**United States and Canada**

Sites of Cultural Significance

Cities as Centers of Culture and Trade

Toronto, Ontario

            On the northern shore of Lake Ontario

            Canada’s largest city—population of 4.7 million; 5th largest in North America

            Nearly the same latitude as northern California.

            Home to over 100 cultural groups

            One fourth of Canada’s population is within 100 miles of Toronto

            English, Spanish, Chinese, Italian, Tamil, Portuguese, and Spanish spoken in Toronto

CN Tower—world’s tallest building

Montreal, Quebec

            World’s 2nd largest French speaking city after Paris

            Grew because of situation along St. Lawrence River

            2nd largest city in Canada, largest in Quebec

            Multicultural and bilingual city

            Economic center, hosts many international events

            Major center of higher education

Ottawa, Ontario

            Capital city of Canada

            Location of Parliament, other government buildings

            Fourth largest city (around 1 million people)

Quebec City, Quebec

            Major center of French culture

            Chateau Frontenac

            Ethnic makeup:  almost entirely white

Vancouver, British Columbia

            Largest city in western Canada

            North America’s 2nd largest west coast port behind Los Angeles

            2nd largest film production city in North America after Hollywood

            Host of 2010 Winter Olympics

            Canada’s most expensive city to live in

            Multicultural city; substantial minority of immigrants from Asia

            Highest standard of living of any city in North America

Washington, D.C.

            Capital of United States; center of US national government

            Built along Potomac River

            Home of Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, US Capitol Building, other famous sites

            60% African-American, 33% White

            Very high crime rate

            3 major airports; Metro system

Chicago

            Located on shore of Lake Michigan

            3rd largest US city behind New York and Los Angeles

            “Windy City”

            Major financial center and shipment point between agricultural Midwest and manufacturing East

            Ethnic makeup:  similar numbers of White, African-American, and Hispanic

New York City

            Harbor city

            Most highly populated city in United States

            Home of United Nations

            Major financial center with stock exchanges, business headquarters, media outlets

            Large immigrant population from over 180 countries

            Statue of Liberty

            Low crime rate compared to other major US cities

            Subway—commuter city; cars less popular than in other major US cities because of congestion

Los Angeles

            2nd largest population of US cities; largest geographically

                        Reason city sprawls outward instead of building skyscrapers like New York:                                                  Earthquakes

            Major immigration point; one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world

            High Hispanic population

            Heavy reliance on automobiles; causes pollution

            Major gang problem

            Major media center:  Hollywood, television, news outlets

Cultural Landscape

U.S. Capitol Building

            Washington, D.C.

            Home of United States Congress

Golden Gate Bridge

            Connects San Francisco with Marin County, CA

            1.7 mile long suspension bridge

Independence Hall

            Philadelphia, PA

            Hosted the creation of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence

            Liberty Bell stands in front of it

St. Louis Gateway Arch

            St. Louis, MO

            Marks the “Gateway to the West”; commemorates start of Lewis and Clark Expedition

Wheat Fields

            Found throughout the Midwest; US is major producers of wheat

Skyscrapers

            Found in many North American cities; symbols of economic strength

Shopping Malls

            Symbols of capitalism; found in many North American cities

Bilingual Signs

            Found throughout Canada (English and French)

            Found in some areas of US with high immigrant populations

Influence of Automobile

            Gas Stations

            Motels

            Interstate Highways

            Drive-up Services