

What mountains are near the east coast of North America? In what direction do they extend? What gulf is at their north end? At their south end? The Appalachian Mountains are much lower than the Rocky Mountains. None of their peaks are high enough to be covered with snow all the year round, and in most cases grass and trees grow to their tops.

ORAL AND WRITTEN EXERCISES.

Compare the three coast lines of North America in length. Describe one, giving general direction, indentations, projections, and islands. How is North America joined to South America, and separated from Asia? Name and give the position of four peninsulas of North America. Name the largest island north of North America. How do icebergs originate? What plateau is in the west of North America? What is the direction of its greatest length? Where is it widest? Where narrowest? What ranges border it for the most part? Compare the Appalachian with the Rocky Mountains in height and appearance. Where are the Rocky Mountains covered with snow all the time? Where the Appalachians? Why is there such a difference? What is a glacier?

17. Plains.

Have you ever seen a place where the ground for a great distance in every direction is flat and nearly level? Such a place is called a *plain*. Where in the map on page 28 does North America seem flattest and smoothest? The central part of North America is a vast plain. What mountains border this plain on the west? On the east? What borders it on the north? On the south?

In going to school, do you walk up-hill or down-hill? Perhaps the ground is so nearly level that you can hardly tell which way the ground slopes. If there was a stream beside your path you could tell then. How does the flow of water show which way the ground slopes?



Cattle grazing on a Plain.

Much of the great central plain is very nearly level. How can you tell which way it slopes? The rivers or large streams, are shown on the map.

Notice the rivers in the great central plain and tell which way the northern part of the plain slopes; the central part; the southern part.

The western part of this plain, near the Rocky Mountains, is really higher than the tops of the Appalachian Mountains and might be called a plateau. Curving round the Hudson Bay at a short distance from it, is also a low plateau. These higher parts slope gradually down to the central part of the plain, which is a broad *lowland*.

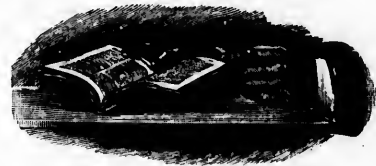
There is a small plain east of the Appalachians. Which way does it slope? As it borders the Atlantic, it is called the *Atlantic coast plain*.

ORAL AND WRITTEN EXERCISES.

Describe the great central plain; its location, borders, slopes, plateaus, lowlands. Describe the Atlantic coast plain; its location, slope.

18. Drainage.

In what direction does the Mississippi River flow? In what part of the central plain is it? Which way does the southern part of this plain slope? The Mississippi River is the largest river of North America. Several large rivers flow into it. Such rivers or streams flowing into another river or stream are called its *branches or tributaries*. Name a large branch of the Mississippi from the east. In what direction, then, does the eastern part of the central plain slope? Name two branches of the Mississippi from the west. What way does the western part of the central plain slope?



Hold a book open, as in the picture, so as to form a trough, with two side slopes and a bottom slope. The great trough of land in which the Mississippi flows is like this, except that the land is not so smooth and regular as the book. Such a trough is called a valley. The Mississippi valley is hundreds of miles wide, and all its slopes are very gradual.

Find the place where the Ohio joins the Mississippi. This place is called the *mouth* of the Ohio. The mouth of any stream is that place where it flows into a larger stream or other large body of water. On the map, find the mouth of the Missouri; of the Mississippi itself. If we travel up the