Skier in Idaho’s stretch of the Rocky Mountains

Grocer in Chinatown, New York City

Farm on the Manitoba plains
Which of the world’s culture regions do you call home? It is probably the United States and Canada. If you look at a globe, you will see that the United States and Canada cover most of North America. These two nations share many of the same landforms, including rugged mountains in the west, rounded mountains in the east, and rolling plains in the center.
Focus on:
The United States and Canada

**The Land**

The United States and Canada make up a region bordered by the very cold Arctic Ocean in the north and bathed by the Gulf of Mexico’s warm currents in the south. The western coast faces the Pacific Ocean. Eastern shores are edged by the Atlantic.

**Landforms** Rugged mountains are found in the western part of each country. The Pacific ranges follow the coastline. Farther inland are the massive, jagged peaks of the Rocky Mountains. Relatively young as mountains go, the Rockies stretch more than 3,000 miles (4,828 km) from Alaska to the southwestern United States.

East of the Rockies are the wide and windswept Great Plains. This gently rolling landscape covers the central part of both the United States and Canada.

The Appalachian range, much older than the Rockies, is the dominant landform in the eastern part of the region. East and south of the Appalachians’ low, rounded peaks are coastal plains that end at the Atlantic shores.

**Waterways** The Mississippi River is the largest river system in North America. It flows through the heart of the Great Plains from near the United States–Canadian border in the north to the Gulf of Mexico in the south.

The largest lake system is the Great Lakes—Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Ontario. The waters of these connected lakes flow into the St. Lawrence River, which empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The St. Lawrence Seaway—built by the United States and Canada—provides large ships with a water route between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean. The diagram on page 159 shows you that the St. Lawrence Seaway includes a series of canals, rivers, and other inland waterways.

**The Climate**

This region’s vast size and varied landforms help give it great diversity in climate and
Parachutist plunging toward the Appalachian Mountains, West Virginia

Polar bear snoozing in the Canadian Arctic
vegetation. In the far northern parts of Alaska and Canada, amid the treeless tundra and dense evergreen forests, brief summers and bitterly cold winters prevail. The Pacific coast, from southern Alaska to northern California, has a mild, wet climate. Rain clouds blowing in from the ocean are blocked by the Pacific ranges. Robbed of moisture, the land immediately east of these mountains is dry.

Hot, humid summers and cold, snowy winters are the norm in the Great Plains. This humid continental climate extends from the plains across southeastern Canada and the northeastern United States. The southeastern states, however, have much milder winters. The mildest of all are found on Florida’s southern tip, the only part of the U.S. mainland that has a tropical climate.

The United States and Canada are prosperous countries. Abundant natural resources and plenty of skilled workers have been key ingredients in creating two of the most successful economies in the world. Both countries operate under the free enterprise system, in which individuals and groups—not the government—control businesses and industries.

The region’s strong economy was built on agriculture, which remains important today. Fertile soil, numerous waterways, a favorable climate, and high-tech equipment have made the United States and Canada two of the world’s top food producers. Livestock, grains, vegetables, and fruits are all raised by the region’s farmers.

Rich oil, coal, and natural gas deposits occur in this region. So do deposits of valuable minerals, including copper, iron ore, nickel, silver, and gold. These energy sources and raw materials have made it possible for the United States and Canada to develop large industrial economies. Today, however, people are more likely to work in offices than in factories. Service industries such as banking, communications, entertainment, insurance, and health care employ most people in the region.

The United States and Canada have a rich mix of cultures. Native Americans were the nations’ first inhabitants. Centuries later, settlers from Europe arrived. Immigrants from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and almost every other part of the world eventually followed. Some came looking for religious or political freedom. Some came as enslaved laborers. Some came for a fresh start in these immense lands of boundless
opportunity. Even today large numbers of immigrants continue to make the United States and Canada their new home. Every ethnic group and religion are represented in both countries. In many large cities, several different languages can be heard on the streets.

Today more than 324 million people call this region home. Thirty-two million of them live in Canada, while the remaining 292 million live in the United States. Most people live in urban areas on both sides of the border. Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal are among Canada's largest cities. In the United States, New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago are the most populous cities.

1. Which oceans border the region?
2. Why is the climate dry just east of the Pacific ranges?
3. What factors have helped make the region prosperous?
4. In which country do most of the region's people live?
What physical region covers much of the central part of the United States and Canada?

What is the capital of Canada?
Which regions of the United States grow corn?

Where in Canada would you most likely want to raise cattle?
UNIT 2 Geo Extremes

1. HIGHEST POINT
   Mount McKinley (Alaska)
   20,320 ft. (6,194 m) high

2. LOWEST POINT
   Death Valley (California)
   282 ft. (86 m) below sea level

3. LONGEST RIVER
   Mississippi-Missouri
   (United States)
   3,710 mi. (5,971 km) long

4. LARGEST LAKE
   Lake Superior
   31,700 sq. mi. (82,103 sq. km)

5. LARGEST CANYON
   Grand Canyon (Arizona)
   277 mi. (446 km) long
   1 mi. (1.6 km) deep

6. GREATEST TIDES
   Bay of Fundy (Nova Scotia)
   52 ft. (16 m)

COMPARING POPULATION:
United States and Canada

UNITED STATES

Canada


ETHNIC GROUPS:
United States and Canada

UNITED STATES

Canada


In what area of the United States do you find both the lowest point and largest canyon?

How does the percentage of Native American/Inuit population in the United States compare with their percentage of the population in Canada?
Country Profiles

UNITED STATES

POPULATION: 291,500,000
78 per sq. mi.
30 per sq. km

LANGUAGE: English

MAJOR EXPORT: Machinery

MAJOR IMPORT: Crude Oil

CAPITAL: Washington, D.C.
LANDMASS: 3,717,796 sq. mi.
9,629,091 sq. km

CANADA

POPULATION: 31,600,000
8 per sq. mi.
3 per sq. km

LANGUAGE: English, French

MAJOR EXPORT: Newsprint

MAJOR IMPORT: Crude Oil

CAPITAL: Ottawa
LANDMASS: 3,849,670 sq. mi.
9,970,610 sq. km

U.S. State Names: Meaning and Origin

ALABAMA

Montgomery
“thicket clearers” (Choctaw)

ALASKA

Juneau
“the great land” (Aleut)

ARIZONA

Phoenix
“little spring” (Papago), or “dry land” (Spanish)

ARKANSAS

Little Rock
“downstream people” (Quapaw)

CALIFORNIA

Sacramento
unknown meaning (Spanish)

COLORADO

Denver
“red” (Spanish)

CONNECTICUT

Hartford
“beside the long tidal river” (Native American)

DELaware

Dover
named for Virginia’s colonial governor, Baron De La Warr

FLORIDA

Tallahassee
“feast of flowers” (Spanish)

