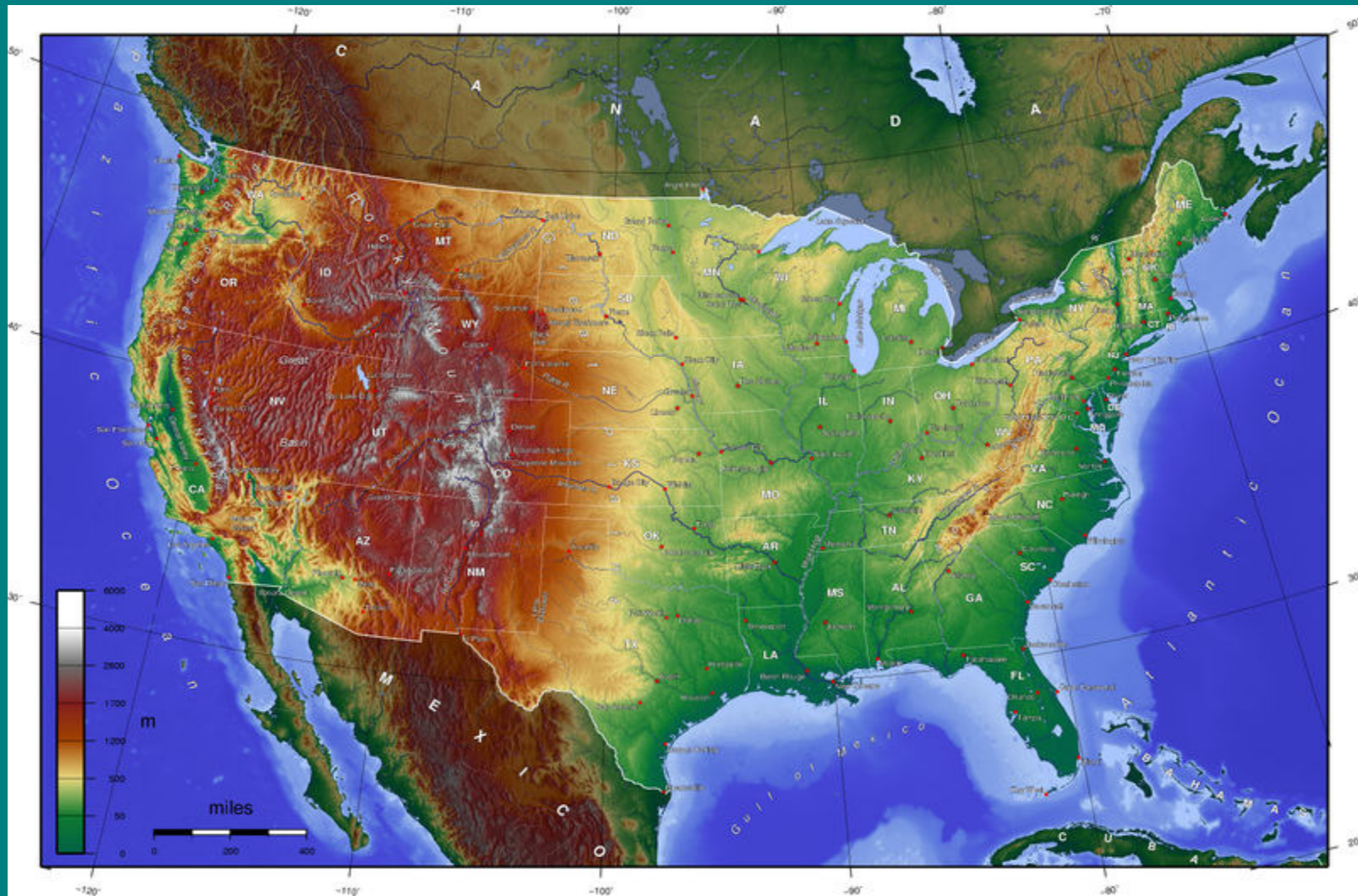


Geography of the United States



Appalachian Mountains

- Stretch through many Atlantic coast states
- 1,500 miles long
 - 100-300 miles wide
- The Appalachians are aging mountains—they have undergone erosion. (The process by which the products of weathering are moved from one place to another)
 - Thought to have been formed 680 million years ago
- Individual Mountains average height is 3000 ft.
- Highest peak ~ Mt. Mitchell (North Carolina, 6,684 ft)



