

#8939

THE UNITED STATES: GEOGRAPHY OF A NATION

(2ND EDITION)

Grade Levels: 4-8

24 minutes

ALFRED HIGGINS PRODUCTIONS, INC. 1999

DESCRIPTION

Divides the United States into nine regions and points out major cities, industries, geographic features, and natural resources of each. Covers New England, the mid-Atlantic, Southeast, South Central, North Central, Mountain West, and Pacific West regions. Also includes Alaska and Hawaii.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography

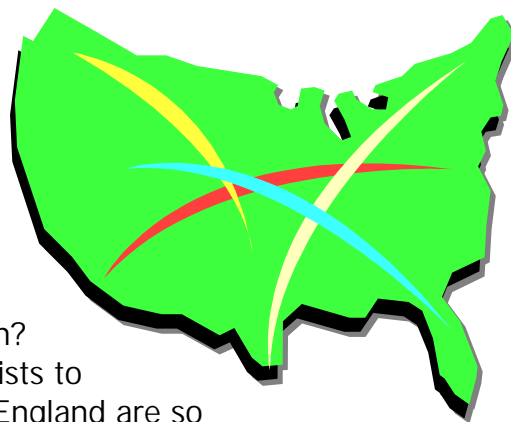
- ◆ Standard: Understands the concept of regions
 - Benchmark: Knows regions at various spatial scales (e.g., hemispheres, regions within continents, countries, cities)
 - Benchmark: Knows factors that contribute to changing regional characteristics (e.g., economic development, accessibility, migration, media image)
- ◆ Standard: Knows the physical processes that shape patterns on Earth's surface
 - Benchmark: Knows the physical components of Earth's atmosphere (e.g., weather and climate), lithosphere (e.g., land forms such as mountains, hills, plateaus, plains), hydrosphere (e.g., oceans, lakes, rivers), and biosphere (e.g., vegetation and biomes)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To illustrate that the United States has a vastly varied geography with many different physical features and climates.
2. To demonstrate that geography is more than just how a place looks physically, geography is also climate, land on which food can be grown, and mineral resources from which oil and metals can be recovered.
3. To clarify that geography is how we use the earth and how, in many ways, where we live makes us who we are.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions



1. The video divides the United States into a number of geographical regions. List the regions and indicate them on a map. What features do you remember best from each region?
2. Each region has many interesting things for tourists to enjoy. For example, the autumn leaves in New England are so spectacular that thousands of people come just to see them. Other regions of the United States also have significant tourist industries. What are some of those regions' well-known features and attractions?
3. Some soil is more suitable for grazing sheep and cattle than it is for farming. Why is this? In which regions are most cattle raised? Where is most farming done?
4. The Alaskan pipeline provides an example of how people learn to use and overcome the limitations of geography. In what ways is this true? Describe some other examples of how people overcame geographical limitations.
5. The Appalachian Mountains, which start in the New England region and extend into the mid-Atlantic region, are rich in minerals that include coal and iron ore, both of which are used in making steel. How do many people in this region earn their living? What are some other ways in which human activities have been influenced by where they live?

Applications and Activities

1. On a physical map of the United States, identify and locate some mountain ranges, lakes, and rivers. In which region of the United States is the feature located?
2. Prepare a chart, listing the nine geographic regions in the left column, with the other column headings at the top to include: a) Physical features, b) Principal cities, c) Ranching and farming, d) Resource-based industries (oil, lumber, minerals), and e) Recreational resources. Insert information you learned from the video.
3. Choose two or more regions of the United States and compare their natural resources and environments, including climates. How do these regions differ? In what ways are they similar?

SUMMARY

In each region of the United States, people work together, share with each other and depend upon one another for the food and products they need from other regions of the nation. Visit nine regions of the United States: New England, mid-Atlantic, Southeast, South Central, North Central, Mountain West, and Pacific West regions; and Alaska and Hawaii. We learn about the physical features, major cities, ranching and farming activities, industries based on natural resources, and human recreational resources for each of the regions. We see how human behavior has been influenced by

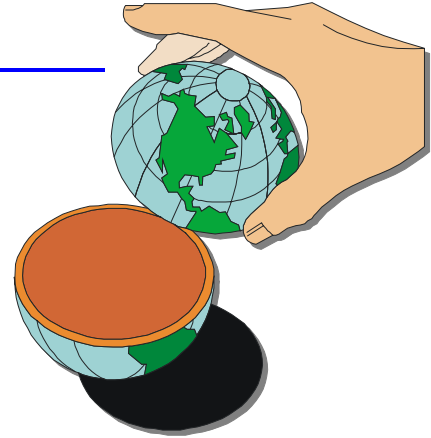
the physical environment, and how, in some ways, the physical environment has been influenced by human activity. The United States is made up of not only its physical characteristics, but also of its natural resources, the energy of its people, and our use of its earth.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Discovering the United States #7944
- The East #2378
- The Midwest #2413
- Mississippi River Region #8822
- Mountain States #8825
- The Pacific Region #3638
- The Western Dry Lands #2442



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid-safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **GEOGRAPHY WEB SITES**

http://mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/socialstd/geog_web.html

Lists several links on “Country Information,” “Maps,” and “Other Geographic Resources” to access geography tools for grades K-5.

- **THE GEONET GAME**

<http://www.eduplace.com/geo/>

To start the game, click on the “Northeast,” the “South,” or the “United States” and test your knowledge about the country or the region you select. Easy or hard versions.

- **THE US50**

<http://www.theus50.com/virginia/history.asp>

Read about the history, geography, outdoors, tourism, and more of each of the 50 United States.