GEORGIA

Atlanta
named for England’s King George II

HAWAI’I

Honolulu
unknown meaning (Native Hawaiian)

IDAHO

Boise
unknown meaning (Native American)

ILLINOIS

Springfield
“tribe of superior men” (Native American)

INDIANA

Indianapolis
“land of Indians” (European American)

IOWA

Des Moines
unknown meaning (Native American)

KANSAS

Topeka
“people of the south wind” (Sioux)

KENTUCKY

Frankfort
“land of tomorrow” (Iroquoian)

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge
named for France’s King Louis XIV

MAINE

Augusta
named for an ancient French province

MARYLAND

Annapolis
named in honor of the wife of England’s King Charles I

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston
“great mountain place” (Native American)

MICHIGAN

Lansing
“great lake” (Ojibway)

MINNESOTA

Saint Paul
“sky-tinted water” (Sioux)

MISSISSIPPI

Jackson
“father of the waters” (Native American)

Countries, states, provinces, and flags not drawn to scale
For more information on the U.S. and Canada, refer to the Nations of the World Data Bank in the Appendix.

### United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Name Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MISSOURI</td>
<td>Jefferson City</td>
<td>&quot;town of the large canoes&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTANA</td>
<td>Helena</td>
<td>“mountainous” (Native American)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEBRASKA</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>“Flat water” (Native American)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEVADA</td>
<td>Carson City</td>
<td>“snowcapped” (Spanish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW HAMPSHIRE</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>named for Hampshire, a county in England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW JERSEY</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
<td>named for Isle of Jersey, a British territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW MEXICO</td>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>named for the state’s former colonial ruler, Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW YORK</td>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>named in honor of the English Duke of York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH CAROLINA</td>
<td>Raleigh</td>
<td>named in honor of England’s King Charles I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH DAKOTA</td>
<td>Bismarck</td>
<td>named for the Dakota, a Native American group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHIO</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>“great river” (Native American)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OKLAHOMA</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>“red people” (Choctaw)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OREGON</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>unknown meaning and origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENNSYLVANIA</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>“Penn’s woodland,” named for the father of Pennsylvania’s founder, William Penn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHODE ISLAND</td>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>unknown meaning and origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH CAROLINA</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>named for England’s King Charles I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH DAKOTA</td>
<td>Pierre</td>
<td>named for the Dakota, a Native American group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TENNESSEE</td>
<td>Nashville</td>
<td>named for tana-see, “the meeting place” (Yuchi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEXAS</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>“friends” (Tejas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTAH</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td>“people of the mountains” (Ute)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERMONT</td>
<td>Montpelier</td>
<td>“green mountain” (French)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIRGINIA</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>named for the unmarried Queen Elizabeth I of England, known as “the Virgin Queen”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASHINGTON</td>
<td>Olympia</td>
<td>named in honor of George Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST VIRGINIA</td>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>began as the western part of Virginia before becoming a state in 1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WISCONSIN</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>“grassy place” (Chippewa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WYOMING</td>
<td>Cheyenne</td>
<td>“upon the great plain” (Delaware)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Canadian Province and Territory Names: Meaning and Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province/Territory</th>
<th>Name Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALBERTA</td>
<td>named for the daughter of England’s Queen Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRITISH COLUMBIA</td>
<td>Victoria named for Christopher Columbus and the province’s British heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANITOBA</td>
<td>Winnipeg “strait of the great spirit” (Algonquian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW BRUNSWICK</td>
<td>Fredericton named for English royal family of Brunswick-Lunenburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR</td>
<td>St. John’s “new found land,” named by explorer John Cabot in 1497, “lavrador,” “laborer” (Portuguese)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHWEST TERRITORIES</td>
<td>Yellowknife named for lands north and west of Lake Superior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVA SCOTIA</td>
<td>Halifax Latin term for “New Scotland,” based on province’s Scottish heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUNAVUT</td>
<td>Iqaluit “our land” (Inuktitut)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONTARIO</td>
<td>Toronto meaning unknown (Iroquoian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</td>
<td>Charlottetown named for the son of England’s King George III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEBEC</td>
<td>Quebec “place where the river narrows” (Algonquian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SASKATCHEWAN</td>
<td>Regina “fast flowing river” (Cree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YUKON TERRITORY</td>
<td>Whitehorse “great river” (Native American)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To learn more about the people and places of the United States, view *The World and Its People* Chapter 4 video.

**Chapter Overview** Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at twip.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 4—Chapter Overviews to preview information about the United States.
Leading the Free World

The United States is the most powerful nation in the world. It has the world’s largest economy and is a leading representative democracy. Immigrants from nearly every other nation of the world have moved here in order to enjoy the freedom the United States Constitution provides.
Who in the United States gets to see the sunrise first? The people in Maine are the first. As the earth rotates, the sun shines on an extremely varied land. It warms the valleys in the East, shimmers on the lakes in the North, and bakes the deserts in the Southwest. In the far Pacific, the sun greets Hawaii’s tropical beaches. Finally, the sun sets beyond Alaska in the North.

The United States stretches 2,807 miles (4,517 km) across the middle part of North America. The 48 states in this part of the country are contiguous, or joined together inside a common boundary. These states touch the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean. Two states lie apart from the other 48. Alaska lies in the northwestern portion of North America. Hawaii is in the Pacific Ocean about 2,400 miles (3,862 km) southwest of California. Find Alaska and Hawaii on page RA6 of the Reference Atlas.

A Vast, Scenic Land

The United States is the third-largest country in the world. Only Russia and Canada are larger. The contiguous states have five main physical regions: the Coastal Plains, the Appalachian Mountains, the Interior Plains, the Mountains and Plateaus, and the Pacific Coast. Alaska and Hawaii each has its own set of physical landforms.
The Coastal Plains  A broad lowland runs along the eastern and southeastern coasts of the United States. The eastern lowlands are called the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The lowlands in the southeast border the Gulf of Mexico and are called the Gulf Coastal Plain. Find these coastal plains on the map below. Excellent harbors along the Atlantic Coastal Plain led to the growth of shipping ports. The soil in the northern part of the region tends to be thin and rocky, though.

Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C., all lie in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. These cities and their suburbs form an almost continuous line of settlement. Geographers call this kind of huge urban area a megalopolis.

The Gulf Coastal Plain is wider than the Atlantic plain. Soils in this region are better than those along the Atlantic coast. Large cities here include Houston and New Orleans, shown on the map on page 149.

1. What river forms part of the boundary between the United States and Mexico?
2. What is the tallest mountain in the 50 states?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps
The Interior Plains of the United States include industrial cities of the North, such as Chicago (above), and the agricultural lands of the Great Plains, like this area in Texas (above right).

Region  Which river divides much of the Interior Plains?

