping malls
65. Site and situation of any state or provincial capital city
66. Southern plantations
67. Street pattern of Washington, DC
68. Strip mining
69. Suburbanization
70. Tornado Alley
71. Tourist landscape of Orlando
72. Transcontinental railroad (either US or Canadian)
73. Tundra landscape of around Hudson Bay
74. Urban landscape of (Toronto/Chicago/Denver/Seattle)
75. U.S./Mexico border area
76. Vancouver Island
77. Volcanic features of western North America
78. Wheat fields of the Dakotas or Prairie Provinces
79. Yakima Valley
80. Zuni Pueblo

To these suggestions you may add your own selections. Check with me if you are not sure it is appropriate to the theme of the exercise In the end, 20 landscapes need to be presented, described, and illustrate plus, if you wish, a maximum of 8 additional for extra credit.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES PORTFOLIO LOCATOR MAP



REQUIRED

1. _____
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19. _____
20. _____

EXTRA CREDIT

- A1. _____
- A2. _____
- A3. _____
- A4. _____

- A5. _____
- A6. _____
- A7. _____
- A8. _____