

INDESCRIBABLE

ATLAS

ADVENTURES

WITH
50+
MAPS!

AN EXPLORER'S GUIDE TO GEOGRAPHY, ANIMALS, AND
CULTURES THROUGH GOD'S AMAZING WORLD

LOUIE GIGLIO

ILLUSTRATED BY NICOLA ANDERSON
& LYNSEY WILSON



An Imprint of Thomas Nelson



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INTRODUCTION

HELLO, EXPLORER!

My name is Pastor Louie. Ever since I was your age, I have been fascinated by God's amazing world and have wanted to travel and explore it. When I was in school, I would ask my teachers if I could take home the maps from our classroom's bookshelves—and they let me! So before I'd go to sleep, I would lay them across my bedroom floor, shine a flashlight on them, and dream about all the places I could go—California, South Africa, Montana, Australia, or London. I wanted to go everywhere, and the opportunities for fun-filled adventures were endless!

I'd imagine what the people, the animals, and even the food must be like in all the unique countries I would see on the maps. What is it like to live in Ghana? What sport do people like to play in Cuba? What's it like to share a meal with friends in Japan? Hundreds of questions would swirl around in my mind as I turned the pages of the atlas.

But here is what's even more fascinating. God made the seven continents and every country and culture as unique as He made you and me. There are 195 countries in the world (and counting—countries aren't a fixed number), and each one is remarkable and one-of-a-kind, even though we couldn't feature them all. (And I encourage you to look up countries that aren't included in these pages.) Throughout this book, the Indescribable kids and I are taking you on a journey through interactive maps—learning more about things like the Angel Falls in Venezuela, the cueca dancers in Chile, the largest telescope in Czechia, and the giant anteaters in Colombia. From the top of the highest peak on Mount Everest to the lowest point in the Great Barrier Reef, we'll experience the evidence of God's handiwork all around us!

So pack your bags and get ready to go on an atlas adventure! As we encounter each destination, you'll learn new facts about incredible countries, including their awesome landforms, their amazing wild animals, and the interesting people who live there and their contributions to space. You'll even learn words from some of their languages! Most importantly, you'll see God's fingerprints on everything, and each detail you uncover will open your eyes to the wonder of God's creation.

I can't wait to start this quest together. So without further ado . . . away we go!

PASTOR LOUIE





NORTH AMERICA

EUROPE

ASIA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

SOUTH AMERICA

AFRICA

INDIAN OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

AUSTRALIA

ANTARCTICA

SOUTHERN OCEAN

WORLD MAP

Many of the mountain ranges of North America are found on the west side of the continent, and they are called the **North American Cordillera** (core-dee-AIR-uh). These mountain ranges take up a third of the continent and are found in Canada, the US, and Mexico.

The northern regions of North America, like parts of Canada and Greenland, have a more **arctic climate** (this means they're super cold!).

English is the most commonly spoken language across North America, but Spanish and French are also widely spoken.

The tallest structure in North America is the **CN Tower** in Canada at 1,815 feet high. It has 147 stories!

FAITH
About two-thirds of North Americans are **Christians**.

Despite its big size, North America is home to **less than 10%** of the world's population.

North America is home to many major mountain ranges, including the **Rocky Mountains**, the **Appalachian Mountains**, the **Cascades**, the **Sierra Nevada**, the **Brooks Range**, the **Alaska Range**, and the **Sierra Madre** (MAW-dray).

North America is a great place to visit if you love bears, though they aren't the cuddly kind! You can find **black bears**, **brown bears**, and **polar bears** there.

The highest mountain in North America is in Alaska, a state in the United States of America (also known as the USA or the US). Until 2015, this mountain was known as Mount McKinley, but it was renamed **Denali** (den-AH-li), which means "the great one," to honor the name it was originally given by the local Athabascan (ath-uh-BASK-in) people.

Want to explore a cave made of ice? In Alaska, you can check out the **Mendenhall Ice Caves**, which are situated under a glacier! The cave's icy walls are a brilliant blue, and natural springs have formed as the glacier melts.

