

#9306

THE MIDWEST

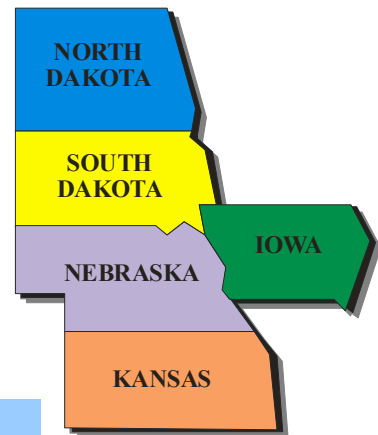
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Grade Levels: 5-10

22 minutes

2 Instructional Graphics Enclosed



DESCRIPTION

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota form America's Midwest. After looking at the area's history, topography, and agriculture, each state is highlighted. Includes the capital, geographic features, population, economy, and area. The Oregon Trail and railroad transformed the "Great American Desert" into America's breadbasket.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography: Places and Regions

- Standard: Understands the concept of regions
 - Benchmark: Knows areas that can be classified as regions according to physical criteria (e.g., land form regions, soil regions, vegetation regions, climate regions, water basins) and human criteria (e.g., political regions, population regions, economic regions, language regions)
- Standard: Understands the physical and human characteristics of place
 - Benchmark: Knows how the characteristics of places are shaped by physical and human processes (e.g., effects of agriculture on changing land use and vegetation; effects of settlement on the building of roads; relationship of population distribution to land forms, climate, vegetation, or resources)

Subject Area: Geography: Environment and Society

- Standard: Understands how physical systems affect human systems
 - Benchmark: Knows changes in the physical environment that have reduced the capacity of the environment to support human activity (e.g., the drought-plagued Sahel, the depleted rain forests of central Africa, the Great Plains Dust Bowl, the impact of the economic exploitation of Siberia's resources on a fragile sub-Arctic environment)

Subject Area: Historical Understanding

- Standard: Understands and knows how to analyze chronological relationships and patterns
 - Benchmark: Understands patterns of change and continuity in the historical succession of related events

Subject Area: United States History

- Standard: Understands the United States territorial expansion between 1801 and 1861, and how it affected relations with external powers and Native Americans
 - Benchmark: Understands the factors that led to U.S. territorial expansion in the Western Hemisphere (e.g., Napoleon's reasons for selling the Louisiana Territory, expeditions of American explorers and mountain men)
 - Benchmark: Understands the significance of the Lewis and Clark expedition (e.g., its role as a scientific expedition, its contributions to friendly relations with Native Americans)



INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To introduce the Midwest region and its respective states of the United States.
2. To examine reasons why early settlers arrived in the Midwest region.
3. To illustrate how this region was the gateway between the east and the west.
4. To depict the geography, economy and climate of this region.

VOCABULARY

1. Battle of Little Bighorn
2. Black Hills
3. Dust Bowl
4. Francisco Vazquez de Coronado
5. Gold Rush
6. Lewis and Clark
7. Louisiana Purchase
8. Midwest region
9. Mount Rushmore
10. Nomadic Indians
11. North America
12. Oregon Trail
13. Sauk Sea



AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Today such conveniences as computers, telephones, automobiles, electricity, etc., are used to enhance our modern-day lives. Explain how these enhancements differ from those used during the time the Midwest region was being discovered.
2. Imagine what it would be like to be an early explorer. Discuss issues which may have concerned these early settlers: weather conditions, commerce, regional terrain, food/vegetation, issues on foreign policy with Mexico, Spain, France, etc.
3. Both geographical and historical information has been documented throughout the world. Explain why this type of information is important when studying the Midwest region, and how it relates to our everyday lives. Furthermore, how do the disciplines of geography and history interact with other areas of study in your school's curriculum?

4. Agriculture is vital to the Midwest region. Explain why this region has such a vibrant agricultural tradition and how it became so well-suited for a variety of farming methods.

Applications and Activities

1. Draw a map of the Midwest region, indicating significant points of interest. For example, the capital cities, i.e., Lincoln, Nebraska; important events, i.e., The Battle of Little Bighorn of 1874 in the Black Hills of South Dakota; or the names of early explorers, i.e., Lewis and Clark, etc.
2. The Midwest region is well-known for its grass plains. Explain how this terrain was created by using maps, scientific illustrations, clay models, a computer, pieces of limestone or shale, etc.
3. Arrange a trip near your community to visit museums, cultural centers, state parks, etc., to stimulate your imagination to explore the rich history and geography of the Midwest region.
4. Create a bulletin board time line using the "Chronology of Midwest Region." (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)
5. Complete the "Midwest Region States and Capital Cities" worksheet. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)

SUMMARY

Descendants of the Paleo-Indians were the first known inhabitants to occupy this land, the Midwest region. Later, the first European settlers, mostly from France and Spain, began to explore this region during the mid-1500s.

On horseback, Spanish explorers, like Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, entered the Midwest region after establishing settlements in Mexico. As part of the Louisiana Purchase, Thomas Jefferson bought the Midwest region from the French. Afterwards, this purchase proved to be a tremendous asset for the United States economy, trade and national security, as the Union continued to expand from east to west. Seen as a gateway between the east and west, the Midwest region eventually became the center for railroad transportation and other developments such as agriculture, manufacturing and mining. However, because of a prolonged drought during the late 1930s, the area experienced an economic bust known as the Dust Bowl. Following hardship, the region once again flourished. Due to its nutrient-rich soil and mixed weather conditions, this region is one of the most productive farm areas in the entire world.