The Appalachian Mountains  As you move west from the Atlantic Coastal Plain, you run into the hilly—yet very fertile—Piedmont area. These hills eventually turn into the Appalachian (\textit{\textipa{A•puh•LAY•chuhn}}) Mountains, which run from eastern Canada to Alabama. The Appalachians are the oldest mountains on the continent. How can you tell? Their rounded peaks show their age. Erosion has worn them down over time. The highest peak, Mount Mitchell in North Carolina, reaches 6,684 feet (2,037 m).

The Interior Plains  When you cross the Appalachians heading west, you enter the vast Interior Plains. This region has two parts. East of the Mississippi River is the Central Lowland area. Here you will find grassy hills, rolling flatlands, and thick forests. The land is fertile, and farms are productive. This area also contains important waterways.

The Great Lakes—the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world—lie in the Central Lowlands. Glaciers formed Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario in the distant past. The waters of these connected lakes flow into the St. Lawrence River, which empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

West of the Mississippi River stretch the Great Plains. The landscape in many places is blanketed with neat fields of grain and grassy pastures and takes on a checkerboard pattern. The Great Plains are about 500 miles (805 km) wide and stretch west to the Rocky Mountains, north into Canada, and south to the Mexican border. The rich grasslands of the Great Plains once provided food for millions of buffalo and the Native Americans who lived there. Today farmers grow grains and ranchers raise cattle on the Great Plains.
Mountains and Plateaus  The **Rocky Mountains** begin in Alaska and run south to Mexico. Along the tops of these mountains is a ridge called the Continental Divide. This ridge separates rivers that flow west—toward the Pacific Ocean—from those that flow east—toward the Mississippi River. Many rivers begin in the high, snowy peaks of the Rockies. The Rio Grande as well as the Missouri, Platte, Arkansas, and Red Rivers flow east. The Colorado, Snake, and Columbia Rivers flow west.

Between the Rockies and the Pacific Coast are plateaus, canyons, and deserts. Plateaus are areas of flat land that rise above the land around them. A canyon is a deep valley with steep sides. The most famous of these is the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

The Pacific Coast  Near the Pacific Coast rise two other mountain ranges. The Cascade Range reaches from Washington State south to California. Volcanoes formed these high peaks—and some of them still erupt. Along California’s eastern side runs the Sierra Nevada. The name *Nevada* means “snow covered” in Spanish. Even in a place as far south as California, these high mountains remain covered with snow.

To the west of these Pacific ranges lie fertile valleys. The Willamette Valley in Oregon and the Central Valley in California both produce abundant crops. Many of the fruits and vegetables you eat may come from these valleys.

Alaska  Mountain ranges form a semicircle over the northern, eastern, and southern parts of Alaska. **Mount McKinley**—the tallest mountain in North America—stands 20,320 feet (6,194 m) high in the Alaska Range. The northern part of the state borders on the frigid Arctic Ocean, and you can almost see Russia from Alaska’s western shores. Most people in Alaska live along the southern coastal plain or in the central Yukon River valley.

Hawaii  Eight large islands and more than 120 smaller islands make up Hawaii, the island state in the Pacific Ocean. Volcanoes on the ocean floor erupted and formed these islands. Some of the islands have **coral reefs**, formed by the skeletons of small sea animals. These structures lie just above or submerged just below the surface of the water.

---

**Reading Check**  What is the Continental Divide?
A Variety of Climates

Because the United States is such a large country, you probably expect it to have many different climates. You are right! Most of the country lies squarely in the mid-latitude region—about 23½°N to 60°N latitude. As you recall from Chapter 2, this part of the earth has the greatest variety of climates.

Look at the climate map of the world on page 63. You can see that the northeastern United States has a humid continental climate. Winters here are cold, and summers are hot and long. Winter snows often blanket the region—especially around the Great Lakes. The southeastern states have a humid subtropical climate. Winters are mild, and summers are hot and humid. Nearness to the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea often causes violent hurricanes and tornadoes in summer.

The Pacific coast from northern California up to Washington has a marine west coast climate. Temperatures are mild year-round, and Pacific winds bring much rain. Southern California, however, has a Mediterranean climate. People enjoy dry, warm summers and mild, rainy winters.

Much of the western Great Plains has a dry, steppe climate. Why? The Pacific mountain ranges block the humid ocean winds. Therefore, hot, dry air gets trapped in between the Pacific ranges and the Rockies. In the southwest, even less rain falls. This arid region has a hot, desert climate.

Alaska, in the high latitudes, has subarctic and tundra climates. Hawaii and southern Florida have warm, tropical climates with heavy rainfall much of the year.

Why are dry climates found in the western Great Plains?

Defining Terms
1. Define contiguous, megalopolis, coral reef.

Recalling Facts
2. Place How does the United States rank in size among all the countries of the world?
3. History Which region once supported Native Americans and millions of buffalo?
4. Place What is the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world?

Critical Thinking
5. Understanding Cause and Effect How were the Hawaiian Islands formed?
6. Drawing Conclusions What challenges do you think result from the distance between Alaska, Hawaii, and the other states?

Graphic Organizer
7. Organizing Information Create a diagram like this one to compare the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains. In the separate outer parts of the ovals, write the qualities that make each region different. In the overlapping area, write the characteristics that the two areas share.

Applying Social Studies Skills
8. Analyzing Maps Look at the physical map on page 127 and the population density map on page 149. At what elevations do the cities with more than 5 million people lie?
The United States has a large, energetic, and growing economy. Fueling all of this economic activity is freedom. As you recall from Chapter 3, the free enterprise system is built on the idea that individual people have the right to run businesses to make a profit. They do so with limited interference from the government. Americans are free to start their own businesses and to keep the profits they earn after paying taxes. They are free to work in whatever jobs they want. Freedom has helped create great economic success.

The World’s Economic Leader

The United States is rich in resources and has hardworking, inventive people. As a result, the country has built the world’s largest economy—in terms of how much money is made from the sale of its goods and services. In fact, the American economy is larger than the next two largest economies—China’s and Japan’s—combined.

Farms in the United States produce about one-half of the world’s corn and about one-tenth of its wheat. American farmers raise about 20 percent of the world’s beef, pork, and lamb. The country exports...
more food than any other nation. Yet agriculture is only a small part of the American economy. Food makes up about 2 percent of the value of all goods produced in the country.

The United States has rich mineral resources. About one-fifth of the world’s coal and copper and one-tenth of the world’s petroleum come from the United States. The country also has large amounts of iron ore, zinc, lead, silver, gold, and many other minerals. Mining, though, makes up less than 1 percent of the nation’s economy.

American factory workers build cars and airplanes. They make computers and appliances. They process foods and make medicines. Manufacturing accounts for nearly one-fifth of the American economy.

