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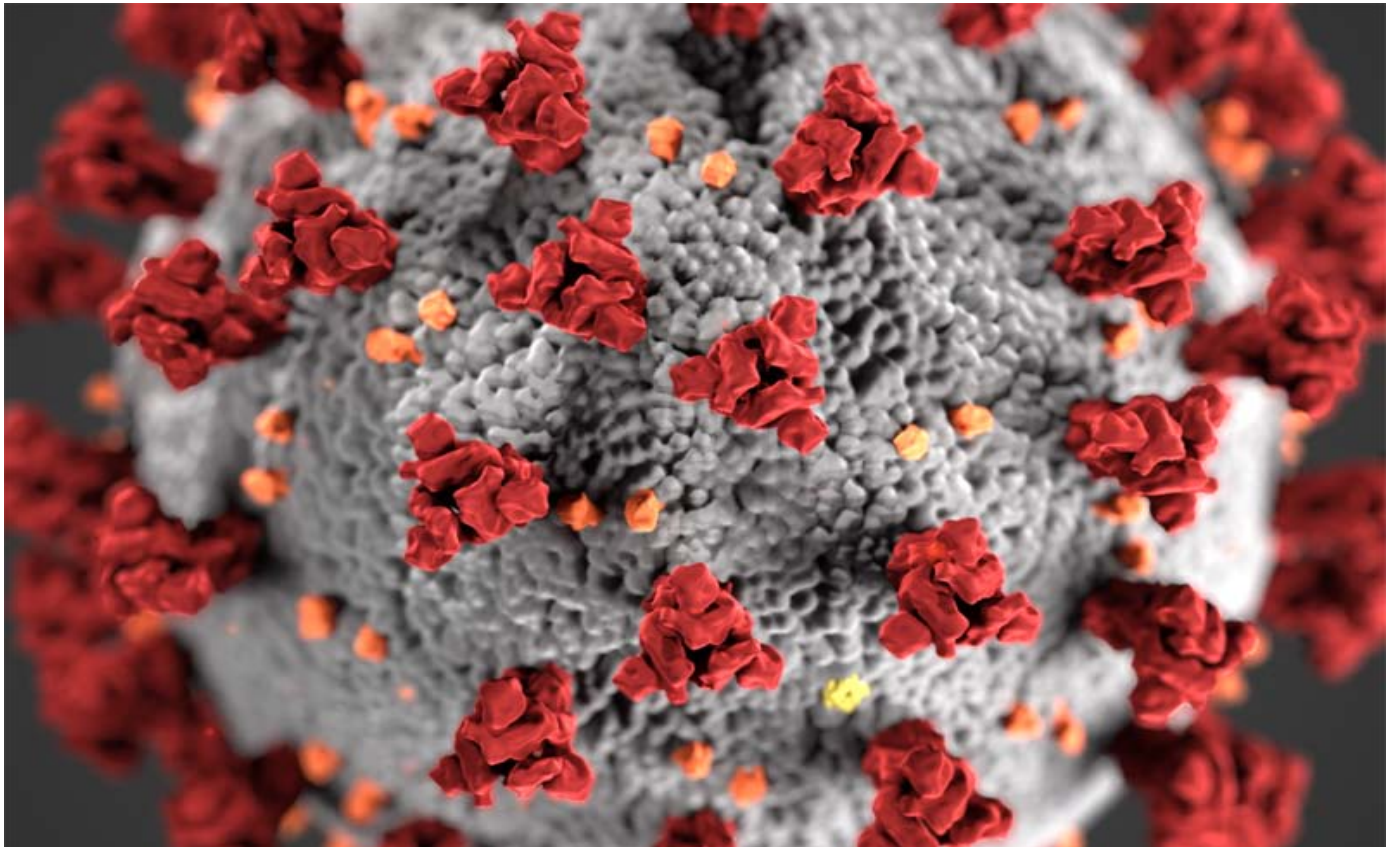
Monthly News

NATIONAL

FOR GRADES 5, 6 & 7

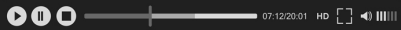
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APRIL 2020



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Video



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NATIONAL

COVID-19 and Canada's Economy

In early March, the Bank of Canada reduced its interest rate by half a percent. The cut will make it cheaper for Canadians to borrow money. The move is in response to the economic threat of COVID-19.

COVID-19 is the coronavirus that started in China in December 2019. The virus causes symptoms of fever and coughing. In some cases, it can lead to **pneumonia**. In about 80 percent of the cases, the symptoms are mild.

