

Summary: Regions of the United States

What Is a Region?

The United States can be divided into regions. States that are close to one another can be included in a region. The United States can be divided into four regions: Northeast, South, Midwest, and West. States in a region often share landforms. The Midwestern states have wide plains and few mountains. The West has many mountains.

The United States can also be divided into political regions, such as states. Regions can also be divided by climate. Another way to divide the country is by common activities, such as the work people do, or a common custom or language. For example, the Dairy Belt is a region that raises cows that produce a lot of milk. It includes parts of the Midwest and Northeast.

People's ideas about regions can change. The Great Plains region used to be called a desert, but today it has many farms.

Regions and Resources

Regions can also be grouped by the resources they have. For example, the Appalachian Mountain region has a lot of coal. Resources are important for a region's economy. The resources in a region help people decide what crops to grow and what goods to produce.

When a region makes a lot of one product, it is called specialization. In the South, the climate and soil are good for growing cotton. This can be made into clothing. In North Dakota, the climate is better for growing wheat.

Trade between regions lets consumers all over the country buy goods they want or need. Countries also specialize in producing goods. They trade for goods made in other countries. For example, the United States buys oil from Mexico and sells cars to Mexico. Trade connects businesses around the world.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

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

economy *noun*, the system people use to produce goods and services

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

consumer *noun*, someone who buys goods and services

trade *noun*, the buying and selling of goods



After You Read

REVIEW What are the different ways the United States can be divided into regions? Circle the sentences that tell different ways of dividing the country into regions.

REVIEW Why do people in regions trade with each other? Highlight the sentence that tells why there is trade between regions.