Along with its robust history, the Midwest region also has geographical significance. With its carved granite rock at Mount Rushmore—to the rolling grass prairies of Iowa—it offers much-needed tranquility.

As we study the Midwest region, we not only begin to witness the subtleties of nature, but also the birth of a nation. Embedded in rich tradition, this region cultivates the knowledge from the past, which re-examines the present, to further inform the future.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- The Midwest #2413
- Mississippi River Region #8822





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.

- **NETSTATE.COM**

http://www.netstate.com/state_geography.htm

Click on one of the 50 states to view its location on the continent of North America; to obtain statistical information, its border states, and other features.

- **DISCOVERING LEWIS & CLARK**

<http://www.lewis-clark.org/>

Focus on this Western adventure by checking out the preparation tools used, the exploration itself and a map of the trail, and the return trip of these two explorers and with the help of Native Americans.

- **LEWIS & CLARK**

<http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>

A PBS site, enter the world of Lewis, Clark, and the rest of the Corps of Discovery. Discover how the Native Americans helped them, lead an interactive expedition yourself, and more.

- **SURVIVING THE DUST BOWL**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl/>

A PBS "American Experience" site, view the time line, maps; and read about the people and events during the Dust Bowl time. Contains a "Kids" link.

- **GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE MIDWESTERN STATES**

<http://geology.er.usgs.gov/states/midwest.html>

Highlights selected research on the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin and offers links to other online resources for each state.

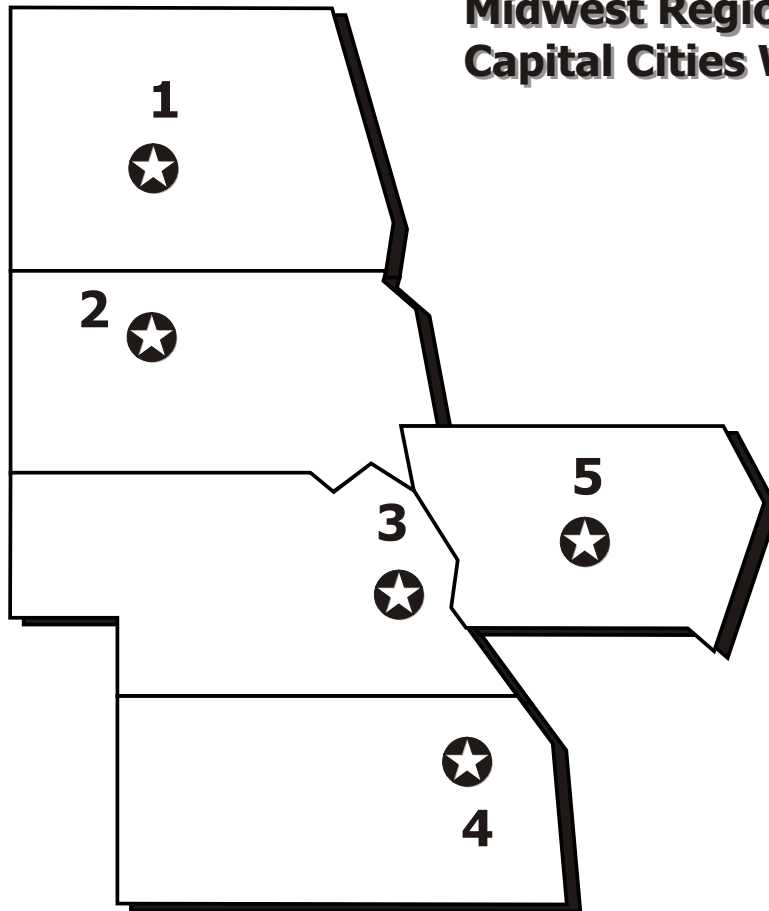
INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

- CHRONOLOGY OF MIDWEST REGION
- MIDWEST REGION STATES AND CAPITAL CITIES

Chronology of Midwest Region

500 million years ago:	The Midwest region was covered by a great inland sea called the Sauk Sea.
30,000-40,000 years ago:	Paleo-Indians/Nomadic Indians migrated from Asia into North America by using a land bridge which at one time connected Asia with Alaska.
1542:	A Spaniard, Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, was the first European to explore the Midwest.
1803:	U.S. President Thomas Jefferson negotiated the Louisiana Purchase with French Emperor Napoleon for 3 cents an acre.
1804-06:	Lewis and Clark led an expedition to map and survey the newly acquired lands of the Louisiana Purchase.
1840s:	Large numbers of settlers began to travel through the Midwest region by way of the Oregon Trail.
1846:	Iowa became the 29th state of the Union.
1848:	Mexican War began.
1861:	Kansas became the 34th state to join the Union.
1865:	The Union Pacific Railroad allowed transportation to the west via Omaha, Nebraska.
1867:	Nebraska became the 37th state of the Union.
1874:	Gold was discovered in the Black Hills of South Dakota and the Battle of Little Bighorn occurred.
1876:	The Homestake Gold Mine located in South Dakota was founded and became one of the largest gold mines in the United States.
1889:	North Dakota became the 39th state of the Union and South Dakota the 40th state.
1890s:	Omaha, Nebraska, became one of the largest rail centers in the United States.
Late 1930s:	Dust Bowl occurred, causing the region to go from economic boom to bust.
1947:	Artist Korczak Ziolkowski carved the world's largest sculpture at 560 feet high and 640 feet long known as the "Crazy Horse" memorial.

Midwest Region States and Capital Cities Worksheet



★ = Location of Capital City

Directions: List the name of the state and its capital city.

State	Capital City
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____