

CHAPTER TEN

MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS



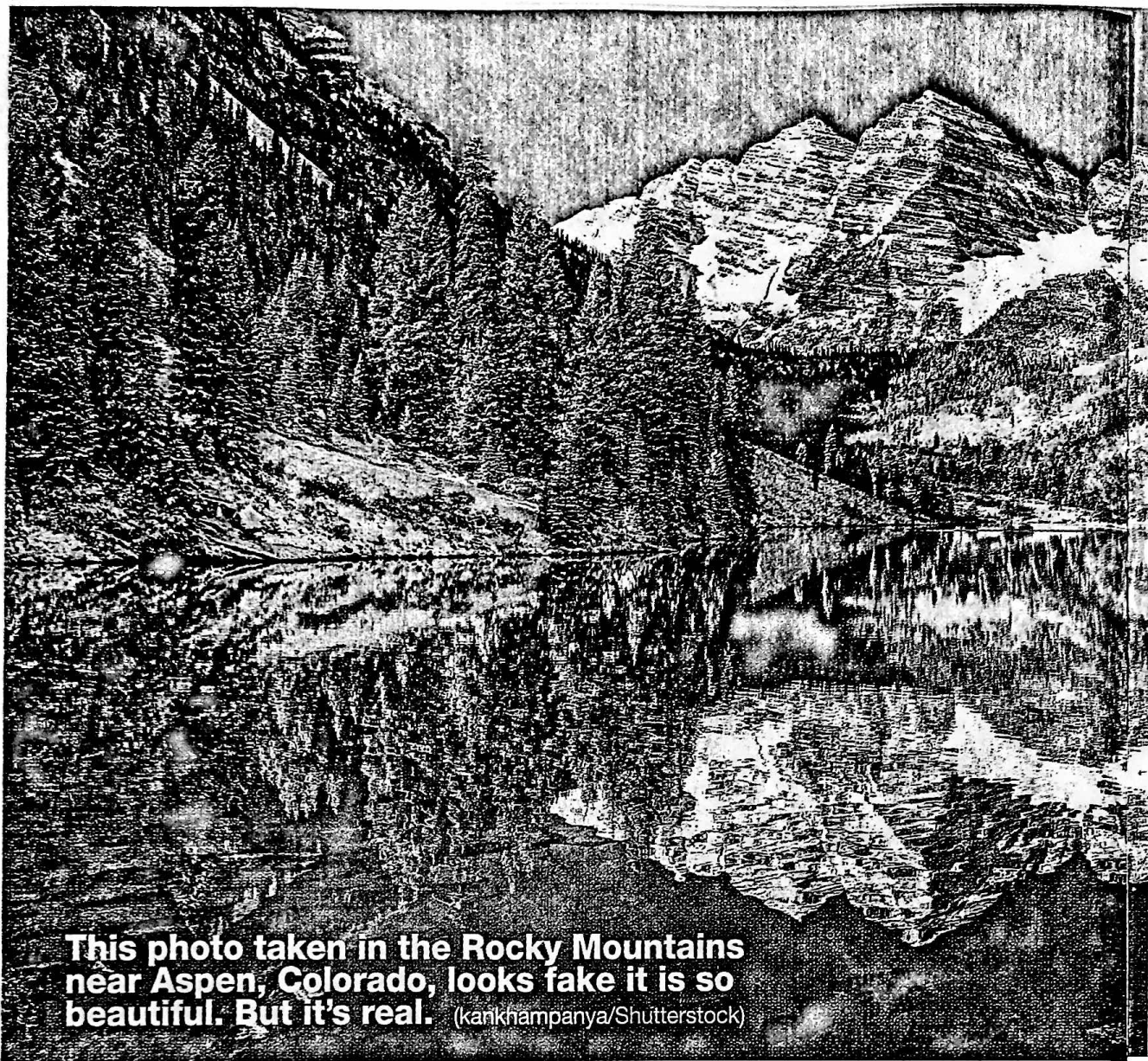
The Great Plains (Famartin photo)

Let's talk about the part of the United States where they have large mountains and plains. There are 10 states to learn: **Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.**

Here are tips to learning these states:

- Texas is the largest of the 48 mainland states.
- Oklahoma looks like a hat resting on top of Texas
- Wyoming and Colorado are almost the exact same size and shape. Remember that Wyoming is north of Colorado.
- North Dakota is north of South Dakota.
- NEW Mexico borders Mexico.

