Day 3 – Main Point Reading

Physical Features

It’s safe to say that the United States has a very unique landscape. From the west coast to the east, the land is covered with different physical features. These physical features are often identified by measuring their height. Whether it’s our points, such as the mountains or our flatter locations known as the plains, every physical feature within the U.S. can be identified and understood by its established height and location.

Starting with the lowlands, a vast majority of the United States’ physical appearance can be defined by the ginormous area of open flat space known as the plains or more properly, the Great Plains. The Great Plains or flatlands of America extend from the Midwest region nearly all the way to the east coast. The eastern section of the plains is cutoff by a mountain range known as the Appalachians.

The western region of the Great Plains can be traced to the state of Colorado. Colorado is also the state known as the “Rocky Mountain State.” This state houses some of the highest, most majestic mountain views in America. These tall mountains are measured in height based off of the elevation of the sea. The sea has an average, flat level in which we establish the heights of specific points in the United States. This form of measurement is known as the sea level. Using this tool in geography you can define the height of the lowest level of land that surround the higher elevation points known as valleys or basins. You can also use the sea level to establish the height of the highest mountain peaks or highest points of elevation within a mountain range.

In the United States, we can determine what a sea level is based off of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. But we can also use a different variation of the sea known as a Gulf. A gulf is an area of the ocean that is partly enclosed by land and is generally larger than a bay.