Mt. Mitchell



October in the Appalachian Mountains

Ranges in the Appalachians

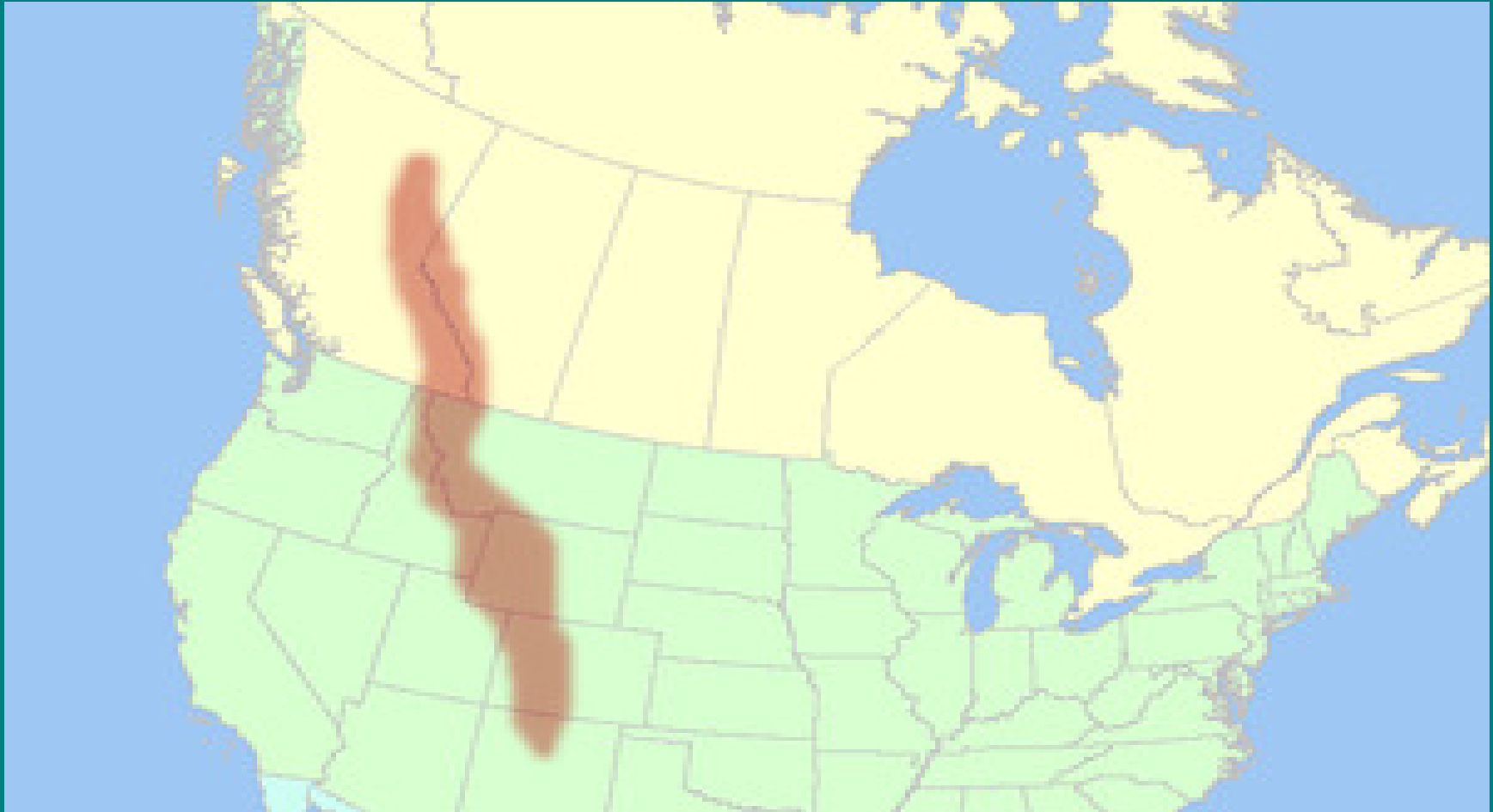
- White Mountains
(northern)
- Blue Ridge Mountains
(central)
- Black Mountains,
Great Smokey Mts.
(southern)