The largest country in North America is **Canada**, which takes up almost half of the continent!

Niagara Falls is the biggest (by volume) and most famous waterfall in North America.

Death Valley National Park is not only the hottest national park in the US but also the driest. The average high-temperature range in the summer is **100–116 degrees Fahrenheit**. And it gets less than two inches of rainfall each year!

The lowest point in North America is called **Death Valley**. You can visit the Death Valley National Park in California, a western state in the US. Death Valley is a whopping 282 feet below sea level. That's as deep as 26 school buses stacked on top of one another below the surface of the ocean!

North America has some of the oldest rocks on Earth, known as **Precambrian rock**. Geologists believe these rocks date back to Earth's creation!

At 37,000 miles long, **North America's** coastline is the second largest of all the continents in the world, right behind Asia.

American football is the most popular spectator sport in the United States.

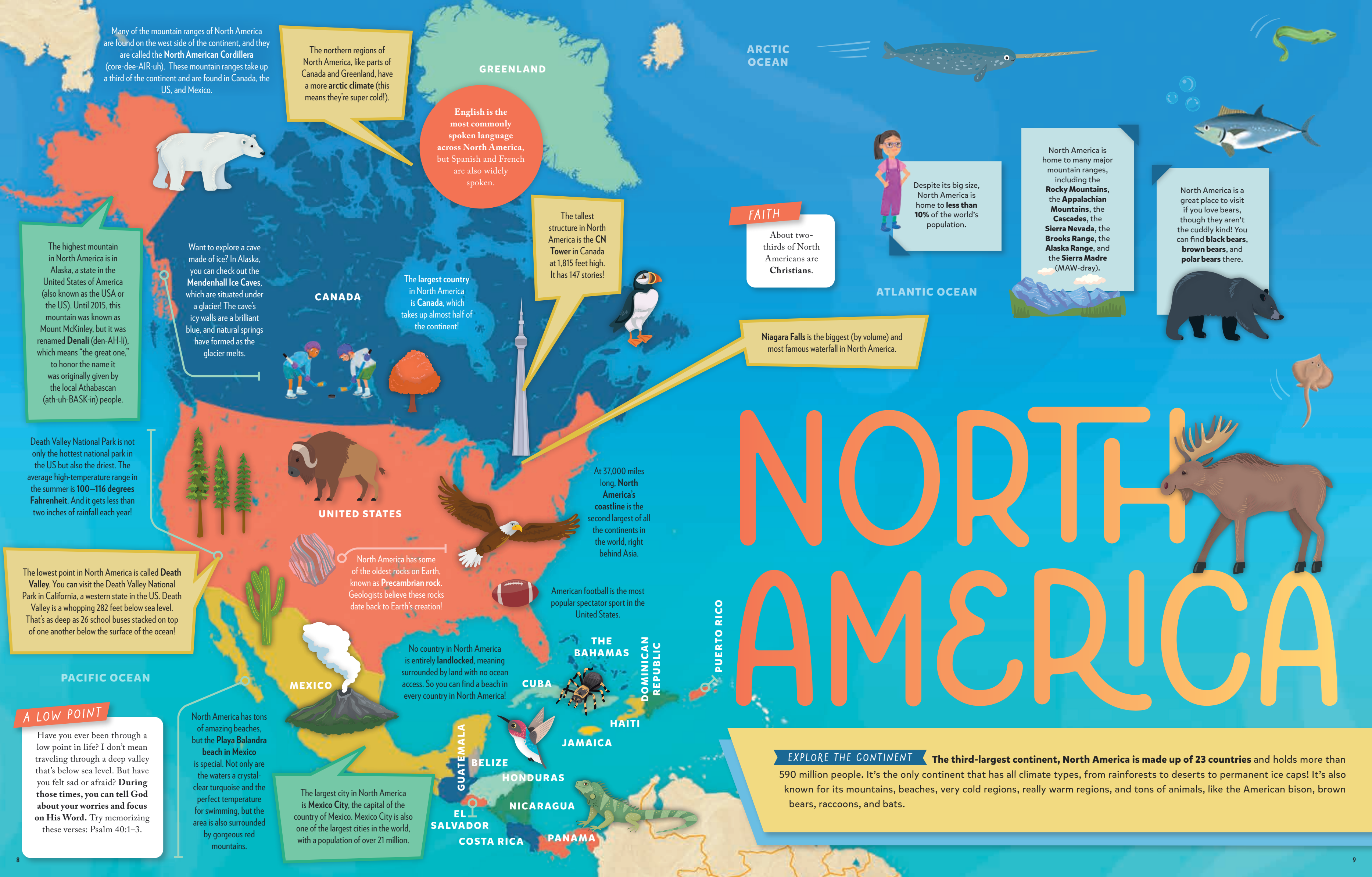
No country in North America is entirely **landlocked**, meaning surrounded by land with no ocean access. So you can find a beach in every country in North America!

