

Summary: Regions of the United States

Types of Regions

The United States has many regions. One way people define regions is by physical features, such as landforms or water systems. The United States has mountain regions, valleys, plateaus, and plains. Other regions include wetlands, grasslands, forests, and deserts. Regions can also be defined by human features, such as religion or language. Over time, as the population changes, the region may also change. The region may grow or shrink.

Regions can also be defined by the work people do. For example, parts of Kansas are in the Wheat Belt, a region where many farmers grow wheat. The Silicon Valley in California is a region where many people work at computer jobs.

Other regions can be defined by the kinds of communities people live in. Cities are urban regions. The smaller towns around cities are called suburban. Together, cities and suburban regions are called metropolitan regions. Country areas are rural. They do not have cities or many people.

States and Regions

In this book, the United States is divided into four major regions: the East, the South, the Midwest, and the West. They are named for their geographic location. Each region includes several states that are close together. States in a region share natural features. They may have similar landforms or animals. For example, states in the West use the same rivers to water their farmland.

Human features also link the states in each region. Much of the land in the West was once controlled by Spain and Mexico. The states in the West share a common history. States in a region are also linked by their economy. In the South, agriculture and factories are important for the economy. Many people work on farms or in factories. Some regions are linked to a special feature, like a major city or favorite sports team. These ideas are a small part of what makes up a region.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

urban *adjective*, in a city
suburban *adjective*, in smaller towns near a city

rural *adjective*, in country areas with fewer people and no large cities

economy *noun*, the way the people of an area choose to use the area's resources

agriculture *noun*, the business of farming

After You Read

REVIEW Over time, what might happen to regions that are based on human features? Underline two sentences that tell what happens when populations change.

REVIEW Why does each state belong to a certain region? Draw a box around three sentences that tell how states are linked in a region.