

# US Geography: Grade 5

## Physical Raised Relief US Map

### OBJECTIVE:

Students will apply what they have learned about the physical features of the United States.



### MATERIALS:

Matboard(s)  
US Map template/transparency  
Physical US Map (for reference)  
Self hardening clay  
Paints: green, brown, blue, tan/beige (or other neutral color)  
Paintbrushes  
Old shirts/smocks  
Black Sharpie pens

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Trace US map stencil onto board, including inset for Hawaii and Alaska.
2. **(Optional)** Paint the mat blue for the oceans and paint the surrounding land (Canada & Mexico) with a pale neutral color.
3. Let paint dry.
4. Use self hardening clay to form mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers, etc.
5. Let clay dry (overnight)
6. Paint land features
7. Let paint dry.
8. Label Canada, Mexico, Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic & Pacific Oceans with Sharpie pens.

\*This activity can be done individually with smaller size matboards or in groups with the large size matboard.