North America has tons of amazing beaches, but the **Playa Balandra beach** in Mexico is special. Not only are the waters a crystal-clear turquoise and the perfect temperature for swimming, but the area is also surrounded by gorgeous red mountains.

The largest city in North America is **Mexico City**, the capital of the country of Mexico. Mexico City is also one of the largest cities in the world, with a population of over 21 million.

A LOW POINT
Have you ever been through a low point in life? I don't mean traveling through a deep valley that's below sea level. But have you felt sad or afraid? **During those times, you can tell God about your worries and focus on His Word.** Try memorizing these verses: Psalm 40:1–3.

NORTH AMERICA



The indigenous Canadian communities (indigenous people are communities that are originally from an area), or **First Nations peoples**, have fought hard to preserve their culture through amazing art! Some of their most popular works are beautiful sculptures made from bone, woven baskets, and wood carvings.

On the Arctic Ocean you can find one of the spookiest sights in Canada called the **Smoking Hills**. This strip of red rocks is covered by towers of smoke because the rocks have been burning steadily for centuries due to a chemical reaction between the air and minerals found underground.

FAITH
Canada has no official religion, but more than half of Canadians are Christian.

WISDOM
Darkness can be scary because you can't see where you're going or what you might run into. In life, when you don't know what's ahead, check out **Psalm 119:105**, which says you have a light to guide you—God's Word.

GREENLAND

Nearly 40% of Canada is considered arctic (which means extremely cold). While that part of the country isn't easy to live in, around 200,000 people live there. They are mostly indigenous (in-DIH-jih-nus) nations like the Athabaskan (ath-a-BASK-in), Gwich'in (gwi-CHIN), and Inuit (IHN-yoo-uh).

KEY FACTS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: French and English

CAPITAL CITY: Ottawa

NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES & BODIES OF WATER: United States, Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean

NATIONAL TREE: Maple

NATIONAL BIRD: Gray jay

NATIONAL DISH: Poutine (poo-TEEN), a French-Canadian dish of fries topped with brown gravy and cheese curds



ATLANTIC OCEAN



LOVE

We're called to be mimics—but not like crows, copying voices around us! Ephesians 5:1-2 says, "**Therefore be imitators of God**, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you" (NASB).

CANADA

EXPLORE THE COUNTRY Canada is at the northernmost part of the continent of North America. Though the country takes up half of North America, its population is only 38 million people, which is roughly the same population as the US state of California. Known for its spectacular natural beauty, Canada has more lakes than every other country in the entire world combined! Even sweeter, Canada produces 75% of the world's maple syrup, thanks to its wealth of maple trees.

OTTAWA ★

Canada has a permanent spot on the **International Space Station (ISS)**, a giant research lab that orbits the Earth. Aboard the ISS, Canadian astronauts use robots to help develop technology for surgeons to use in tricky surgeries.

AMERICAN CROWS

You can frequently spot American crows in Canada. These smart birds can solve problems, use tools, and recognize faces. They are also talented mimics, which means they can copy sounds and voices that they hear.

