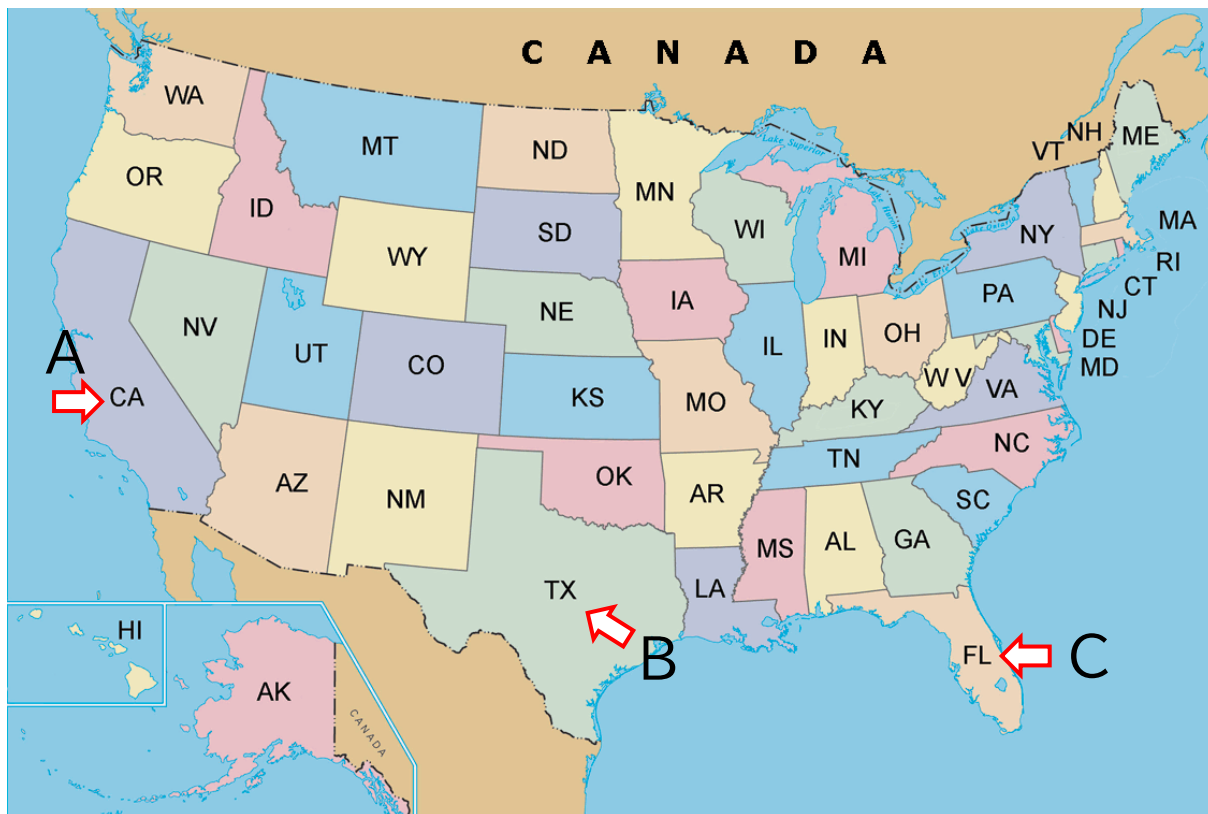


A Happy Earth Day!

(意味の区切れでスラッシュ入り)

1. 大意をつかむ

★質問★ 「地球の日」が誕生するきっかけとなった場所はどこですか。



Today is the 50th anniversary / of Earth Day. // It started / in the U.S. / after a terrible oil spill ("sekyu ryushutsu") / near Santa Barbara, California. // The oil spill killed / many birds and sea animals. // At that time, / large American cities / such as Los Angeles and Denver / had very bad air. // People all over the country / came together / on April 22, 1970, / to ask the government / to protect the environment. // New laws were made / over the next few years. // Since then, / Earth Day has become / a global event. // Now people understand / how important the environment is, / not just in their own countries, / but all over the world.