Name _____ Date _____

Major Rivers and Mountain Ranges of the United States

Directions: There are two tables: one for rivers and one for mountains. Each group of questions shows the one it needs.

Five Major Rivers

Five major rivers of the United States: where each begins, where it ends and one fact about it

River	Where it begins	Where it ends	One fact
Ohio River	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where two rivers join	The Mississippi River, at Cairo, Illinois	Big cities on its banks include Cincinnati, Ohio, and Louisville, Kentucky.
Missouri River	Three Forks, Montana, where three rivers join	The Mississippi River, near St. Louis, Missouri	Lewis and Clark traveled up it in 1804 and 1805.
Rio Grande	The San Juan Mountains of Colorado	The gulf off the coast of southern Texas	It forms the border between Texas and Mexico.
Colorado River	Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado	Northwest Mexico, near the Gulf of California	Over millions of years, it carved the Grand Canyon in Arizona.
Columbia River	Columbia Lake, in British Columbia, Canada	The Pacific Ocean, at Astoria, Oregon	It forms much of the border between Washington and Oregon.

1. Two rivers meet at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A new river starts there. Which river is it?

A. Rio Grande B. Missouri River C. Ohio River D. Columbia River

2. Which river forms the border between Texas and Mexico?

A. Ohio River B. Columbia River C. Colorado River D. Rio Grande

3. Which river carved the Grand Canyon over millions of years?

A. Rio Grande B. Colorado River C. Missouri River D. Columbia River

4. The Columbia River ends at the Pacific Ocean. Near its end, it runs between two states. Which two?

A. Idaho and Montana B. Washington and Oregon

C. Oregon and California D. Washington and Idaho

5. Finish the sentences about two rivers that end the same way.

Word bank

Mississippi • Columbia • Montana • Colorado

The Missouri River begins in _____, where three smaller rivers join. Like the Ohio River, it ends by flowing into the _____ River.

Five Mountain Ranges

Five mountain ranges of the United States: where each one is, a famous peak and one more fact

Mountain range	Where it is	A famous peak	One more fact
Appalachian Mountains	The East, from Alabama north into Canada	Mount Mitchell, North Carolina: the highest peak east of the Mississippi River	The Appalachian Trail follows them from Georgia to Maine.
Rocky Mountains	The West, from New Mexico north into Canada	Mount Elbert, Colorado: the highest peak in the Rockies	The Continental Divide runs along their high ridges.
Sierra Nevada	Eastern California	Mount Whitney, California: the highest peak in any state except Alaska	Giant sequoias, the biggest trees on Earth, grow on its western slopes.
Cascade Range	Northern California, Oregon and Washington, north into Canada	Mount St. Helens, Washington: a volcano that erupted in 1980	Many of its tallest peaks are volcanoes.
Alaska Range	Southern Alaska	North America's tallest mountain, more than 20,000 feet high	Huge glaciers flow down many of its valleys.

6. Match each famous peak to its mountain range.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Mount Mitchell
2. _____ Mount Elbert
3. _____ Mount Whitney
4. _____ Mount St. Helens

A. Sierra Nevada
B. Alaska Range
C. Cascade Range
D. Rocky Mountains
E. Appalachian Mountains

7. Which range in the table holds the tallest mountain in North America?

A. Rocky Mountains
B. Alaska Range
C. Cascade Range
D. Sierra Nevada

8. Most rain that falls west of the Continental Divide flows toward the Pacific Ocean. The table says the divide runs along one range. Which one?

A. Rocky Mountains
B. Sierra Nevada
C. Alaska Range
D. Appalachian Mountains

9. According to the table, giant sequoias, the biggest trees on Earth, grow on the western slopes of one range. Which range is it?

A. Rocky Mountains
B. Sierra Nevada
C. Appalachian Mountains
D. Cascade Range