There have been more than 200,000 confirmed cases of illness from COVID-19 around the world. As of March 18, there were 645 cases in Canada.

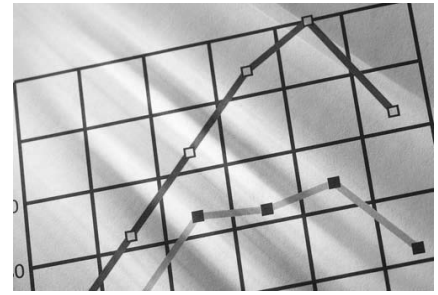
Health officials are bracing for the impact. Some experts believe COVID-19 is likely to spread around the entire world. Canada is getting ready. Hospitals are on alert

and the federal government recently announced \$20 million for COVID-19 research.

While people's health is the main concern, there is also concern about the impact the virus will have on the economy.

As it battled with the coronavirus, China temporarily closed many of its factories. This **disrupted** production of everything from iPhones to cars. People are being advised to travel only when necessary. A number of business conferences have been cancelled—and more cancellations of big events could be coming.

With people travelling less, going out to movies and restaurants less, product shortages, cancelled meetings, and people staying home from work, it could affect both the global and the Canadian economy. Stock markets around the world



already have seen prices drop.

The Bank of Canada interest rate cut is designed to counter this effect by encouraging spending by people and businesses. Other countries have introduced interest rate cuts as well. Economists are hopeful the economic effects of the virus will be short-term, but at this point, nobody knows. ★



DID YOU KNOW

The Bank of Canada was created in 1934.

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Video



WORD POWER

PNEUMONIA: A condition in which the lungs become inflamed and a watery fluid collects in them.

DISRUPTED: Disturbed the orderly course of something.

INTERNATIONAL

Egypt Reopens Oldest Pyramid

In early March, Egypt reopened its oldest pyramid to the public. The Pyramid of Djoser had been closed for 14 years. It is believed to be the first pyramid ever built: constructed about 4700 years ago. It was built during the era of Pharaoh Djoser, one of ancient Egypt's rulers.

The pyramid had been closed so that it could be restored. Back in 2006, the pyramid was nearing collapse. In addition to age, it had been neglected for decades. It had also been damaged by an earthquake in 1992. As a result, the Egyptian government started a project to restore the pyramid back to its former glory.

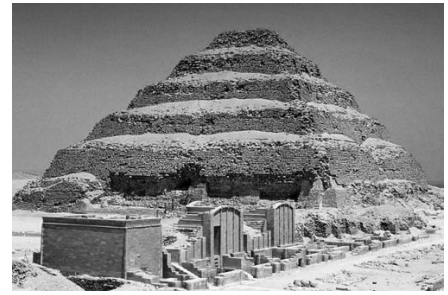
The Pyramid of Djoser is not the biggest, most famous, or most visited pyramid, but it is very important for historical and cultural reasons. In addition to being the world's

first pyramid, it is believed to be the first large building in the world made entirely of stone. It also was designed by an ancient Egyptian named Imhotep. He is described by some as the world's first **architect**.

The pyramid stands 60 metres high. It consists of six stacked steps that cover an underground tomb. The tomb is 28 metres underground. Experts are amazed at how the Egyptians were able to build such complex structures that have stood for thousands of years.

To restore the structure, experts used materials like steel rods and **mortar** to strengthen crumbling blocks in the ceilings and corridors. Rubble was also removed from the building. A new lighting system was added, as well as handicap access.

The pyramids are a vital part of Egypt's culture and



history. They are also the country's top tourist attraction. That tourism has suffered in recent years as political unrest and violence have made some visitors fearful of going to Egypt. The government is hoping to change that impression with a renewed focus on its heritage. ★



DID YOU KNOW

The Pyramid of Djoser is also known as the Step Pyramid. It is recognized as a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**.

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Video



WORD POWER

ARCHITECT: A person who designs buildings and supervises the building's construction.

MORTAR: A building material that can be spread between bricks and stones and hardens to hold them together.

WORLD HERITAGE SITE, UNESCO: A natural

or man-made site, area, or structure recognized as being of outstanding international importance and therefore as deserving special protection.

ENVIRONMENT

Tornadoes Hit Tennessee

Flipped cars, broken trees, and **debris** from homes littered the streets while residents of northeastern Tennessee assessed the damage. Two tornadoes raged through Nashville and Putnam County after midnight on March 3, 2020.

Storms are common this time of year in parts of the U.S. In the southern states, tornado season runs from March through May. In Tennessee, tornadoes can hit anytime.

