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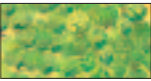
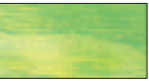


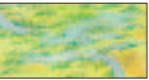

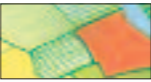

THE WORLD

THE WORLD is round. So, to make a map of the world appear on a flat page, the world's curved surface must be flattened out and parts of it stretched. The world map (*below*) is the result. The maps in this atlas show different areas of the world. Look for the little world map printed on each page. The part shaded red shows where in the world that area is situated.



HOW TO USE THIS ATLAS

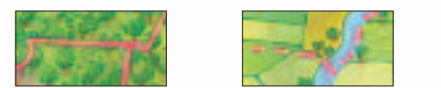
The maps in this atlas have been specially drawn to show where different kinds of landscape are found.

 Arctic lands (tundra)	 Forest and woodlands	 Grassland
 Mountains	 Coniferous forest	 Marshes
 Desert	 Farmland	 Rivers and lakes

A scale bar (*below*) tells us how far distances on the map are in the real world. You can use it to work out longer or shorter distances.



Boundaries between countries are shown in this atlas by red lines (*below left*). Boundaries between states within countries, or disputed boundaries, are both shown by broken lines (*below right*).



Much of northern Mexico is covered by desert. The cactus is often the only plant life there.



DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

Mexico City, the capital of Mexico, lies at more than 2000 metres above sea level. With more than 20 million people, it is one of the largest cities in the world—and one of the most polluted.



Hand weaving is an ancient Indian art that still goes on in Mexico and Guatemala. Each region has its own style.

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO and the Central American countries stretch from the United States in the north to South America in the south. A mountain chain runs all the way down. There are many active volcanoes and the land is regularly shaken by earthquakes, too. In the north the climate is dry, but further south there is tropical rainforest.

The Caribbean islands have a hot, wet climate. They often suffer fierce hurricanes.

Scale
0 400 km

In many Central American and Caribbean countries, growing bananas is the most important industry. As the bananas grow, workers cover them with bags to protect them from insects. The bananas are cut down while they are still green. They ripen just before they go on sale.



The Panama Canal links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Before the canal was built, ships had to go around the stormy seas off the southern tip of South America. A series of locks were built to take canal traffic across the 80-kilometre stretch of land. Small trains help pull the ships through the locks.



PACIFIC OCEAN

GULF OF MEXICO

CARIBBEAN SEA

Panama Canal



Steel band music is popular on every Caribbean island. It was first played in Trinidad. The pans or drums are made from large oil drums. Calypso and reggae music both have their origins in the Caribbean.



NORTHERN EUROPE

NORWAY, Sweden and Denmark are known as Scandinavia. Together with Finland, they are the most northerly European lands. Central Europe lies between the Baltic Sea and the Alps. The plains of northern Germany, Denmark and Poland are fertile. Evergreen forests cover upland areas, as well as low-lying Finland.

ICELAND
 ■ REYKJAVIK

DID YOU KNOW . . .

■ Northern Scandinavia is the Land of the Midnight Sun. At the height of summer, the sun never sets. But in the depths of winter, it never rises.



These sea inlets in Norway's coastline are called fjords.

Lapland is home to the Lapps, or Sami people. A few still herd reindeer, a traditional way of life.



This man shapes a blob of melted glass by blowing into it. Glassblowing is a traditional industry of Poland.

Mountains cover much of Austria and Switzerland. Many Austrian village churches have onion-shaped domes.



GENEVA



The River Rhine in Germany is a major waterway. Barges carry goods up and down it. They pass through the Rhine gorge, a land of castles and vine-covered slopes.