Do you remember what a plain is? The states of Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota are part of the Great

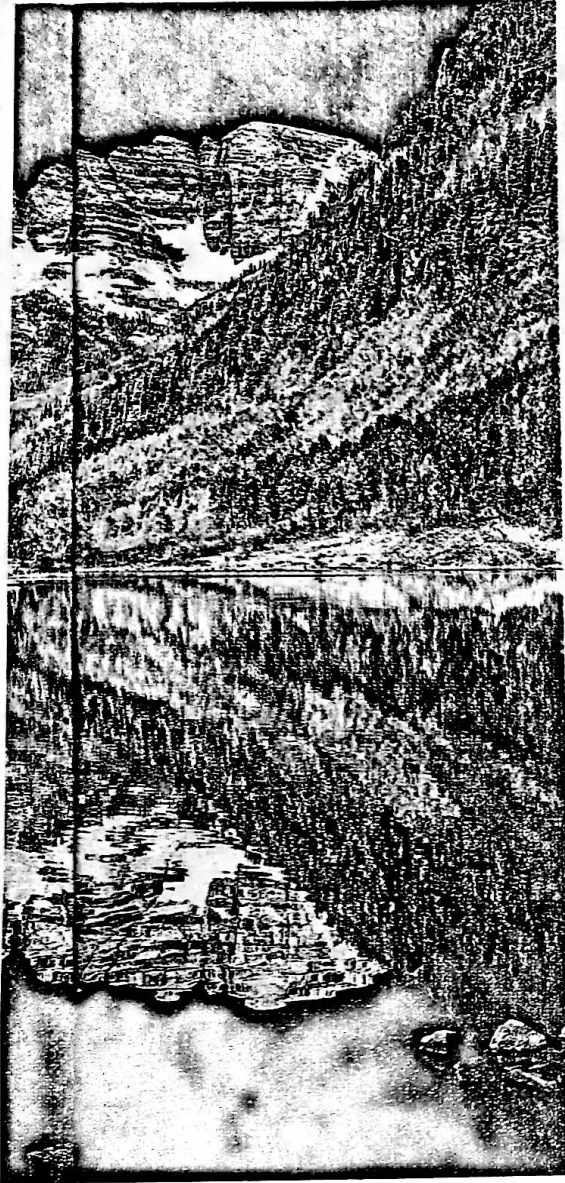


This photo taken in the Rocky Mountains near Aspen, Colorado, looks fake it is so beautiful. But it's real. (kankhampanya/Shutterstock)

Plains. The Great Plains are flat and mostly treeless. The region is known for wheat farming and cattle ranching. The men who work on these cattle ranches are called cowboys.

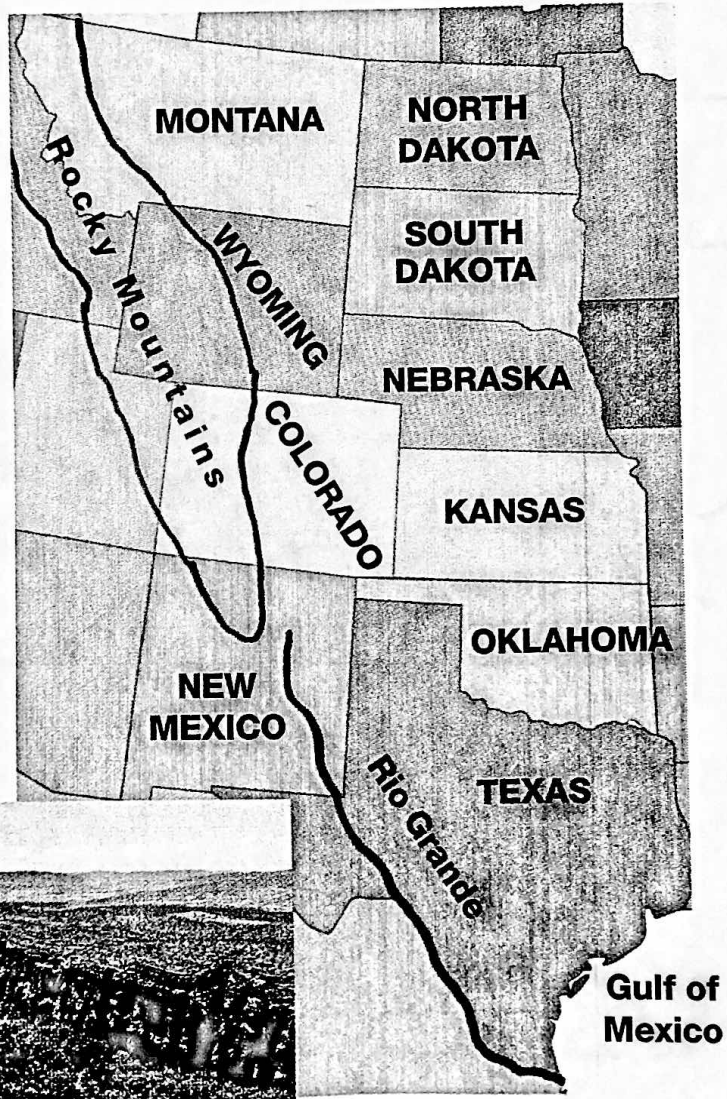
If you have ever visited this part of the U.S., you know that there are many beautiful things to see. One is the Rocky Mountains, which run through six western states and are covered with snow for much of the year.