SIX-SPOTTED TIGER BEETLES

When six-spotted tiger beetles become adults, they hunt their prey (which is other kinds of insects), but when they are just young larvae, these beetles dig a hole in the ground, wait for a snack to come by, and then pounce on their dinner.



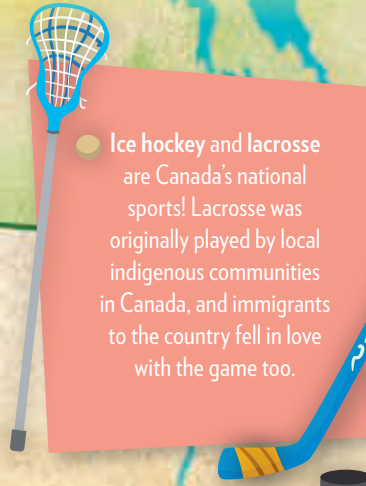
FREDERICK BANTING

LIFESPAN: November 14, 1891–February 21, 1941

BIRTHPLACE: Alliston, Ontario, Canada

Though he planned to become a pastor, Frederick studied medicine instead. He and his colleagues discovered insulin, which has helped millions of people with diabetes live longer, healthier lives. Because of this discovery, he became the youngest person to win a Nobel Prize in Medicine, receiving the award at age 32.

Ice hockey and lacrosse are Canada's national sports! Lacrosse was originally played by local indigenous communities in Canada, and immigrants to the country fell in love with the game too.



UNITED STATES

BEARS

Canada is home to four bear species: American brown bears (including grizzly bears), black bears, polar bears, and Kermode bears.

FAITH

In Churchill, Manitoba, polar bear sightings are so common that most people don't lock the doors to their home or car in case a bear chases them and they have to run to the nearest shelter. Hopefully you won't ever face a big polar bear in the wild, but you will face hard times in your life. **And just like the people in Churchill, you've got a place to hide when things get tough.** Nahum 1:7 says that God "gives protection in times of trouble" (TCB).

MOOSE

Moose are found almost everywhere in Canada and are even considered a Canadian symbol. A male moose can weigh up to 1,400 pounds and can run up to 35 miles per hour!



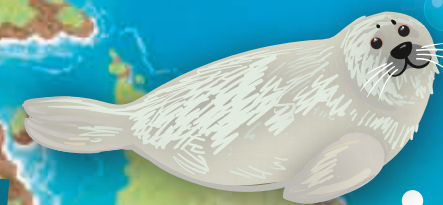
ATLANTIC PUFFINS

An Atlantic puffin can fit 61 fish inside its bill at one time. Talk about taking a big bite!



HARP SEALS

In the summers, you can find adorable harp seals in Canada. Baby harp seals, or pups, are born with fluffy white fur, but they lose this cute coat by the time they are three weeks old.



The **Pingualuit (peen-gwa-LEW-it) Crater Lake** was formed when a meteorite crashed into the surface of the Earth a long time ago. This perfectly round lake gets its water only from rainfall (so no rivers flow into the lake), and it's one of the clearest lakes in the world.



LEARN THE LANGUAGE

FRENCH CANADIAN SLANG

C'EST LE FUN (SEH-lah fuhn): it's awesome

METS-EN (MEH ohn): for sure

JASER (JEH-zee): to chat

PACIFIC OCEAN

UNITED STATES

ARCTIC OCEAN

UNITED STATES

EXPLORE THE COUNTRY

The United States of America (USA or US) is situated between Canada and Mexico and has over 330 million people living in it. It has the third-largest population of any country in the world! Known as "the melting pot," the US has many cultures and races represented in one nation. The terrain varies across the land: to the west you'll find deserts, in the southeast you'll find tropical beaches, and to the north you can find chilly mountain peaks. This also means the animal life is diverse, with American bison, brown bears, and even bald eagles found in the country.