Tornadoes are formed from a type of thunderstorm with a tall stack of clouds and a swirling updraft of warm air in the centre. In certain weather conditions, the updraft of warm air becomes a **vortex**. As the vortex grows, it tilts and pulls warm air up in spirals. This pushes cool air down. Tension between the warm and cool air forces the

cool air to compress and swirl faster. When the swirling cool air is forced all the way down to the ground, it becomes a tornado.

Tornadoes can last a few minutes, or a few hours and they cause a lot of damage. Their winds can go up to 480 kilometres per hour! They move forward at an average speed of 38 kilometres per hour, but they can go as fast as 112 kilometres per hour.

The tornadoes that ran through Nashville and Putnam County formed in the middle of the night while people were sleeping, so there was very little time to get to shelter. Winds of 265 kilometres per hour tore through the region. About 40,000 people were left without power.

By the next morning, rescue crews were checking on people's houses and digging through rubble. Rebuilding crews and volunteers were



clearing up debris from broken trees and tattered houses. Schools, transportation services, and courts were closed because of damages, and shelters were opened up for people who were **displaced** by the storm. ★



DID YOU KNOW

Deadly storms also hit Nashville in 1933, 1998, and 2008.

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Video



WORD POWER

DEBRIS: Broken, scattered remains; rubble.

VORTEX: A swirling mass of water or air.

DISPLACED: To be removed or forced to leave one's home.

FEATURE

Meet Penny Oleksiak



Source: Olympic.ca

At the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Canadian swimmer Penny Oleksiak won four medals. One of them was gold. She also set the Olympic record for the fastest 100-metre individual **freestyle** race. She was 16 years old at the time. The accomplishment made her Canada's youngest Olympic gold medallist ever.

Now 19, Oleksiak has high expectations for herself heading into the 2020 Summer Olympics. The games are scheduled for this August in Tokyo, Japan.

If Oleksiak wins two more Olympic medals, she will have won more Summer Olympic medals than any other Canadian. If she wins three Olympic medals, she will **surpass** Cindy Klassen and Clara Hughes (who each won six Olympic medals) to become the most decorated

Olympian in Canadian history.

Oleksiak was born in 2000, in Toronto, Ontario. After learning to swim at a neighbour's pool, Oleksiak took up the sport at the age of nine. She joined the Toronto Olympian Swim Club and began specializing in the freestyle and butterfly swim strokes.

Since 2016, Oleksiak has earned a total of five medals at the 2017 and 2019 World Aquatics Championships. She hasn't had quite the same individual success, as all five medals were in **relay** events. Oleksiak notes she has had to deal with the fact that her body has changed since she was 16. She has grown a lot and had to learn how to train her strokes differently.

Oleksiak also took the summer of 2018 off from swimming. It allowed her to be just a teenager for a bit. The time off also helped her

get mentally prepared for the hard training needed to get to the next Summer Olympic Games.

Oleksiak is part of an extremely strong group of young female Canadian swimmers heading into Tokyo. ★



DID YOU KNOW

Oleksiak's success at the 2016 Olympics led to her being awarded the 2016 Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete.

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Video



WORD POWER

FREESTYLE: In theory, a swimmer can swim whatever stroke they want, but usually it means the front crawl, which is the fastest stroke.

SURPASS: To be better or greater than.

RELAY: A swimming event in which four athletes compete as a team to complete the race in the fastest combined time possible.

NATIONAL

COVID-19 and Canada’s Economy

1. What did the Bank of Canada do? Why?

2. How many cases are there of COVID-19 around the world and in Canada?

3. How is Canada getting ready for the impact of COVID-19?

4. What could affect the economy?

5. What was the purpose of the interest rate cut?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What are your thoughts on the effects of the coronavirus on the economy?

INTERNATIONAL**Egypt Reopens Oldest Pyramid**

1. When was the Pyramid of Djoser built?

2. Why did the pyramid need to be restored?

3. Why is the Pyramid of Djoser very important?

4. How big is the pyramid?

5. What was done to restore the pyramid?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Do you think it is important to keep historical buildings in good condition? Explain your answer.

ENVIRONMENT

Tornadoes Hit Tennessee

1. What happened on March 3, 2020?

2. When is tornado season in the southern states?

3. How are tornadoes formed?

4. How fast are tornadoes?

5. What was being done to clean up after the tornadoes?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What do you know about tornadoes?



