

Summary: Regions of the United States

What Is a Region?

Geographers study regions to learn about different places. The United States is divided into many types of regions. Each region has features that make it different from others. Regions of the United States can be divided by location. The four regions are the Northeast, the South, the Midwest, and the West.

The country can also be divided into regions with similar landforms. For example, the Rocky Mountain region has many steep mountains. The Great Plains region has flat or gently rolling land.

Geographers divide regions by climate, too. Regions in the Southwest get more sunshine than regions in the Northeast.

Regions can also be based on the goods people produce. The Corn Belt in the Midwest produces more corn than any other region. Regions can also be areas where most people speak the same language or share the same customs.

Regions can change. Silicon Valley used to be a fruit-growing region. Now, computers are its main business.

Regions and the Economy

The resources in a region help people decide which crops to grow and which goods to produce. For example, Tennessee's soil and climate are very good for growing cotton, so many farmers in Tennessee grow and sell cotton. If a business makes a lot of one product, it costs less to produce it. Specialization results when people make goods using the resources they have.

Today all regions of the United States are interdependent. People trade with other regions for goods and services they do not have. Trading gives consumers a bigger variety of things to buy. When people in one region decide to produce something, it affects people in other regions all over the country.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

region *noun*, an area that has one or more features in common

specialization *noun*, the result of people making the goods they are best able to produce with the resources they have

interdependent *adjective*, to depend, or rely, on each other

trade *noun*, the buying and selling of goods



After You Read

REVIEW What are three kinds of regions in the United States? Highlight at least three ways geographers divide the nation into regions.

REVIEW In what way does trade affect what people can buy? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.