WESTERN SKINK LIZARDS

The Western skink lizard can escape predators by using something called autotomy, which means it can detach its own tail in self-defense. The detached tail will keep moving around, distracting predators so the skink can escape!



The longest river in the US is the Missouri River, measuring at an amazing 2,341 miles long. The river begins in the Rocky Mountains in Montana and ends near St. Louis, where it joins the Mississippi River.

BALD EAGLES

You might assume the bald eagle has an intimidating call (or sound), but these birds actually have an unimpressive high-pitched chirp or whistle. In fact, most movies that feature the sound of a bald-eagle cry use recordings of a red-tailed hawk.



CANADA

The biggest lake in the US is Lake Superior, covering 31,700 square miles.

AMERICAN BISON

The American bison is the national mammal of the US. It is the largest mammal in North America, and a male bison (or bull) can weigh around 2,000 pounds.



ROCKY MOUNTAINS



PINK RATTLESNAKES

Don't let the cute color fool you! The pink rattlesnake is just as venomous as any other rattlesnake, but its color helps it blend in with the rocks of the Grand Canyon, so it's harder to spot.

The US is home to the Grand Canyon, a massive canyon (a super-deep valley) found in the state of Arizona. The canyon is 1,904 square miles—bigger than the entire state of Rhode Island!

Though there is no official religion, about 64% of US citizens are Christian.

WASHINGTON, DC



SpaceX is a modern space-exploration company that is working to build a thriving, livable city on the planet Mars by around 2040.

The three major mountain ranges found in the United States are the Rocky Mountains (also called the Rockies), the Appalachian Mountains, and the Sierra Nevada.

In 1969, the US space program, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), sent the Apollo 11 spacecraft to the moon, the first-ever manned moon-landing mission. American astronaut Neil Armstrong was the first man ever to walk on the moon.

The Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building are two of the top tourist attractions in New York City.



KEY FACTS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Though there is no official language, English is most commonly spoken

CAPITAL CITY: Washington, DC

NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES & BODIES OF WATER: Canada, Mexico, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico

NATIONAL TREE: Oak

NATIONAL BIRD: Bald eagle

NATIONAL DISH: Though there is no official national dish, the US is known for hamburgers and apple pie



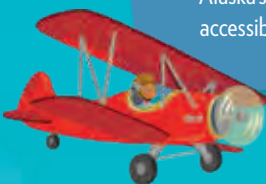
ALASKA

The US government recognizes 574 different indigenous people groups. About 40% of these groups are found in Alaska.

Redwood National and State Parks in California are home to redwood forests that house the tallest tree on Earth, known as Hyperion. Hyperion is 380 feet tall. You'd have to stack almost 38 basketball goals on top of one another to reach that height!

CANADA

You can't drive to Juneau, Alaska. Alaska's state capital is only accessible by plane or boat!



PACIFIC OCEAN

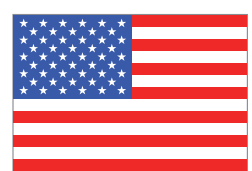


BILLY GRAHAM

LIFESPAN: November 7, 1918–February 21, 2018

BIRTHPLACE: Charlotte, North Carolina

Billy was an evangelist (a person who tells others about Jesus) who traveled the world with the message that anyone who believed in Jesus could be saved. His simple but powerful message helped lead many people to Christ.



LEARN THE LANGUAGE

AMERICAN IDIOMS

An idiom is a word or phrase that means something different from what it literally says.

YOU HAVE ANTS IN YOUR PANTS: This means you can't sit still.

I'M ALL EARS: This lets someone know you are ready to listen.

IT COSTS AN ARM AND A LEG: This means something is expensive.

IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE: This describes something easy to do.

GULF OF MEXICO



MANATEES

At the Chassahowitzka (CHASS-uh-how-ITZ-kuh) National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, you can spot manatees along the Gulf Coast during the winter. Even though manatees are huge creatures sometimes called sea cows, they are believed to be the source of a lot of old mermaid folktales.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

HAWAII

There are 169 active volcanoes in the US! In fact, one of the most active volcanoes on Earth, Kilauea (kee-la-WAY-uh), is found in Hawaii.