FEATURE

Meet Penny Oleksiak

1. How did Penny Oleksiak do at the 2016 Olympics?

2. What happens if Oleksiak wins two more Olympic medals?

3. What happens if Oleksiak wins three more Olympic medals?

4. How did Oleksiak get into swimming?

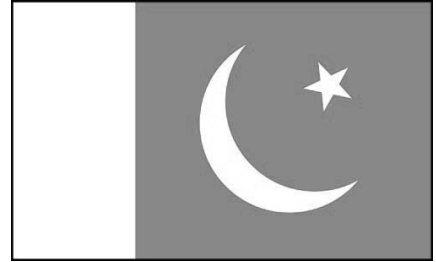
5. Why did Oleksiak take the summer of 2018 off from swimming?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What does it take to be so competitive at a sport like swimming?

Discovering Pakistan

Pakistan is a country located in South Asia. Its landscape varies between mountain ranges, valleys, plains, and plateaus. It is bordered by Iran, Afghanistan, China, India, and the Arabian Sea. The temperatures found here can be extreme, and the monsoon season brings bursts of wind and rain.



Pakistan is a highly populated country with over 200 million people. About half of the population is Punjabi. The remaining half is made up of ethnic groups including the Pashtuns, Sindhi, Balochi, and Muhajirs. Most people speak Punjabi as their first language, but the national language is Urdu and the official languages of the country are Urdu and English.

Pakistan shares similarities with its neighbouring countries. This is due to the history it shares with India and Afghanistan. Pakistan and India used to be one state called British India, a colony of Britain. In 1947, the two states gained independence as self-governing countries. There was religious conflict between the Hindus and Muslims, so borders were drawn between the religious majorities in India and Pakistan.

Religion is an important part of Pakistani politics. It also plays a large role in the culture and society. Islam especially influences the home life, and family is important.

Traditional folk dances are also a vibrant part of Pakistani culture. Most commonly known is the bhangra. Some dances are done by women and girls, such as the ghidda and kikli, and others are associated with men, such as the luddi.

Nationally, people enjoy watching and playing cricket as a sport. Pakistan won the Cricket World Cup in 1992, as well as several other competitions.

The government in Pakistan is a federal parliamentary republic, meaning that there is both a president and a prime minister. President Arif Alvi mainly acts as a figurehead leader while the prime minister, who is currently Imran Khan, is responsible for running the government.

Long form of name:	The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Continent:	Asia
Total Area:	796,095 square kilometres
Population:	233,500,636
Official Language(s):	Urdu and English
Capital City:	Islamabad
Chief of State:	President Arif Alvi
National Anthem:	“Qaumi Tarana”
Currency:	Pakistani rupee

Discovering Pakistan

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Video 





1. What languages are spoken in Pakistan?

2. Why does Pakistan share cultural similarities with India?

3. How are dances part of Pakistani culture?

COVID-19 Cases

The table below shows the number of cases of COVID-19 that have been confirmed for 15 countries, as of March 16, 2020. Use this information to answer the questions that follow.

COUNTRY	# OF CASES
China	81 077
Republic of Korea	8236
Italy	24 747
France	5380
Spain	7753
Germany	4838
Iran	14 991
United States	1678
Canada	304
United Kingdom	1395
Japan	814
Brazil	200
Qatar	401
Switzerland	2200
India	114

1. Which country had the highest number of cases?

2. Which country had 14 991 cases?

3. How many cases did Italy have?

4. How many cases did Canada have?

5. How many cases did the United States have?

Political Cartoon

A political cartoon uses images to exaggerate an opinion, often in a humorous way. The main purpose of the cartoon is to show you the artist's point of view on a situation.



For each element in the image above, write a point or two about the element or how it relates to the rest of the image.

1. What the voice on the television is saying

2. The man

3. Put all of the elements together and explain in your own words what the cartoon is saying.

Map Activity: the United States

1. Locate and label the following states:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. ALABAMA | 5. MICHIGAN | 9. NORTH DAKOTA |
| 2. CALIFORNIA | 6. NEBRASKA | 10. OHIO |
| 3. FLORIDA | 7. NEW YORK | 11. TEXAS |
| 4. IDAHO | 8. NORTH CAROLINA | 12. UTAH |

2. Locate and label the following capital city:

Washington, D.C.

