

Lesson

1

Interpreting Resource Maps

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

To gain and use information about places from resource maps

READING STRATEGY

Create a flowchart like the one below. Fill in each step involved in reading a resource map.



TERMS TO KNOW

resource, resource map, natural resource, manufacturing

We get information about places and regions in many different ways. One way to learn about a place is by a study of its **resources**. Resources are things people use—crops, minerals, animals, or plants. A **resource map** shows the things found or produced in an area. However, resource maps do not show exact locations, nor do they show every place where a resource is found. They show the general area, or sometimes the most important places where the resources are found.

Importance of Natural Resources

Natural resources are naturally occurring elements or substances that are found on Earth. The soil, water, plants, and animals are all natural resources. So are minerals such as gold, iron, and coal. People use natural resources in many ways. For example, farmers use soil, water, and animals to grow crops. Many natural resources are also used in **manufacturing**, the creation of products. Iron ore and coal are used to make steel, which is then used to make many other things, from cars to school desks.

The resources that are found in a particular place have a great deal to do with the way people in that place make a living. An area with much iron ore and coal may be a center of steelmaking. An area with rich soil and water may be a prosperous farming area.

Reading Resource Maps

You can compare the location of resources on a resource map with information on other types of maps, such as political, climate, or population density maps. This allows you to easily understand how the distribution of natural resources influences, or is influenced by other factors. You can also get an idea about a place's economic activities and the people's standard of living.

To read a resource map, you first need to identify the geographic area shown on the map. Some resource maps may include small areas such as a city or state. Others may include several countries or regions. Then look at the map legend to understand all colors, symbols, and patterns used on the map. Study the map to determine what resources are predominant in each area on the map. Are some resources concentrated in a particular place? Finally, compare the map to other maps showing physical features, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Draw conclusions about the interaction of humans with the environment.

Using Your Skills

A PRACTICING MAP SKILLS

Use **Map 5-1: Natural Resources of the United States and Canada** on page 162 to answer the questions.

1. In which part of the United States is bauxite found?

2. What natural resource does Canada have that the United States does not? _____
3. What natural resource does the United States have that Canada does not? _____
4. Describe the relationship between mountainous areas and the location of coal in the United States. _____
5. What do Hawaii's resources tell you about the state's economic activities? _____

B PRACTICING MAP SKILLS

Use **Map 5-2: Agriculture and Manufacturing in Western Europe** on page 163 to answer the questions.

1. What resources are found in Greece?

2. What resources are found in Finland?

3. In which countries are potatoes grown?

4. What do most of the manufacturing centers have in common?

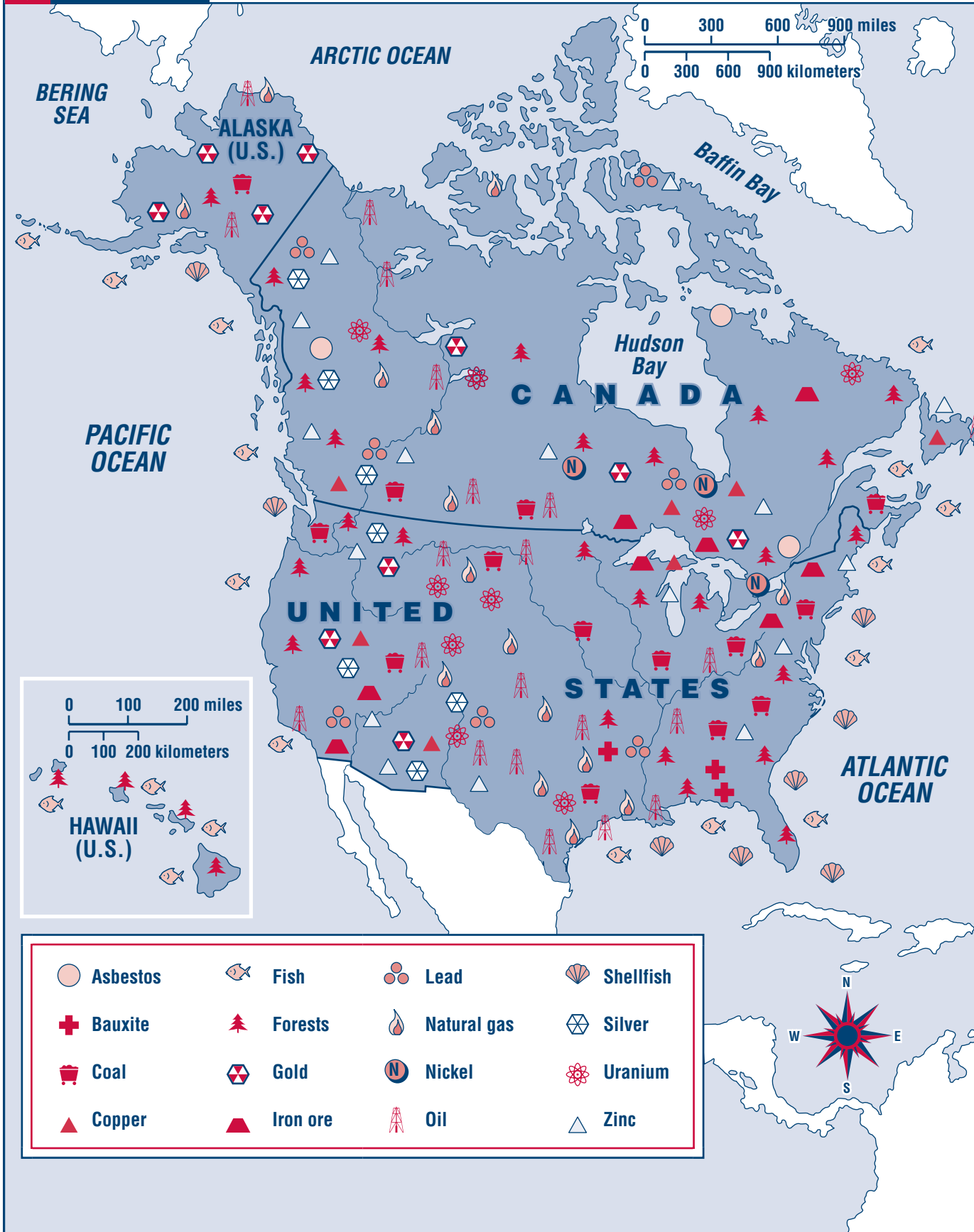
5. In which countries are citrus fruits grown?

6. Think about the climate of countries along the Mediterranean Sea. How does this affect the types of food grown in this area?



MAP 5-1

Natural Resources of the United States and Canada





MAP 5-2

Agriculture and Manufacturing in Western Europe

B Barley

Livestock

Olives

Sugar beets

Citrus fruits

Manufacturing center

Potatoes

Tobacco

Corn

Oats

R Rye

Wheat

Grapes



C PRACTICING MAP SKILLS

Use **Map 5-3: Natural Resources of North Africa and Southwest Asia** below to answer the questions.

1. What natural resources are found in Saudi Arabia?

2. What natural resources are found in Iraq?

3. What natural resource seems to be the most widespread?

4. In which countries is zinc found?

5. In which countries is fish a resource?

