

Summary: What's Special About the Mid-Atlantic Region

Where People Live

The Mid-Atlantic region contains New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. There are many big cities in this region. New York City is the largest city in the nation. It was built at the mouth of the Hudson River. Ships from Europe sailed into the big harbor. European settlers used the river to move resources and goods from inland North America to Europe. Trade developed. The city spread out to include Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx. People come to New York from all over the world. New York City has skyscrapers. It is a world center for publishing, advertising, and technology. Millions of tourists visit New York every year. They enjoy museums and plays. They visit famous places like the Statue of Liberty.

Suburbs surround the cities in the Mid-Atlantic region. People moved to the suburbs because the cities became crowded. There are many farms in the Mid-Atlantic region. Farms produce dairy products, chickens, and flowers. Coal is mined in Pennsylvania. Tourists ski on the mountains and swim at the beaches. They also visit Washington, D.C., the nation's capital.

State Governments

Each state in the United States has its own constitution and government. The government is in the capital city. State governments have three branches. The legislative branch makes the laws. The executive branch makes sure the laws are put into action. The governor of the state is the head of the executive branch. The judicial branch explains the laws in courts. State governments are public institutions. They provide education, fire and police protection, and highways for people in the state. They pay for these services by collecting taxes. People can be taxed on the property they own, the purchases they make, or the money they earn.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

skyscraper *noun*, a very tall building

legislative branch *noun*, the branch of government that makes the laws

executive branch *noun*, the branch of government that makes sure the laws are put into action

judicial branch *noun*, the branch of government that interprets, or explains, the laws in courts

governor *noun*, the head of the executive branch in the state government

After You Read

REVIEW Why was New York's location important to its growth? What did European settlers use the river for? What was the result? Draw boxes around the sentences that tell you the answers.

REVIEW What are the three branches of state government and what do they do? Highlight the three branches of government. Underline the sentences that tell what each branch is responsible for.