

Summary: World Regions

Regions of the World

People divide the world into different kinds of regions. A region has some shared features, such as landforms, history, culture, or crops. Hemispheres are regions that include half of the earth. The United States is in the Northern and Western Hemispheres. Continents are another kind of region. The United States is part of the North American continent.

Landform regions can be identified by common landforms. They are based on the shape of the land. Mountain regions may be rugged with steep slopes. Plains regions may have broad, flat land. Continents have many landform regions. Climate regions, such as Arctic zones and tropical zones, are another way people divide the world. Regions can be defined by the amount of rainfall they get or by vegetation. Regions can also be defined by human features, such as a shared economic system, language, or religion.

Regions and People

The features of a region affect the lives of its people. For example, the warm, wet climate of Southeast Asia is good for growing rice. Rice is the most important food there and in most of Asia. Rice plays a role in the religions of Asia. In Bali people think of rice as a great gift and have religious ceremonies to show their respect. People who live in arctic regions cannot farm because it is too cold. Fishing and hunting are central to their lives. Resources of a region also affect how people live. In forested regions, people build their houses of wood. In warmer regions, people build houses of cement to stay cool. There can be differences within regions too. In India there are people who speak different dialects and have different religious beliefs. Different kinds of regions can overlap. A mountain region can include two different language regions. Learning about regions helps us understand the world and the people in it.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

vegetation *noun*, the kinds of plants that grow in a region

dialect *noun*, a regional form of a language



After You Read

REVIEW What are two kinds of regions? Highlight words that name kinds of regions.

REVIEW How can the features of a region affect the people who live there? Underline sentences that tell how climate or natural resources affect how people in Southeast Asia live. Underline sentences that tell about houses people build.