

**Social Studies Coalition of Delaware  
Brief Constructed Response Template**

Standard: Geography 2a

Grade Cluster 6-8

**Western States**

The states of Washington, Oregon, and California average more rainfall than the states of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado.



[http://www.allaboutretreats.com/assets/images/maps/retreats/map\\_west.gif](http://www.allaboutretreats.com/assets/images/maps/retreats/map_west.gif)

**Brief Constructed Response Prompt:**

What physical feature (natural feature) accounts for the difference in the amount of rainfall the states receive? Explain your answer.

**Desired Response(s):**

- **Mountains**
- **Winds**

**Desired Response(s): 3 examples**

- **Mountains block the winds and as the air rises (cools) it drops its moisture. As the air moves over the mountains it has less moisture to fall as precipitation (rain/snow).**
- **The air dries out as it moves over the mountains.**
- **California, Oregon, and Washington are on the windward side of the mountains. Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana are on the leeward (rain shadow) side of the mountains. The leeward side receives less rain.**

**Rubric**

- 2** = This response gives a valid answer with an accurate and relevant response
- 1** = This response gives a valid answer with an inaccurate, irrelevant, or no response
- 0** = inaccurate or no answer.