Because of the many cultures found in the US, the music is incredibly diverse, with genres like jazz, hip-hop, country, bluegrass, R&B, gospel, and rock and roll.

AMAZING

CUBA

CHRIST'S LOVE

Ephesians 3:18 says, "I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love. I pray that you can understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is" (ICB). Whenever you need to remember how wide, long, high, and deep God's love for you is, just picture how great the Grand Canyon is!

HAITI

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

LIFESPAN: January 15, 1929–April 4, 1968

BIRTHPLACE: Atlanta, Georgia

Dr. King was a pastor and key leader in the civil rights movement in the US. The movement fought for equality for all Americans by targeting unjust laws that oppressed Black citizens. Dr. King's faith in God gave him courage to fight against unfair laws and to do the right thing.

CARIBBEAN SEA

MEXICO



EXPLORE THE COUNTRY Located south of the United States, Mexico has a population of approximately 129 million people. About 60% of the population is Mestizo, people with a mix of Native American and Spanish blood. Mexico's land has high mountains, deep valleys, dry deserts, and dense rainforests. You can find beautiful plants across the country, from short grasses and bright-green ferns to prickly cacti and unique trees, including the boojum tree. It's also home to a wide range of animals, from monkeys and anteaters to rabbits and armadillos!



EMILIANO ZAPATA

LIFESPAN: August 8, 1879–April 10, 1919
BIRTHPLACE: Anenecuilco, Mexico
Emiliano fought for Mexican independence during the Mexican Revolution from 1910–1920. A strong Catholic, he used his faith as motivation to fight for freedom for his people. To this day, he is one of the most revered revolutionaries (someone who fights for political change) in Mexican history.

Did you know you can visit pyramids in Mexico? In Tulum and Chichén Itzá (CHI-chin EET-za) you can see pyramids from ancient Mayan and Teotihuacán (tee-oh-tee-WA-cahn) civilizations.

One of the most iconic forms of folk music from Mexico is called mariachi (mah-ree-AAH-chee). A mariachi band is made of a group of singers and musicians playing guitars, violins, the bass, trumpets, and a five-string guitar called a vihuela (vuh-WAY-luh). The musicians usually wear suits and sombreros (hats) decorated with silver or gold.

KEY FACTS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish

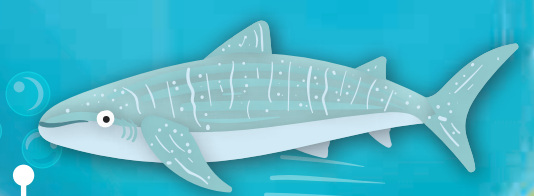
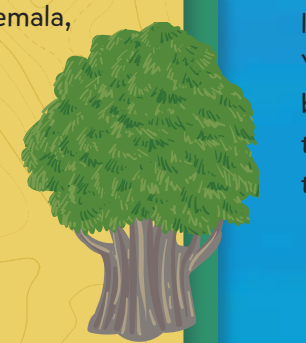
CAPITAL CITY: Mexico City

NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES & BODIES OF WATER: United States, Guatemala, Belize, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Ocean

NATIONAL TREE: Montezuma baldcypress

NATIONAL BIRD: Golden eagle

NATIONAL DISH: Mole (MOE-lay), a sauce that may contain nuts, fruits, chiles, and even chocolate



WHALE SHARKS

Whale sharks can grow up to 59 feet long and weigh around 15 tons (twice as heavy as the average elephant). But don't let their gigantic size scare you! They are filter feeders (meaning they eat tiny organisms found in seawater), so they're harmless to humans.