By far, the largest part of the economy is services. A service industry is a business that provides services to people instead of producing goods. Banking and finance are services. So is entertainment—and people all over the world buy American movies and CDs. The United States is a leader in tourism, another service industry. Computer-based, online services have also emerged as an important American service industry.

**Reading Check** What is the largest part of the U.S. economy?
America’s Economic Regions

Geographers group states together into five economic regions—the Northeast, the South, the Midwest, the Interior West, and the Pacific.

The Northeast Some farmers in central Pennsylvania and western New York grow grains and fruits. Yet as you read in Section 1, the rocky soil and steep hills in this region are a challenge to the farmers. The area has plenty of deep water ports and swiftly moving rivers, though. As a result, manufacturing, trade, and fishing are the heartbeat of this region. In fact, the Northeast was home to the first mills powered by running water and coal. Look at the economic activity map on page 132. As you can see, coal mining takes place in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

With their deep, natural harbors, Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore are all important ports. Goods are shipped all over the world to and from these ports. These cities are also important centers of banking, insurance, and finance. New York City is one of the financial capitals of the world. It is also a world center in the fashion, entertainment, and communications industries. Farther south, the nation’s capital—Washington, D.C.—employs hundreds of thousands in government and tourism services.

The South With rich soil on most of the Coastal Plains, agriculture flourishes in the Southern states. Because of the region’s warm, wet climate, farmers in Louisiana and Arkansas grow rice and sugarcane. Tobacco flourishes in Virginia and the Carolinas. In Florida you can sample the citrus fruits that farmers grow. Peanuts and pecans are found in Georgia. Alabama farmers grow corn and soybeans. You also see cotton growing in several Southern states, including Texas. Texas, in fact, has more farms than any other state. The people of Texas grow cotton, sorghum, and wheat and raise livestock as well.

The traditional image of the South as an agricultural region is changing, however. As you tour the South, you see expanding cities, growing industries, and diverse populations. New manufacturing centers have drawn new businesses and people to the South from the Northeast and elsewhere. Workers make textiles, electrical equipment, and airplane parts. Oil is found in Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama. As a result, these states produce petroleum-based products.

Service industries are important in the South as well. Florida is a major tourist center. People come to enjoy amusement parks in Orlando, the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, and the beautiful beaches on both coasts. Millions of people flock to New Orleans each year to taste spicy food and hear lively music. Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, and Miami are just a few of this region’s major centers of business and finance.

The Midwest This part of the United States has been called “America’s breadbasket.” Miles and miles of grain and soybean fields greet you as you travel over flat land and fertile soil. In this farm belt, farmers grow corn, soybeans, oats, and wheat to feed animals and people all over the world. Dairy farms in the upper Midwest produce

Surf’s Up!

Fourteen-year-old Shawn Kilgore lives on Florida’s Captiva Island, along the Gulf of Mexico. “I really like warm weather,” he says. “Who needs snow? My dog Sunny and I couldn’t go surfing if we lived in Ohio where my cousins are.” Shawn’s parents manage a resort for tourists. “My mom and dad are always reminding me that we live in one of the world’s richest countries. So my older sister and I volunteer to grocery-shop for people around here who can’t do it themselves.”

The United States
milk and cheese. However, technology has changed many farms from small, family-owned operations to big businesses. The graph on page 11 of the Geography Handbook shows you the decrease in the number of farms over the past few decades.

Many of the region’s rivers are navigable, or wide and deep enough to allow the passage of ships. As a result, many cities here are major ports—even though they are far from an ocean. Businesses in Cincinnati and Louisville send goods down the Ohio River. St. Louis and Memphis serve as centers of trade along the Mississippi River. Chicago’s and Cleveland’s industries ship goods through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway to ports around the world.

Because of their abundant coal and iron resources, many cities in the Midwest are manufacturing centers. A complex network of railroads also helps the region’s many industries. Detroit is called Motown (short for Motor Town) because the country’s auto industry started and grew there. Other major industries include steel, heavy machinery, and auto parts.

The Interior West Magnificent landscapes greet visitors to this region. However, this area is short on an important resource—water. With its dry climate, the region discourages farming. Yet grasses thrive in much of the land, and where the land is irrigated, you find agriculture. Large areas are used for raising cattle and sheep. Ranches here may be huge—as large as 4,000 acres (1,619 ha). In the past, cowhands worked the range on horseback. Although they still use horses today, you are just as likely to see them driving a sturdy truck.

Look at the map on page 132. You see rich deposits of minerals and energy resources in the Interior West. The discovery of gold and silver in the mountains and riverbeds drew settlers here more than 150 years ago. Mining still plays an important role in the economy.
Many people work in service industries too. Every year tourists travel to Denver, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, and Phoenix. They use these cities as starting points for trips to sites such as Yellowstone National Park or the Grand Canyon. Some visit the ruins of ancient Native American settlements, such as those found at Mesa Verde in southwestern Colorado.

**The Pacific**  The Pacific region includes the states on the western coast plus Alaska and Hawaii. The fertile valleys of California, Oregon, and Washington produce large amounts of food. As you learned in Section 1, many of the fruits and vegetables you enjoy every day come from these states. Do you like pineapple? If so, it may have come from Hawaii. This state also grows sugarcane, coffee, and rice because of its tropical climate and rich volcanic soil.

In this region, just like the Atlantic coast, fishing is a major industry. The states of Washington and Oregon draw many people to work in the lumber industry. Mineral resources are important in the Pacific region too. California has gold, lead, and copper. Alaska has vast reserves of oil.

Factory workers in California and Washington make airplanes. The areas around San Francisco and Seattle are world-famous centers of research in computers and software. **Los Angeles** is the world capital of the movie industry. These states in the Pacific region also attract millions of tourists who visit California’s redwood forests, Hawaii’s tropical beaches, or the stunning glaciers of Alaska.

**Reading Check** What goods are manufactured in the Pacific states?

**In the Twenty-First Century**

The American economy, although strong, faces challenges in the twenty-first century. One of these challenges is how to clean up pollution and trash. Americans burn **fossil fuels**—coal, oil, and natural gas—to power their factories and run their cars. Burning these fuels pollutes the air, endangering all who breathe it. The pollution also mixes with water vapor in the air to make **acid rain**, or rain containing high amounts of chemical pollutants. Acid rain damages trees and harms rivers and lakes.

**On Location**

A worker inspects computer components. Along with agriculture, America’s economy is strong in technology, science, education, and medicine.

**Place** What areas in the United States are important software centers?
The fast-paced American way of life creates another problem. People generate huge amounts of trash. Landfills, the areas where trash companies dump the waste they collect, grow higher and higher each year. Many communities now promote recycling, or reusing materials instead of throwing them out. Recycling cuts down on the amount of trash.

