

You will notice that the sea or ocean which surrounds the continent is one continuous body of water; but its different parts are called by different names. What is the name of the part of the sea east of America? What is the name of the part west of America? Of the part north of America?

Is the continent as wide in the middle as it is farther north or farther south? In the middle it looks like a mere strip or neck of land. At the narrowest part of this neck a man might walk across the continent in a single day from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. A narrow neck of land connecting two larger masses of land is called an *isthmus*, which means "neck." Find the isthmus on the map. What is its name? The land is so narrow here that we may say the isthmus connects two *grand divisions* of the continent. One of these is called North America, the other South America. Why are they so called? We live in North America. Find North America on the map.



TOPICS FOR ORAL OR WRITTEN WORK.

(Answer in Sentences.)

- I. **THE MAP.** In what respect is the outline map like the land? Name one way in which it is different. Which is the east side of the map? The west side? The north, and the south sides?
- II. **THE CONTINENT.** Name it. Name its grand divisions. By what oceans is it surrounded? How is it different from an island? What is an isthmus?

6. Across the Sea to the East.

What is a continent? In which continent do you live? In which grand division do we live? Which ocean east of North America?

To-day we will go to the east shore of North America and get on a great steamship in which we will sail out on the Atlantic Ocean. The steamship is built of steel, and there is room in it for more than a thousand people. It is driven through the water, by means of powerful engines, as fast as a freight train moves. We will sail toward the east.

As we move away, the land grows blue and misty in the distance, and finally sinks out of sight behind us. There is now nothing to be seen but the ship, the water all around us, and the sky overhead. We steam along, day and night; the sun seems to rise out of the water in front of us each morning, and to go down into the water behind us every evening.

Even when the weather is bright and pleasant, the waves of the sea are generally large enough to make the ship rise and fall and rock from side to side so that it is hard to keep our balance while walking about the ship. But when the storm winds blow, the waves rise high and toss

the great ship about as if it were a cork. We must not go out on deck then, for the high waves sometimes dash over the ship, and we might be swept away and drowned. But after the winds die out and the waves subside, we may again go on deck.

All this time the engines have been driving our ship eastward. At last, about a week after starting, we can see land far ahead. As we draw near the land, it seems to rise out of the sea, and its shore extends far to the right hand and to the left. Finally our ship stops, and we go ashore. We have crossed the Atlantic