Appalachian Mountains Natural/Economic Resources

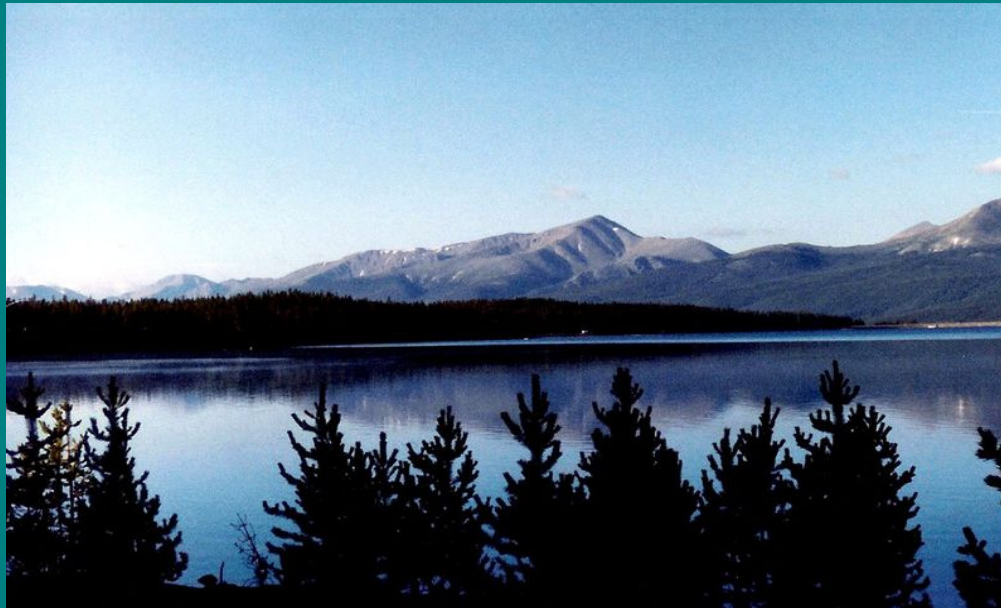
- Timber
- Coal, granite, limestone, etc.
- Bears, mountain lions, wild cats, wolves, foxes, deer and moose

Rocky Mountains



The Rockies

- 3,000 miles long
 - from British Columbia, in Canada, to New Mexico
- “Younger” mountains
 - (50-100 million years ago)
- A complex mountain system with jagged peaks, flat topped elevations, woodlands, year-round snow caps, grasslands, etc.
- The highest peak is Mount Elbert (Colorado, 14,440 feet)



Mt. Elbert

Rocky Mountains



The Colorado Rockies

Rocky Mountains

- Runoff and snowmelt from the peaks sculpt landscape
 - Supply one-quarter of the United States with water
- Rocky Mountains rivers eventually drain into three Oceans: the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean
 - Arkansas River, Colorado River, Columbia River, Missouri River, Rio Grande, Snake River, Yellowstone River



The Columbia River carves a deep gorge through the Cascade Range, at Crown Point State Park, Oregon.

Rocky Mountains



The Continental Divide

- designates the line at which waters flow either to the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans
- located along the Rocky Mountains

Rocky Mountains

Natural/Economic Resources

Coal, copper, gold, iron ore, lead, petroleum, natural gas, silver, and zinc

- Timber
 - Northern Rockies
- Livestock
 - Sheep, Cattle, Bison, etc.
- Recreation and tourism

Alaska Mountain Range



400 miles long
mountain range

- Southern
Alaska

Mount McKinley
(Denali)

- Tallest
mountain in N.
America
- 19,470 ft

Cascade Mountain Range



- Famous for its Volcanoes
 - Part of “Pacific Ring of Fire”
 - 90% of earth’s earthquakes
 - over 160 active volcanoes