**New Technology**  The ability to develop new technology has been a major source of strength for the American economy. Researchers work constantly to find new products to make people’s lives easier and healthier. Quality schools that produce educated and creative people have helped the country become a world leader in satellites, computers, medicine, and many other fields. You will need to learn and use new technologies to be productive and successful in your future jobs.

**World Trade**  The United States leads the world in the value of all its imports and exports. Millions of Americans depend on trade for their jobs. American leaders have worked hard to promote free trade. Free trade means taking down trade barriers such as tariffs and quotas so that goods flow freely among countries. In 1993 the United States joined Mexico and Canada in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This agreement promised to remove all barriers to trade among these countries.

**Reading Check** How do factories and cars harm the environment in the United States?

---

**Defining Terms**
1. **Define** free enterprise system, service industry, navigable, fossil fuel, acid rain, landfill, recycling, free trade.

**Recalling Facts**
2. **Economics**  Why is the Midwest called “America’s breadbasket”?
3. **History**  The discovery of which resources first brought settlers to the Interior West?
4. **Economics**  What was the goal of NAFTA?

**Critical Thinking**
5. **Analyzing Information**  Describe two characteristics of the United States that have made it a world economic leader.
6. **Understanding Cause and Effect**  What reasons can you give for the economic changes taking place in the South?

**Graphic Organizer**
6. **Organizing Information**  Draw a diagram like this one. Name one economic region of the United States in the center oval. In the outer ovals write examples for each subtopic.

**Applying Social Studies Skills**
8. **Analyzing Maps**  Study the economic activity map on page 132 and the physical map on page 127. What type of resources are found in or near the Rocky Mountains?
Protecting America’s Freedoms from Terror

Keeping Liberty Safe
September 11, 2001, is a day no one will forget. At 8:46 A.M., a hijacked jumbo jet slammed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. A second hijacked plane plowed into the south tower at 9:03 A.M. About a half hour later, the south tower collapsed. Outside Washington, D.C., at 9:43 A.M., a third hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. military. About 30 minutes later, a fourth jumbo jet crashed onto a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Its target, which it never reached, may have been the White House, 124 miles away. Back in New York, the World Trade Center’s north tower collapsed. It was 10:28 A.M. In less than two hours, 19 terrorists had murdered 2,976 innocent people.

America Reacts

The attacks stunned the world. They especially jarred the 4,000 students at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. These students realized they would soon be defending the nation against an entirely new kind of enemy. “How do you fight this war and still stay true to the values of the United States?” a West Point professor asked her students shortly after the attack. She brought out a poster. It showed two curved lines facing each other. Outside one of the lines was the word Liberty. Outside the other line was the word Security. “What is the proper balance?” she asked. Americans have been wrestling with that question ever since that day—September 11, 2001.

Balancing Freedom and Safety

Freedom First
In the United States, the government can’t take away people’s right to...

- be free from unreasonable searches
- worship as they wish
- speak freely
- print and read what they want
- be free from cruel punishments
- protest government actions
- have fair, speedy, and public trials
- keep their personal affairs private

Compromises
To increase their safety, most Americans have seemed willing to accept...

- airport baggage searches
- metal detectors in schools
- court-okayed wiretaps
- concrete barriers in front of government buildings
- state bans on driving without a license
- police searches of people suspected of carrying weapons

Security First
In a country that puts security before freedom, the government might...

- search anyone without warning
- keep lists of members of a particular religion
- ban criticism of the government
- torture suspects
- hold trials in secret
- be free to access anyone’s medical and financial records
- keep track of what people download to their computers
- close down newspapers it does not like
“September 11,” or “9/11,” as the terrible event is called, made people everywhere more aware of the need for security. Governments reacted to those concerns in different ways. Some countries, like Japan, planned to require their citizens to carry electronic identification cards.

The United States tackled the problem in a different way. Shortly after 9/11, the United States Congress created new tools with which to combat terrorism. One of those tools was a new government agency, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The TSA’s job is to find ways to make the nation’s airlines and other transportation systems, such as railroads and trucking, safer.

The USA Patriot Act is another new weapon against terrorism. The law contains strong measures to prevent terrorism, detect it, and take legal action against it.

Most Americans welcomed the TSA and the Patriot Act. But many criticized them too. They worried that some freedoms might be taken away.

**No-Fly Lists**

The TSA created “no-fly” lists, which contained the names of people suspected of having links to terrorists. This means that airlines are not allowed to let anyone on the lists board an airplane. But many law-abiding Americans have been caught in TSA’s web. One man complained that he was stopped every time he tried to fly. He had to prove each time that he was who he was—a 71-year-old, gray-haired, American-born English teacher.

The Patriot Act contained other measures that critics didn’t like. One provision made it fairly easy for federal agents to search a citizen’s library, business, and medical records.

This provision bothered Lynn Bradley, who works for an organization that represents librarians. She did not like the fact that the government could access private records. “People ask [me], ‘Why are you interested in privacy when thousands of people were killed and there are soldiers at risk?’” she said. “We have in the United States a Constitution, a Bill of Rights, and all sorts of laws protecting privacy. One of the reasons we’re fighting is to protect rights that [the terrorists] attacked us for in the first place.”

---

**Exploring the Issue**

1. **Analyzing Information** Why did the TSA create no-fly lists?

2. **Interpreting Points of View** Do you agree with Lynn Bradley that the Patriot Act might threaten individual rights? Why or why not?
n November 25, 2002, President George W. Bush signed a bill that gave birth to the U.S. government’s third-largest department—the Department of Homeland Security. At its birth, the new department employed 170,000 people who worked for 22 different agencies. Among those agencies are the Coast Guard, the Border Patrol, the Secret Service, and the Customs Service. The president chose Tom Ridge, a former U.S. Congressman and governor of Pennsylvania, to head the department.

Department Responsibilities

The new department has four basic functions:

1. It analyzes information about terrorism provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). It also helps state and local governments keep power plants and other possible homeland targets safe from terrorists.

2. It works to keep travelers safe and to protect airports, borders, and seaports.

3. It deals with natural and human-made disasters, ranging from hurricanes to terrorist attacks.

4. It oversees the development of new ways to detect weapons. It is also responsible for creating new medicines to protect Americans against smallpox and other biological agents.

The FBI and the CIA are not part of the new department. Secretary Ridge prefers it this way. “The CIA and the FBI provide reports and analysis to this department,” he said. “We’re a customer.” Americans cherish their right to be left alone. Can a government department dedicated to keeping citizens safe respect that right?

Secretary Ridge certainly thinks so. “Everyone from the president on down understands that protecting certain liberties and freedoms is at the very heart of who we are,” he said. “[We intend] to make sure that we do everything we can within the law, within the Constitution, to improve our own security. It’s a line that we have to walk carefully. There’s a balance there, and I’m convinced it can be done.”

