

Our Geography

Unit

1



Start with the Standards

- 3.1** Students describe the physical and human geography and use maps, tables, graphs, photographs, and charts to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.

The Big Idea



Geography

California has a variety of landforms and waterways. People change the landscape with the structures they build.

What to Know

- ✓ How would you describe where you live?
- ✓ What are the physical features of California?
- ✓ What are some ways in which people use the natural resources of their area every day?
- ✓ How have people changed the physical environment?

Show What You Know



Unit 1 Test



Writing: A Narrative



Unit Project: A Community Atlas

Unit

1

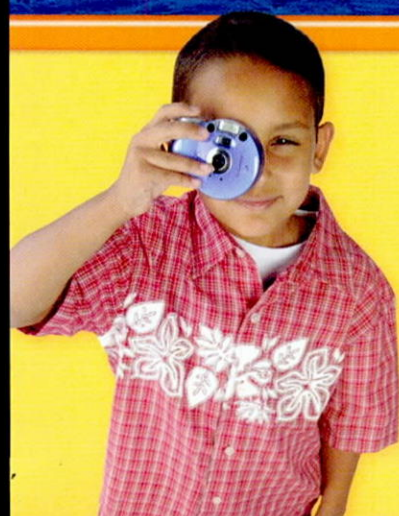
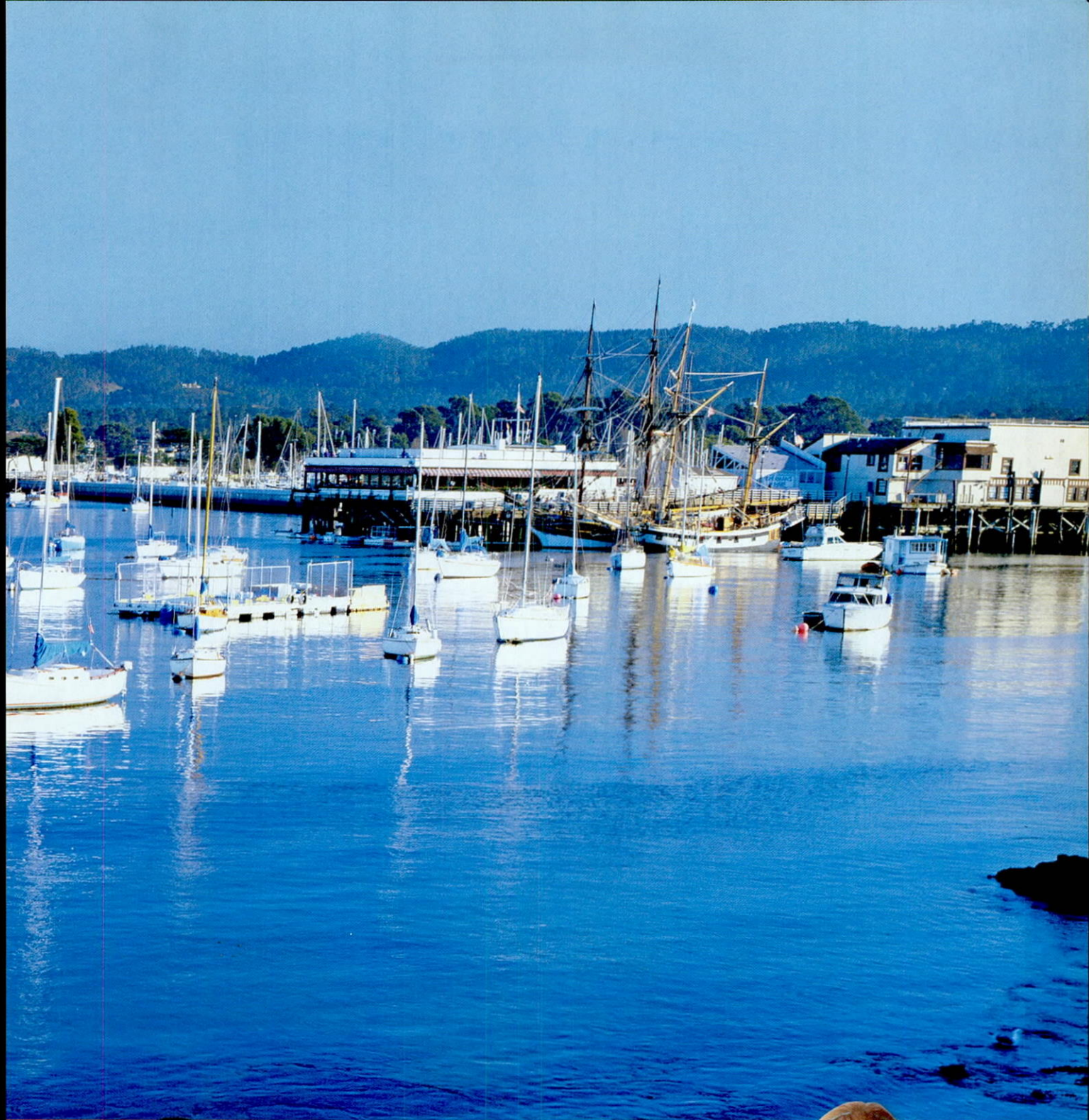
Our Geography



Talk About
Geography



“A map can help
me find my location.”



“It’s fun to explore
the many landforms
of my state.”

“People use natural
resources every day.”