Cascade Mountains

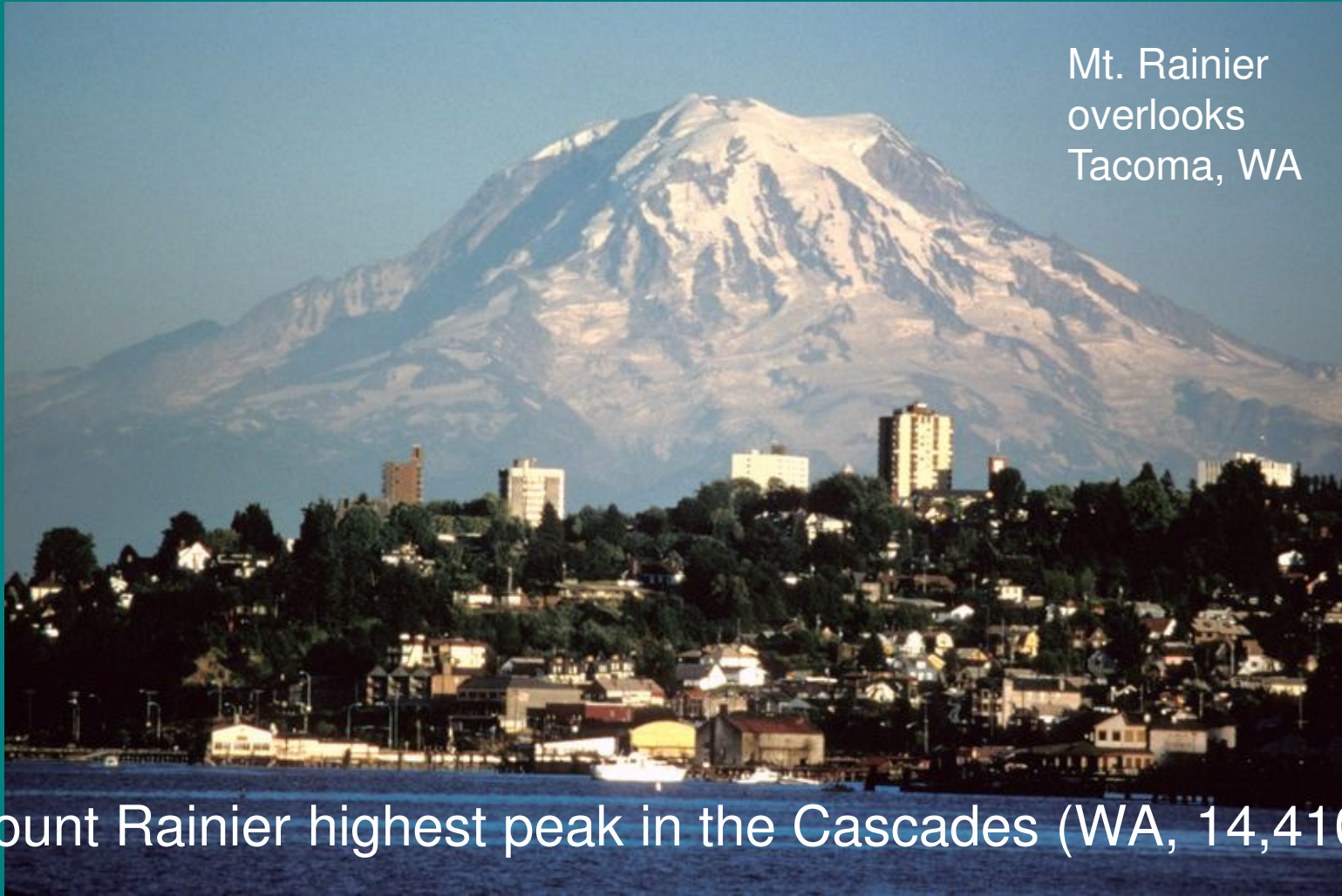
Natural/Economic Resources

- Farming
 - Volcanic rock is rich in minerals creating excellent soil conditions
- Powerful streams/rivers
 - Recreation
 - hydroelectric power
 - Crop irrigation
- Volcanic steam is used to heat public buildings in Klamath Falls, Oregon



Multnomah Falls

Cascade Mountains - Mt. Rainier



Mt. Rainier
overlooks
Tacoma, WA

- Mount Rainier highest peak in the Cascades (WA, 14,410 ft)
- Last recorded eruption in the mid 18th century

Mt. Saint Helens

- Catastrophic eruption on May 18, 1980 at 8:32am. That eruption was the most deadly and economically destructive volcanic eruption in US history
- 57 people were killed and 250 homes, 47 bridges, 15 miles of railways, and 185 miles of highway were destroyed.



Mt. Saint Helens



- Became active again in 2004
 - continues to erupt in small doses
- 36,000-foot plume of steam and ash emerged in 2005

Sierra Nevada

- 400 miles long
 - 70 miles wide
 - California



Mt. Whitney – largest peak in the continental US (14,505 ft. - CA)

Sierra Nevada



- Yosemite Valley
 - Granite summits
 - Half Dome



- Lake Tahoe
 - largest Alpine lake in N. America
 - between Nevada and California

Mojave Desert



- California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona
- Averages less than 13 inches of rain per year
- Joshua Trees
 - Native to this desert area
- Sparsely populated
 - Few big cities (ex. Las Vegas)
- Death Valley
 - Lowest, Hottest place is North America

Grand Canyon

- Carved by the Colorado River into the Colorado Plateau
 - Arizona
 - 277 miles long, over a mile deep
 - Home to many native tribes
 - Pueblo (Anasazi) as early as 1200 BC

