Political Regions of North America
Defining North America

- No standard definition of American continents
  - Some teach Americas as one continent
    - Central America sometimes considered separate from North America
  - United States classifies North America as Central America, the Caribbean, with United States and Canada as North America
Anglo-America

- Mainly made up of countries of Canada and the United States of America
  - Many of the Caribbean islands as well as Belize
  - Named because of their connections to Great Britain, and their English style culture
  - Canada still part of British Commonwealth
The United States of America

• 50 States and the capital in Washington D.C.
  – Divided among different perceptual regions
  – Cultural and physical variations from region to region
Canada

• 10 provinces and 3 territories
  – Roughly 90% of Canadians live within 100 miles of the United States border
  – Northern territories sparsely populated
    • Large amount of Aboriginal population
One, Two, or Three Canadas?

• Heavy cultural difference between peoples of Canada
  – Canada has two official languages of French and English
    • Most of Canada speaks English
    • Quebec is large French area
  – Large aboriginal population
    • Especially in territories
Mexico and Central America

• Countries located on Isthmus connecting South America to United States
  – Mexico is largest in terms of size and population
    • Mexico further divided into 31 states
  – Primarily Spanish speaking areas
    • Long history of human settlement
The Panama Canal

- Originally opened Aug 15, 1914
- Exclusive US control of Panama Canal ended in 1979
  - Full operation of canal handed over to Panama in December 31, 1999
The Caribbean

- Over 700 islands scattered around the edge of the Caribbean sea
  - Divided between 13 independent countries and 17 territories
    - Territories owned by Netherlands, British, French, and United States
- Long history of colonization
  - First part of Americas reached by Spanish
Greenland

- Very limited population
  - Island is mostly covered in ice
    - Most cities located around edges
    - Large reliance on fishing
  - Population of around 56,000
  - Mostly indigenous
- Denmark dependency