CACOMISTLES

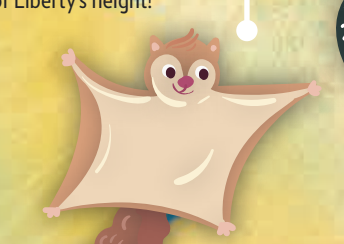
The cacomistle is a mammal in the raccoon family. It weighs only a couple of pounds but can grow up to about 40 inches long, though most of that length comes from its tail. Like raccoons, the cacomistle is nocturnal (meaning active at night) and eats mostly fruits, veggies, and some smaller animals.

UNITED STATES

In Mexico, when a girl turns 15, she marks the occasion with a **quinceañera** (KEENT-say-uh-NYAR-uh), which celebrates that a girl is growing up. Traditionally, the birthday girl would attend a church service, called mass, followed by a party, in which she would wear a beautiful dress and enjoy food, music, and dancing.

FLYING SQUIRRELS

Flying squirrels don't actually fly, but they can spread out their folds of skin to glide from tree to tree. The longest recorded glide was about 295 feet. That's about the same length as the Statue of Liberty's height!



MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Endangered monarch butterflies migrate every year from Canada and the US to central Mexico, where they spend the winter.

AMAZING!

Did you know Mexico City was built on a lake, and the city sinks a little each year? That shows how important it is to build important things on a solid foundation. In Matthew 7:24–27, **Jesus reminded us that we also need to build our lives on a solid foundation**, which is another way of saying we should place our trust, hope, and future plans in Him.

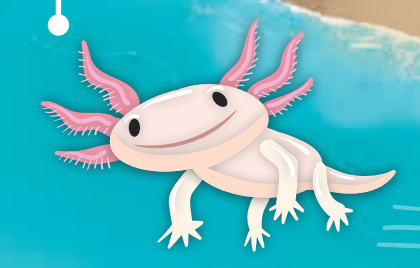
The highest point in Mexico is **Pico de Orizaba** (PEE-co day or-ee-ZAH-bah), an inactive volcano that reaches 18,406 feet above sea level.

Popocatepetl (po-po-ca-TEH-pet-uhl), an active volcano, is the second-highest point in the country at 17,749 feet above sea level.

MEXICO CITY

AXOLOTLS

One of the only places in the world where you can find the axolotl (ax-oh-LAWT-ul) is in Lake Xochimilco (SO-chee-MEEL-co) in Mexico City! These members of the salamander family may look like lizards, but they have gills, so they live underwater.



MIGUEL HIDALGO Y COSTILLA

LIFESPAN: May 8, 1753–July 30, 1811
BIRTHPLACE: Guanajuato, Mexico
Miguel was a Catholic priest who worked hard for political change. His fight for Mexico's freedom from Spanish rule was so influential that he is known as the "father of Mexican independence."



The lowest point in Mexico is the **Laguna Salada** (meaning "salty lagoon"), which sits 33 feet below sea level. This lake is in the middle of a desert, so when it completely dries up, dust storms can occur.

In Sonora, Mexico, you can see the **boojum tree**, which looks like an upside-down carrot. The tree is covered in spines that produce yellow flowers that grow in bunches. It also has a hollow trunk where bees love to build nests.



Mexico is part of the **Ring of Fire**, which is a horseshoe-shaped area of the Pacific Ocean where volcanoes and earthquakes are common. A whopping 75% of active volcanoes and 90% of earthquakes occur along the Ring of Fire!

Hidden Beach is a unique beach in a big cavern into which waters from the Pacific Ocean flow. The only way to reach Hidden Beach is by swimming or kayaking down a long water tunnel.

LEARN THE LANGUAGE

SPANISH

BUENOS DÍAS (bwe-NOS DEE-ahs): good morning

BUENOS TARDES (bwe-NOS TAR-deyz): good afternoon

BUENOS NOCHES (bwe-NOS NO-cheyz): good evening

KEY FACTS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish

CAPITAL CITY: San José

NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES & BODIES OF WATER: Nicaragua, Panama, Caribbean Sea, Pacific Ocean

NATIONAL TREE: Guanacaste

NATIONAL BIRD: Clay-colored thrush, known as the yigüirro

NATIONAL DISH: Gallo pinto (ga-YO peen-toh), a dish served mainly for breakfast made of black beans and fried rice



In 2021, Costa Rica announced that it would be developing its own space program, focusing on peaceful space-exploration missions, new technology, and research to find ways to use Earth's resources responsibly.

