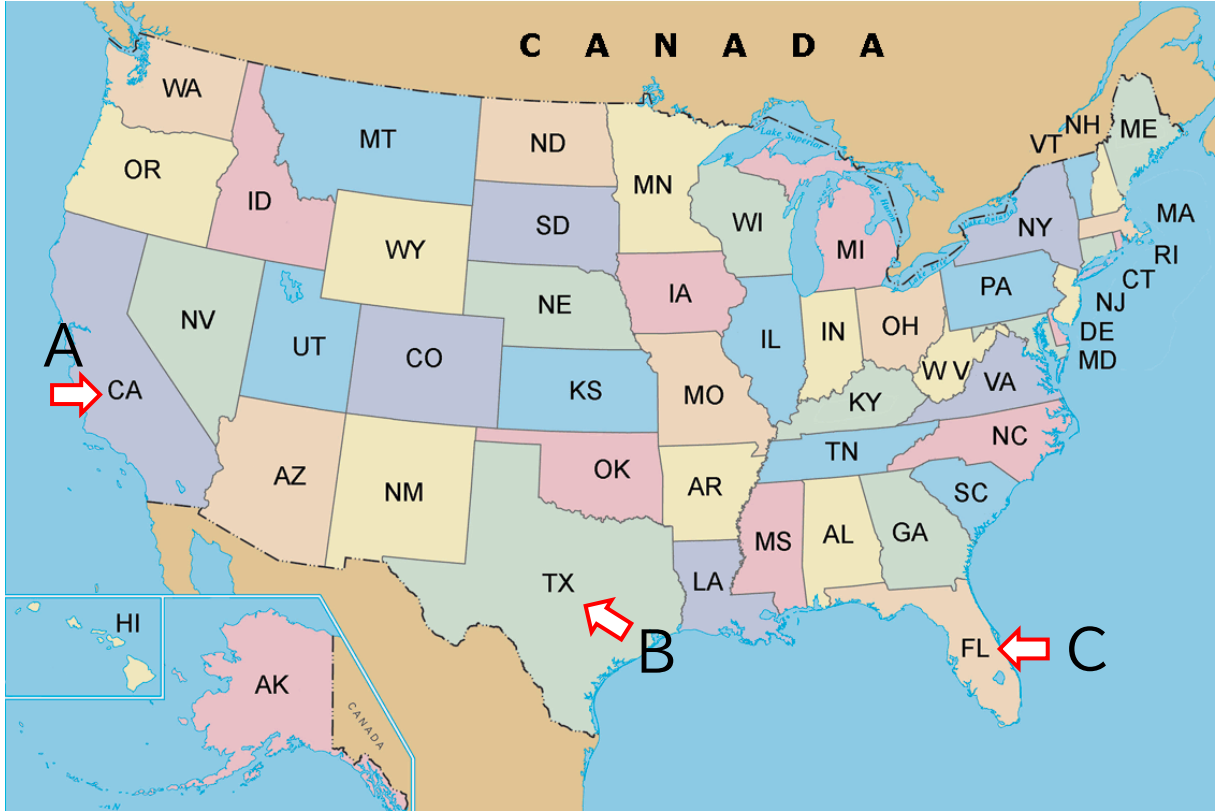


# A Happy Earth Day!

(意味の区切れでスラッシュ&ルビ入り)

## 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 ("sekiyu 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.