Exploring the Issue

1. Making Inferences Why should the Department of Homeland Security be involved with scientific research?

2. Drawing Conclusions What are some of the reasons people might be concerned about the new department’s powers?
A Memorial for Heroes

Ancient people used to tell the story of the phoenix (FEE-nix). The phoenix was a sacred bird. When it reached the end of its life, it would burn itself up. Then it would rise from the ashes to begin its life again.

It took hundreds of workers eight months to haul away the smoldering remains of the World Trade Center. Then architects went to work. They drew up plans for a 16-acre city that would rise from the ashes like the phoenix.

A woman who lost her husband on 9/11 was happy to see the plans. “The greatest tribute to the people who died there,” she said, “is to see life and rebirth.”

A Long Process

It will take at least ten years to see exactly what will rise on the site. City planners, architects, political leaders, and builders will first have to agree on the size and shape of the buildings.

The memorial on the World Trade Center site has been chosen. It consists of two reflecting pools and a large grove of trees. This memorial, named “Reflecting Absence,” occupies the towers’ two “footprints.” The names of all the 9/11 victims will be arranged around the pools to look like a ribbon of names.

The highest structure on the site will be the Freedom Tower. This twisting structure, exactly 1,776 feet (541 m) high, will be the first building to go up. Its height is a reminder of 1776, the year Americans declared their independence from Great Britain.
Defense Against Terror: What Can One Person Do?

Terrorism forces us to make a choice,” says Tom Ridge, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. “We can be afraid. Or we can be ready.”

It is very, very unlikely that terrorists will attack your neighborhood. But it can never hurt to prepare for the unexpected.

How can you do that? Prepare the same way you would if you were getting ready for a natural disaster like a hurricane or flood. Put together a kit of needed supplies: medicines, flashlights, batteries, a portable radio, and enough canned food and water to last three days. Add dense cotton cloth to your kit. Held over your mouth and nose, the cloth would filter out tiny airborne materials that could get into your lungs. Decide how family members will keep in touch with each other during a disaster. Get together with neighbors to figure out how you can help one another during an emergency.

Special Preparations

Terrorists use fear and misunderstanding to reach their goals. Make understanding one of your goals! Learn why some groups turn to terrorism. You’ll find out that, in most cases, the terrorists cause as much fear and frustration in their own countries as they try to cause in the rest of the world. Promote communication and understanding by becoming pen pals with students in other regions.

As Secretary Ridge suggests, the mere fear of terrorism can leave scars. After 9/11, a West Point cadet knew what she would do to prevent that kind of fear. She recalled the Battle of Britain in 1940, when the Germans bombed English cities. The British “refused to let [the bombing] shut them down,” she said. In the end, the British rallied together and won the battle. In the same way, we can prevent terrorists from shutting us down.

1. Problem Solving  What suggestions would you give Secretary Ridge to help in the fight against terrorism?

2. Making Inferences  What does the West Point cadet believe we should do to protect ourselves against the fear of terrorism?
REVIEW AND ASSESS

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

1. Defining Key Terms
Write definitions for the following terms: 9/11, Patriot Act, rights, Department of Homeland Security.

2. Writing to Inform
In a brief essay, explain how 9/11 changed the nation. Use the words airport, search, freedom, and security in your essay.

3. Writing to Persuade
A judge once said, “Your right to swing your arm stops at my nose.” How might that statement apply to luggage searches at airports? Do you agree with the statement? Explain your answers in a short essay.

INTERNET RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

4. With your teacher’s help, navigate to www.ready.gov. Explore one of the three main items on the page. Write a short essay that explains what you learned about preparing for a terrorist attack.

5. Navigate to www.lifeandliberty.gov, where the United States Department of Justice defends the Patriot Act. Jot down two arguments for the law. Then navigate to www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/usapatriot. EPIC is a group that has some concerns about the law. Jot down two of EPIC’s concerns. Explain to your classmates how these arguments shaped your view of the law.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

6. In your local library, research the impact of terrorism on nations such as Sri Lanka and Israel. Why is terrorism more common in those nations than in the United States? Summarize your conclusions and share them with your classmates.

7. Working in groups, create posters that explain how to prepare for any disaster, including a terrorist attack. Display your posters where other students in your school can see them.

Ground Zero: A Proposal for Renewal
This plan for rebuilding Ground Zero is sure to change as time goes by.

BUILDING MAP READING SKILLS

1. Explaining
Two pools with cascading waterfalls will be placed in the two towers’ “footprints.” The architect named this memorial “Reflecting Absence.” What does this mean to you?

2. Making Generalizations
How do you think you would feel if you visited the site and saw the exposed foundation wall?
Mental Mapping

Think about how you get from place to place each day. In your mind you have a picture—or mental map—of your route. If necessary, you could probably create sketch maps like the one below of many familiar places.

Learning the Skill

To develop your mental mapping skills, follow these steps.

- When a country or city name is mentioned, find it on a map to get an idea of where it is and what is near it.
- Create a sketch map of it and include a compass rose to determine the cardinal directions.
- As you read or hear information about the place, try to picture where on your sketch you would fill in this information.
- Compare your sketch to an actual map of the place. Change your sketch if you need to, thus changing your mental map.

Practicing the Skill

Study the sketch map at the right. Picture yourself standing in the map, then answer the following questions.

1. If you were facing north, looking at the Chicago Cultural Center, what route would you take to reach the Chicago Harbor?

2. You are at the Sears Tower, one of the tallest buildings in the world. About how many miles would you have to walk to get to Medinah Temple?

3. If you met your friend at the cultural center, would it be too far to walk to the Art Institute? Should you take a taxi? Explain.
The United States has often been called a nation of immigrants. You might say that Elmhurst, New York, is the capital of this immigrant nation. This area may have the greatest ethnic diversity in the country. Elmhurst is a section of Queens, one of the boroughs of New York City. People from more than 120 different nations live in Elmhurst.

The United States is a young country compared to many others. It became an independent nation a little more than 225 years ago. American history starts much earlier than this, however.

A Rich History

Experts have long believed that the first people to settle in the Americas came from Asia about 15,000 years ago. At that time, the earth’s climate was much colder than it is now. Huge sheets of ice covered much of the Northern Hemisphere. As a result, sea levels were lower, and a land bridge connected Asia and Alaska. Herd animals crossed this bridge—and the people who hunted them followed.

Native Americans The people who crossed the land bridge from Asia slowly fanned out over the Americas. Their descendants today are called Native Americans. Over time, they developed different ways of life using local resources. In the Northeast, the people hunted deer and fished. In the fertile lands of the Southeast and Mississippi Valley, they grew corn and other crops. On the dry, treeless Great Plains, the Native
Americans hunted buffalo, which provided them with food, clothing, and shelter. In the dry Southwest, the people irrigated the land to grow corn and beans. In the Northwest, they fished.