Vocabulary



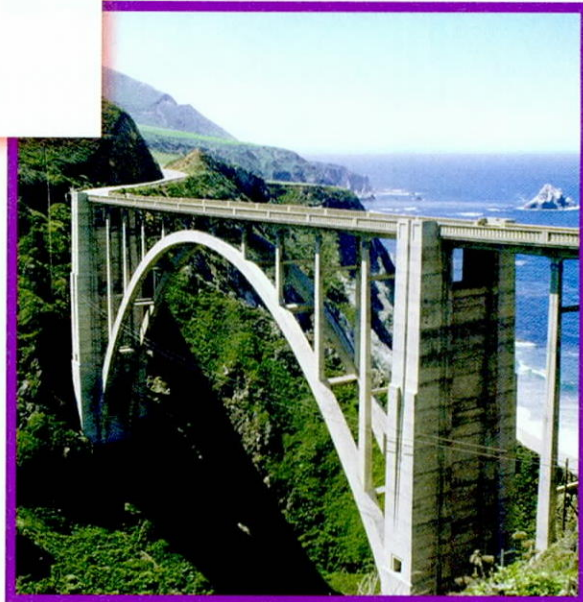
community A group of people who live and work in the same place.
(page 10)



location The place where something is found. (page 11)



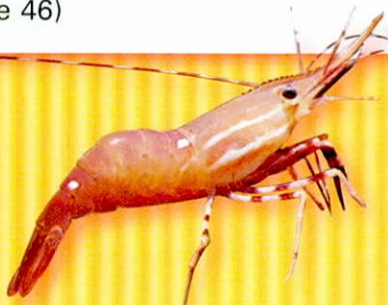
physical feature Something found in nature, such as weather, plant life, water, and land. (page 16)



human-made feature Something people have built, such as a building, a bridge, or a road. (page 26)



natural resource Something from nature that people can use. (page 46)



Visit INTERNET RESOURCES at www.harcourtschool.com/hss to view Internet Resources.



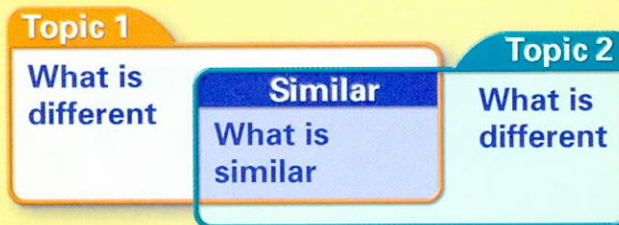


Compare and Contrast

When you **compare** things, you think about how they are alike. When you **contrast** things, you think about how they are different.

Why It Matters

Knowing how to compare and contrast will help you better understand how things, people, and ideas are alike and different.



Watch for these words and phrases that tell you how things are alike and different:

the same as different from similar but
although like unlike in contrast however

Practice the Skill

Read the paragraphs. Compare and contrast the two lakes.

California has 8,000 lakes. Lake Tahoe and the Salton Sea are two of the largest. Both lakes are used for recreation and fishing.

Compare

Contrast

However, these lakes are quite different. Lake Tahoe is located high in the Sierra Nevada and was formed by nature. In contrast, the Salton Sea is in the desert region of southeastern California. It is a human-made lake.

Apply What You Learned

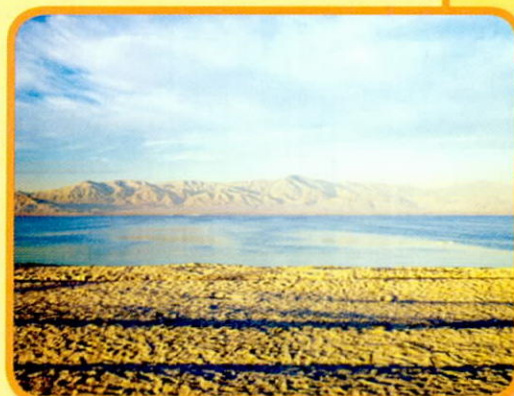
Read the paragraphs. Then answer the questions.

California's Largest Lakes

Two of the largest lakes in California are the Salton Sea and Lake Tahoe. These lakes are alike in some ways, but they are very different in others.

Lake Tahoe is a very old lake located in the Sierra Nevada. Water flowing down rivers in the mountains formed the lake in a valley below. The water in Lake Tahoe is fresh water, not salty.

In contrast, the Salton Sea is a new lake. It was formed when people built dams on the Colorado River in the desert. Water overflowed the dams in 1905 and flooded the land. After the flood, a huge lake had formed in a low area. This lake became known as the Salton Sea. At first, the water in the Salton Sea was fresh water. However, over time the water changed and became salty.



Compare and Contrast

1. How do the sizes of the lakes compare?
2. How is the water different in the two lakes?

● Study Skills

USE A KWL CHART

A KWL chart can help you focus on what you already know about a topic and what you want to learn about it.

- Use the K column to list what you know about a topic.
- Use the W column to list what you want to know about the topic.
- Use the L column to list what you have learned about the topic after reading.

Physical and Human Geography		
What I <u>K</u> now	What I <u>W</u> ant to Know	What I <u>L</u> earned
I live in a house and in a city.	What else should I know about where I live?	_____
The name of my state is California.	What is physical and human geography?	_____

Apply As You Read

Complete your own KWL chart as you read this chapter.



California History-Social Science
Standards, Grade 3

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