3. Locate and label the following bodies of fresh water:

The Great Lakes

4. Locate and label the following bodies of salt water:

Gulf of Mexico

Atlantic Ocean

Pacific Ocean

5. Colour your map as follows:

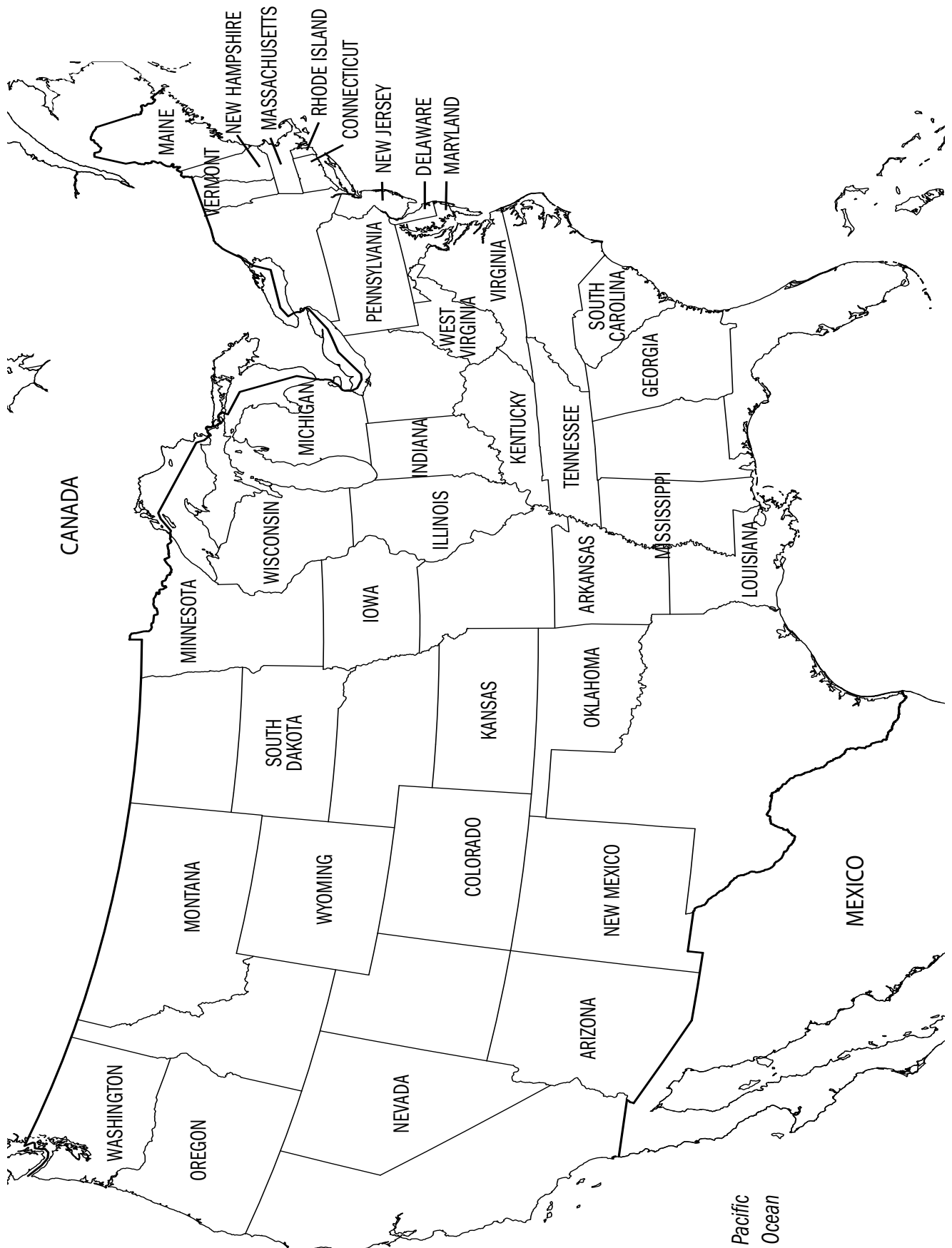
Colour the different states on this map.

6. Draw and label the compass bearing.

7. Label your map:

The United States and Neighbouring Countries

Map Activity: the United States



Looking at the United States

The United States is part of the continent of North America. It borders both the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. It is located between Canada and Mexico. The United States is slightly smaller than Canada at 9,826,675 square kilometres. The United States is located 38 degrees north of the equator giving it a mostly temperate climate. The United States has a population of 332,639,102 (July 2020 estimate) and a currency called the U.S. dollar (USD). It takes about 1.35 Canadian dollars to make one U.S. dollar.

Use the map and the information above to answer the following questions.

1. What is the area of the United States? _____
2. What is the population of the United States? _____
3. What is the capital city of the United States? _____
4. What is the currency used in the United States? _____
5. What colours are on the flag of the United States? _____
6. Which countries border the United States? _____

7. Colour the flag as follows:
 13 equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white; a blue rectangle in the upper left corner bearing 50 small, white, five-pointed stars arranged in nine offset horizontal rows of six stars (top and bottom) alternating with rows of five stars.