The rivers in the Mountains and Plains states are, mostly, smaller than the ones in the east. One of the better-known rivers in the Mountains and Plains states is the Rio Grande ("Rio" means river in Spanish). The Rio Grande starts in Colorado and flows

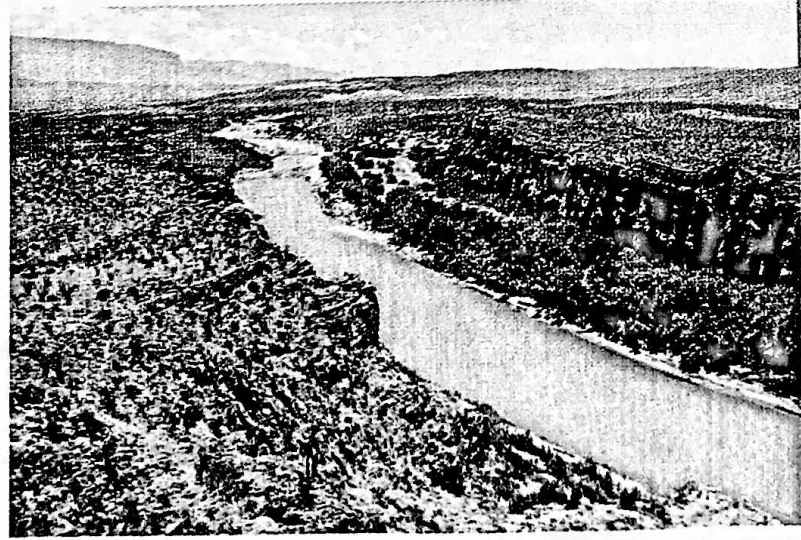


south into New Mexico. From there it turns east and, for more than 1,000 miles, forms the border between the United States and Mexico.

The climate in the West is, for the most part, drier than it is in the eastern United States. In fact, parts of Texas and New Mexico are desert. ☼

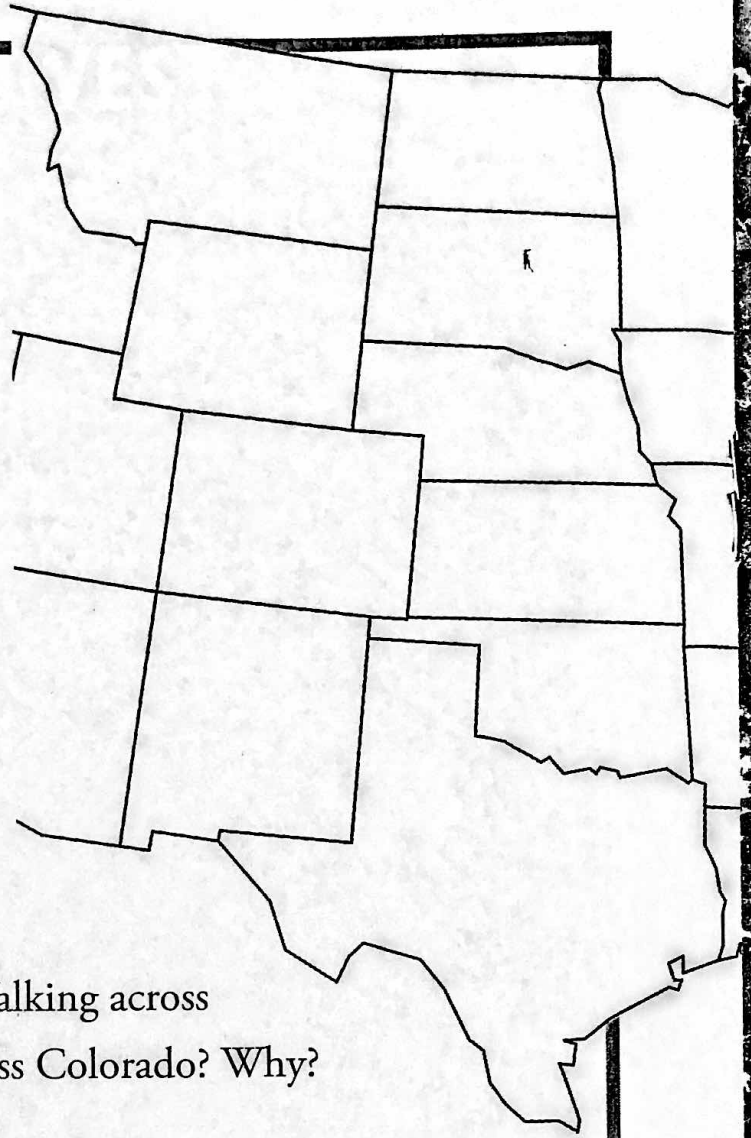


The Rio Grande
(Miami2you/Shutterstock)



QUESTIONS

- 1) Write the names of each state on this map.



- 2) What sounds easier: Walking across Kansas or walking across Colorado? Why?

- 3) Snow skiing is more common in the West than it is in the Southeast. Why do you think that is?
