Name: Klasse:

California – Fruit Basket and High-Tech Location – Solution

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Coastal range   *California Central Valley*   *Sierra Nevada*

1. Name the three major natural landscapes in California. Write them under the pictures above.

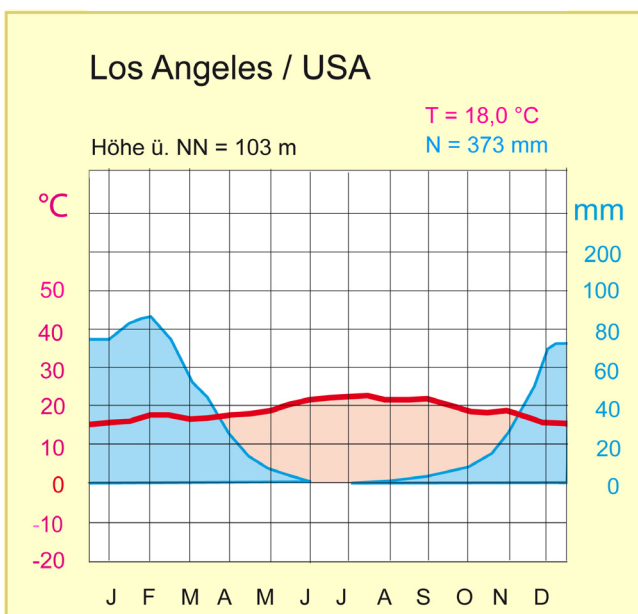**2.** The Californian area is very active geologically, often earthquakes occur.

a) Name the major geological fault line that runs parallel to the California coastline.

   San Andreas Fault

b) Briefly explain how this fault line works.

   The Pacific and the North American Plate slide past each other and snag so that tension builds up.

   This tension is then discharged in the form of earthquakes of various strengths.

Los Angeles / USA

Höhe ü. NN = 103 m

T = 18,0 °C
N = 373 mm

°C   mm

50   200
                                                                 100
40   80
30   60
20   40
10   20
0   0
-10
-20

J F M A M J J A S O N D

3. Characterize the climate of Southern California using this diagram of the climate of Los Angeles.

High annual average temperatures, while precipitation is relatively low and concentrated to the winter months indicate a sub-tropical climate or a climate similar to the Mediterranean region.

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Large parts of California are in the **Sun Belt**. It is characterized by its favourable climate, its industry and is located south of the 37th parallel in the US. But the Sun Belt is not a purely industrial zone. Especially in California industries focus more like burning lenses on small locations, making the term Sun Spots more appropriate.

"The economy in the Sun Belt is supported by six pillars; high-tech (electronics, space technology), agriculture, defense industry, petrochemical (oil) industry as well as real estate and leisure."

(Julia May: Das Belt-Konzept in den USA. Nach: http://www.live-is-live.com/GL/xDJDS/pages/gkek/Beltkonzept.html)

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3. Examine if these pillars are also characteristic for the Sun Belt in California using the information given in the film "USA: From the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean"

The most well-known high-tech location with world-renowned IT companies is Silicon Valley in San Francisco. The aviation and aerospace industries, as well as the defense industry have their home in Los Angeles. It is also a major center for the leisure industry (film and entertainment industry, Disneyland). In California's Central Valley crude oil is mined and processed. Agriculture (including agribusiness) shapes large parts of the state of California. The characteristic pillars of the economic structure of the Sun Belts are present in California.

4. California is also known as the „Fruit Basket of the U.S.". Why?

California is amongst the most productive agrarian regions in the U.S. Citrus fruit, nuts, wine, tomatos and more is cultivated here.

5. California covers about 4 percent of the area of the U.S., but over 12 percent of the country's population lives here. About 43 percent of the population does not speak English as their native language. The US Census Bureau predicts a population growth of 12 million people until 2030.

a) Where are most of the migrants in California from?

From abroad many Mexicans and other Latin Americans immigrate to the U.S. but also Asians (from the Philippines for example). Within the U.S. many Afro-Americans from the South move to California.

b) Explain the factors that attract people to move to California.

On the one hand the availability of jobs in California, a diverse economic structure which offers great opportunities (pull factor) and on the other poor economic situations in their home countries (push factor). Other pull factors are a pleasant climate and good standard of living (living close to a beach).