Costa Rica got rid of its military in 1948 and created an "army of teachers" instead. And that army has done good work! Costa Rica has one of the highest literacy (which means people can read and write) rates in Latin America! (Latin America includes Mexico, Central America, South America, and some neighboring islands.)

The Arenal Volcano was the most active volcano in Costa Rica from 1968 until 2010, but it's now in a "resting" phase. This means it isn't at risk of erupting in the near future.

Rio Celeste, which means "light blue river," runs through the Tenorio Volcano National Park. The nearby volcanic activity produces lots of sulfur and carbonate, which turns the river's waters a stunning turquoise color.

SLOTHS

Costa Rica is home to two species of sloth: the brown-throated three-toed sloth and the Hoffman's two-toed sloth. You'll usually find sloths hanging upside down from tree branches, but you might spot them swimming in a river!

BE STILL

Sloths are known for their slow movements, and sometimes we need to slow down too. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God" (ICB). So whether you're busy with schoolwork or sports or something else, take some time to talk to God. Thank Him for every good thing He has given you.



JORGE VOLIO JIMÉNEZ

LIFESPAN: August 26, 1882–October 20, 1955

BIRTHPLACE: Cartago, Costa Rica

Jorge became a priest in 1909, using his faith and education to fight for justice. Later he became a journalist and professor and worked hard for the fair treatment of the poor and for equality among Costa Rican citizens.

PACIFIC OCEAN

NICARAGUA

TOUCANS

Six species of toucan are found in Costa Rica, but the largest is the black-mandibled toucan, also known as the yellow-throated toucan, which can grow up to two feet tall.

The "air plants" in Costa Rica don't have any roots to keep them in the ground. Instead, they root themselves to a nearby plant or tree and get nutrients from the rain and air.

CARIBBEAN SEA

SAN JOSÉ

Mount Chirripó (chee-REE-poh) is the highest point in Costa Rica, reaching an impressive 12,532 feet high. You'd have to stack the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt on top of itself over 27 times to reach that height!

GET ROOTED

Air plants stay alive by rooting themselves to living things around them. As Christians, we get the opportunity to root ourselves to God! **Jeremiah 17:7–8** says, "Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream" (NIV).

PANAMA

POISONOUS DART FROGS

Poisonous dart frogs are incredibly colorful and emit a deadly toxin from their skin. The strawberry poison dart frog is mostly red with dark blueish-purple legs, so it's sometimes known as the blue jeans frog.

FAITH

Though Costa Rica has no national religion, **about 85% are Christians.**

LEARN THE LANGUAGE

SPANISH

Spanish is the primary language of Costa Rica, but a unique part of Costa Rican Spanish is the use of "tico" or "tica" at the end of some words, which means something is cute or tiny.

PERRITICO (PARE-uh-TEE-coh): little dog

GATICO (gah-TEE-coh): little cat

AMIGITO (AH-mih-GEE-toh): little friend

CAIMANS

Caimans are cousins to crocodiles, but they're much smaller, only reaching about six feet in length. You'll find these creatures relaxing on the shores of rivers and swamps.

Costa Ricans are serious about protecting the Earth and have set aside over 25% of the land as wildlife preserves and national parks. That percentage of protected land is larger than any other country's in the world!

COSTA RICA



EXPLORE THE COUNTRY

Costa Rica is in the southern tip of North America. It has a population of more than 5 million and has the highest percentage of people of Spanish descent of any Central American country. (Central America is the southern region of North America, between Mexico and South America.) Costa Rica's beautiful coastal plains are separated by mountains and several active volcanoes. And it's home to incredible wildlife, from sloths and toucans to weasels and iguanas.