**Explorers and Colonists** Around A.D. 1500, Europeans began to explore the Americas. The raw materials they saw—forests, animal furs, and rich soils—soon led them to set up colonies. These are overseas settlements tied to a parent country. The French built trading posts around the Great Lakes and interior river valleys. The Spanish built towns and missions in Florida and Georgia and from Texas to California. British and northern European colonists settled along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Georgia.

By the mid-1700s, the people living in the British colonies had started to see themselves as Americans rather than as British citizens. They were frustrated with British policies that disregarded their rights. In 1775, thirteen of the British colonies rebelled. On July 4, 1776, they declared independence and created the United States of America. For the next five long years, colonial troops battled British soldiers in the American Revolution. With the help of France and Spain, the Americans won the war.

**The U.S. Constitution** The 13 former British colonies became the first 13 states. Each quickly wrote a state constitution, or plan of government. Developing a national plan of government proved harder, however. In 1787 a group of American leaders met in Philadelphia to create a new national government. They wrote the document called the United States Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution is still in place after more than 200 years. It is the basis for all our laws. It also explains how our national or central government is set up and works. Early American leaders’ goal was to create a government strong enough to provide for the common good. They also wanted a government with limited powers so that people’s rights would be protected from government interference. Because the U.S. Constitution has worked so well in achieving both goals, it has been used as a model by many other countries.

The U.S. Constitution went into effect in 1789, but it has grown and changed over the years. Through a process called amending, Americans have a peaceful way to change the basic laws of their government. A constitutional amendment is a change or addition to the Constitution. The first ten amendments, passed in 1791, are called the Bill of Rights. They list specific freedoms guaranteed to individual Americans, such as freedoms of speech and religion.

**A Federal Republic** Our government is based on the principle of democracy, or rule by the people. There are many different types of democracies. We have a representative democracy, in which voters choose leaders who make and enforce the laws.

When the Constitution was approved in 1788, each state kept its own government. Voters of each state also chose people to serve in the national government. This system makes the United States a
federal republic. This is a form of government in which power is divided between the federal, or national, government and the state governments. A president serves as the leader of the nation. The Constitution also divided the national government into three branches so that no person or group could gain too much power. The chart on page 148 shows the three branches of the national government.

A Period of Growth From 1800 to 1900, the United States experienced tremendous growth. It expanded from the 13 states along the Atlantic coast to include 45 states that reached to the Pacific Ocean. The population boomed as millions of people settled here from other lands. Surveyors were hired to establish plot boundaries for land sales. In what is today the Midwest, settlers purchased rectangular plots, cleared forests, and grew corn. In the South, huge cotton plantations arose. When gold was discovered in California, miners surged past the Rocky Mountains. In their rush to grab land, settlers often fought with Native Americans who were being pushed out of the way.

The Industrial Revolution, which began in Great Britain, spread to the United States. Water-powered factories sprang up along fast-moving rivers. Roads and canals were built to help farmers move their products to ports. The emergence of steamboats allowed upstream travel.

In the mid-1800s, the nation experienced a crisis. The South had built its economy on slavery. Hundreds of thousands of enslaved Africans had been forced to work on Southern plantations. Over time, the issues of slavery and states’ rights divided the country. In 1861 several Southern states seceded, or withdrew from the national government. For four years, the North and the South fought the bitter Civil War. In the end, the Southern states were brought back into the Union, and slavery was abolished.

The Civil War did more than end slavery. It also launched the country into a period of great economic and technological growth.  

The Founders
With very few exceptions, the world knew only monarchies and absolute rulers when courageous leaders such as Thomas Jefferson (left), George Washington (center), and James Madison (right) risked their lives and fortunes to spearhead the drive for an independent United States. Jefferson was the chief author of the Declaration of Independence, which the Continental Congress formally issued on July 4, 1776. Washington led the new nation’s army in the Revolution, chaired the Constitutional Convention, and became the first president under the U.S. Constitution. Madison is considered the master builder of the Constitution. He later served as president.

Beliefs Why do you think that the Founders were willing to risk their lives and fortunes to establish the United States?
Railroads crisscrossed the land, and large factories were built, especially in the Northeast and Midwest. This economic expansion attracted another great wave of immigrants, or people who move to a new country to make a permanent home.

A World Leader During the early 1900s, the United States became one of the leading economies in the world. Automobiles rolled off assembly lines and electricity became common. Other technologies, such as the telephone and the radio, entered daily life.

The world plunged into two World Wars in the first half of the twentieth century. The United States took part in these wars. Our country’s leaders urged the world’s people to fight for freedom against dangerous dictators. American factories produced tanks and airplanes, while American soldiers helped win the wars.

After World War II, the United States enjoyed great influence around the world. American companies shipped their products to all continents. American leaders pushed for democracy and free enterprise in other countries. American culture spread around the globe.

At home, however, tensions existed among groups within American society. Many of the Americans who had fought in the two World Wars or had taken care of the home front were women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans. After World War II, these groups became more active in seeking equal rights. Many people, including such leaders as Martin Luther King, Jr., developed methods that led to civil change. The poems on page 152 describe two views of Americans struggling to be accepted.

Security Americans have normally felt safe in their own country. After terrorists attacked New York City and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001, this feeling of security was tested, however.
President Bush responded by signing the Homeland Security Act into law. This act established a new cabinet department—the Department of Homeland Security—to coordinate government agencies charged with protecting the nation from terrorist attacks.

**Reading Check** How did a strong economy help spread American culture?

**One Out of Many**

About 292 million people live in the United States, making it the third most populous country after China and India. Compared with people in most other countries, Americans enjoy a high standard of living. Americans, on the average, can expect to live about 77 years. Medical advances have helped people to live longer than earlier generations.

Almost three-fourths of the people in our country descended from European ethnic groups. African Americans form about 12 percent of the population. Hispanics, who trace their heritages to the countries of Latin America and Spain, are the fastest-growing ethnic group. Today many immigrants to the United States come from China, India, other...
Asian countries, and the Pacific Islands. The smallest ethnic group—Native American—has lived in the country the longest. A graph on page 121 shows the country’s different ethnic groups.

Language and Religion

The main language of the United States is English, but you can hear many languages spoken here. Spanish is commonly heard throughout Florida, Texas, and California. In California you can also read signs in Chinese and Korean.

Religion has always been an important influence on American life. About 80 percent of Americans consider themselves religious, and almost 50 percent attend a religious service on a regular basis. Most Americans follow some form of Christianity. Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism are also practiced in our country.

Mobility

Americans have always been a mobile people, moving from place to place. At one time, our nation was made up entirely of rural, or countryside, areas. Now we are primarily a nation of urban, or city, dwellers. To find more room to live, Americans move from cities to the suburbs, or smaller communities surrounding a larger city. They also move from one region to another to seek a better climate or better jobs. Since the 1970s, the fastest-growing areas in the country have been in the South and Southwest—often called the Sunbelt.

