

Summary: What's Special About the Upper South

Where People Live

The Upper South has six states: Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and West Virginia. Much of the land is rural and forested, but most of the people live in cities and towns. Farmers grow and sell cotton, tobacco, and rice. They raise chickens, cattle, and horses.

Cities in the Upper South are important places for business. Memphis is a busy transportation center and distribution hub. Big highways, train lines, and the Mississippi River pass through Memphis. Many people in Memphis work to distribute goods throughout the world. The health care and tourism industries are also very important.

Tourists enjoy outdoor activities. They can hunt for diamonds in an Arkansas diamond mine. Music lovers go to Nashville to hear country music. History lovers visit the homes of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. They can also visit Colonial Williamsburg.

Working in the Upper South

Many companies have moved to the Upper South. They like the region because of its mild climate and educated workers. Many people work in transportation, farming, and tourism. Manufacturing, especially of textiles, is an important industry in the Upper South. More than half the furniture sold in the United States is made in High Point, North Carolina. Mining makes West Virginia a leading producer of coal.

The biggest research center in the United States, Research Triangle Park, is in North Carolina. About 45,000 people work there. They explore new ideas in medicine, computers, and communications. New forms of communication use technology to send messages quickly over long distances. They include cell phones, e-mail, and the Internet.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

transportation *noun*, the business of carrying people or goods from one place to another

hub *noun*, a major center of activity

research *verb*, to study something carefully to learn more about it

communication *noun*, the exchange of information

After You Read

REVIEW What makes Memphis an important business center? Draw a box around the paragraph that tells why Memphis is special.

REVIEW Describe two of the major industries of the Upper South. Circle words that name industries.