Which ethnic group is the fastest growing?

American Culture

American artists and writers have developed distinctly American styles. The earliest American artists used materials from their environments to create works of art. Native Americans carved wooden masks and totems or made beautiful designs on pottery from clay found in
their areas. Later artists were attracted to the beauty of the landscape. Winslow Homer painted the stormy waters of the North Atlantic. Georgia O’Keeffe painted the colorful deserts of the Southwest. Thomas Eakins and John Sloan often painted the gritty side of city life.

Two themes are common to American literature. One theme focuses on the rich diversity of the people in the United States. The poetry of Langston Hughes and the novels of Toni Morrison portray the triumphs and sorrows of African Americans. The novels of Amy Tan examine the lives of Chinese Americans. Oscar Hijuelos and Sandra Cisneros write about the country’s Hispanics.

A second theme focuses on the landscape and history of particular regions. Mark Twain’s books tell about life along the Mississippi River in the mid-1800s. Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote about the people of New England. Willa Cather and Laura Ingalls Wilder portrayed the struggles people faced in settling the Great Plains. William Faulkner wrote stories about life in the South.

**Sports and Recreation** Many Americans spend their leisure time at home, reading books or using a computer. Many also pursue active lives outdoors. They may bike, ski, shoot baskets, or kick soccer balls. Spectator sports such as baseball and football draw large crowds. Millions each year travel to national parks, or areas set aside to protect wilderness and wildlife.

What are two common themes in American literature?
Native Americans and African Americans endured many years of injustice. Even so, the pride and determination of these Americans remained strong. Read the poems by Native American poet Simon J. Ortiz and African American poet Langston Hughes to see how they express these feelings.

**Survival This Way**
by Simon J. Ortiz (1941– )

Survival, I know how this way.
This way, I know.
It rains.
Mountains and canyons and plants grow.
We travelled this way,
gauged our distance by stories
and loved our children.
We taught them
to love their births.
We told ourselves over and over again, “We shall survive
this way.”

“Survival This Way” by Simon J. Ortiz. Reprinted by permission of the author.

**I, Too**
by Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

I, too, sing America.
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.
Tomorrow,
I’ll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody’ll dare
Say to me,
“Eat in the kitchen,”
Then.
Besides,
They’ll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—
I, too, am America.


---

1. How does the poem “Survival This Way” tell how Native Americans feel about their children?
2. What does Langston Hughes mean by the phrase “I, too, sing America”?
3. **Making Comparisons** In what way do both poems convey a message of hope?
Section 1  From Sea to Shining Sea

Terms to Know
- contiguous
- megalopolis
- coral reef

Main Idea
The United States has a great variety of landforms and climates.

- Region  The United States has five main physical regions: the Coastal Plains, the Appalachian Mountains, the Interior Plains, the Mountains and Plateaus region, and the Pacific Coast. Alaska and Hawaii make up two additional regions.

- History  Forty-eight of the United States are contiguous, joined together inside a common boundary between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

- Economics  The Central Lowlands area is well suited to agriculture, as are western coastal valleys.

- Place  The high Rocky Mountains have a ridge called the Continental Divide, which separates rivers that flow east from rivers that flow west.

Section 2  An Economic Leader

Terms to Know
- free enterprise
- system
- service industry
- navigable
- fossil fuel
- acid rain
- landfill
- recycling
- free trade

Main Idea
The United States economy runs on abundant resources and the hard work of Americans.

- Economics  Because of many natural resources and an inventive people, the United States has the world's most productive economy.

- Economics  Service industries contribute the most to the American economy, followed by manufacturing, agriculture, and mining.

- Economics  The United States has five economic regions—the Northeast, the South, the Midwest, the Interior West, and the Pacific.

- Economics  Creativity and hard work are needed to continue to develop new technologies and help the American economy grow.

Section 3  The Americans

Terms to Know
- colony
- representative
- democracy
- federal republic
- secede
- immigrant
- rural
- urban
- suburb

Main Idea
The United States is a land of many cultures.

- Culture  The American people are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants who have come from all over the world.

- Government  The United States is a republic. A republic is a type of representative democracy.

- Culture  Ethnic groups in America are descendants of five main peoples: Europeans, Africans, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans.

- Culture  American arts celebrate the country’s ethnic and regional diversity.
Using Key Terms

Match the terms in Part A with their definitions in Part B.

A.
1. contiguous 6. colony
2. megalopolis 7. recycling
3. free enterprise system 8. free trade
4. fossil fuel 9. secede
5. suburb 10. representative democracy

B.
a. oil, natural gas, and coal
b. smaller community surrounding a city
c. areas joined inside a common boundary
d. reusing materials
e. limited government control over the economy
f. overseas settlement tied to a parent country
g. huge urban area
h. withdraw from national government
i. goods flow freely between countries
j. voters choose government leaders

Reviewing the Main Ideas

Section 1 From Sea to Shining Sea
11. Region What are the five main physical regions of the United States?
12. Place What cities make up the huge urban area along the East Coast of the United States?
13. Region List nine kinds of climates found in the United States.

Section 2 An Economic Leader
14. Economics Name four of the mineral resources found in the United States.
15. Economics Name four of the South’s agricultural products.
16. Human/Environment Interaction What is happening to America’s landfills?

Section 3 The Americans
17. Government How has the United States Constitution been able to change over the years?
18. Science What has helped lengthen people’s lives in the United States?
19. Place Which parts of the United States have the fastest-growing populations?
1. According to the graph, about how many tourists visited the United States in 2001?
   A 45.5
   B 76.5
   C 45,500
   D 45,500,000

2. Which country on the graph had the least number of tourists?
   F France
   G United Kingdom
   H Spain
   J Italy


Critical Thinking
20. Understanding Cause and Effect What physical features of the Interior Plains have affected the economy of that region?
21. Categorizing Information Create a diagram like the one below. In the outer ovals, write two facts about the United States under each heading.

Comparing Regions Activity
22. Geography Research to find information on Death Valley in California and the Sahara in Africa. Write a paragraph comparing them.

Mental Mapping Activity
23. Focusing on the Region Create a simple outline map of the United States and then label the following:
   • Appalachian Mountains
   • Great Lakes
   • Alaska
   • Rocky Mountains
   • Hawaii
   • Mississippi River
   • Pacific Ocean
   • Atlantic Ocean
   • Gulf of Mexico
   • Great Plains

Technology Skills Activity
24. Using the Internet Search the Internet to find out where different ethnic groups have historically settled in your state. Create a state map and label the cities founded by immigrants.

Test-Taking Tip: A common error that occurs when you are reading graphs is to overlook the information on the bottom and the side of the graph. Check these areas to see what the numbers mean.