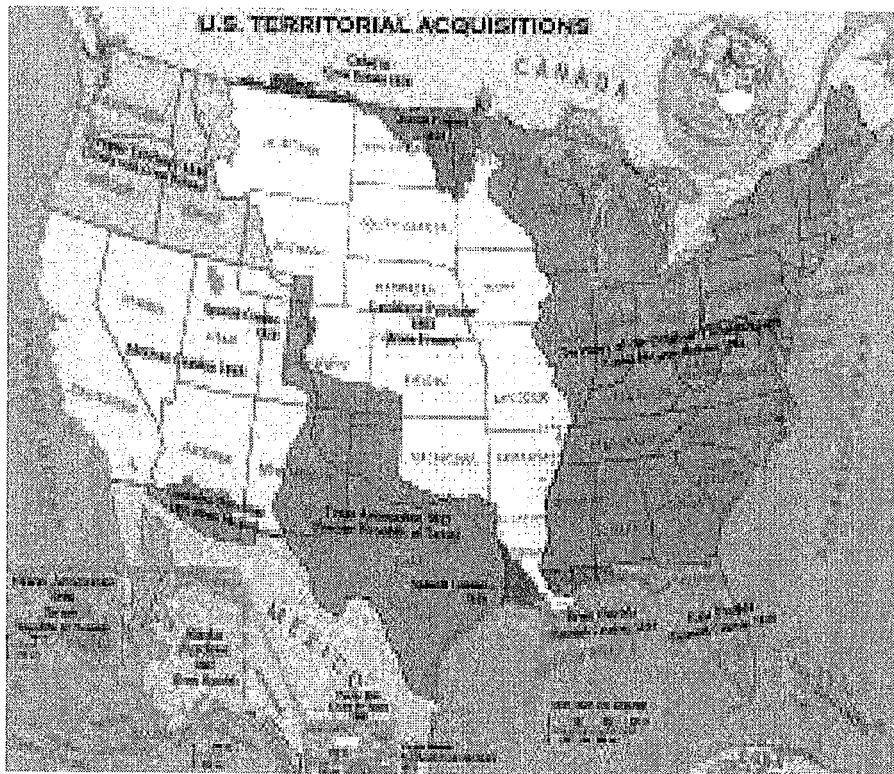


# US GEOGRAPHY UNIT



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_



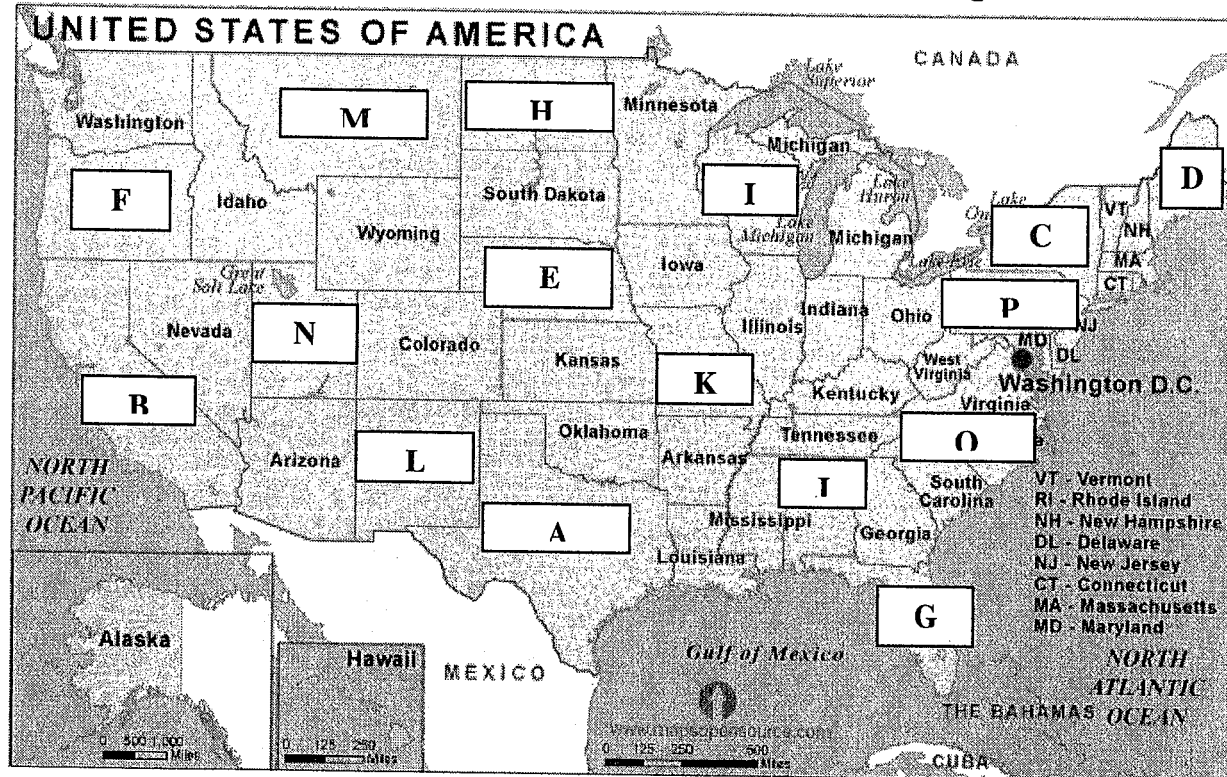
## A Geographic Perspective of the USA

US History

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- The United States is a country of North America, a federal republic of 50 states.
- Besides the 48 states that occupy the middle of the continent, the United States includes the state of Alaska and the state of Hawaii.

On the map below, several state names are missing. Identify the missing states.



Letter A is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter B is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter C is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter D is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter E is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter F is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter G is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter H is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter I is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter J is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter K is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter L is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter M is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter N is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter O is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Oregon  
New York  
Texas  
Florida  
New Mexico  
North Carolina  
Wisconsin  
North Dakota  
Alabama  
Nebraska  
Maine  
Utah  
Montana  
California  
Pennsylvania  
Missouri

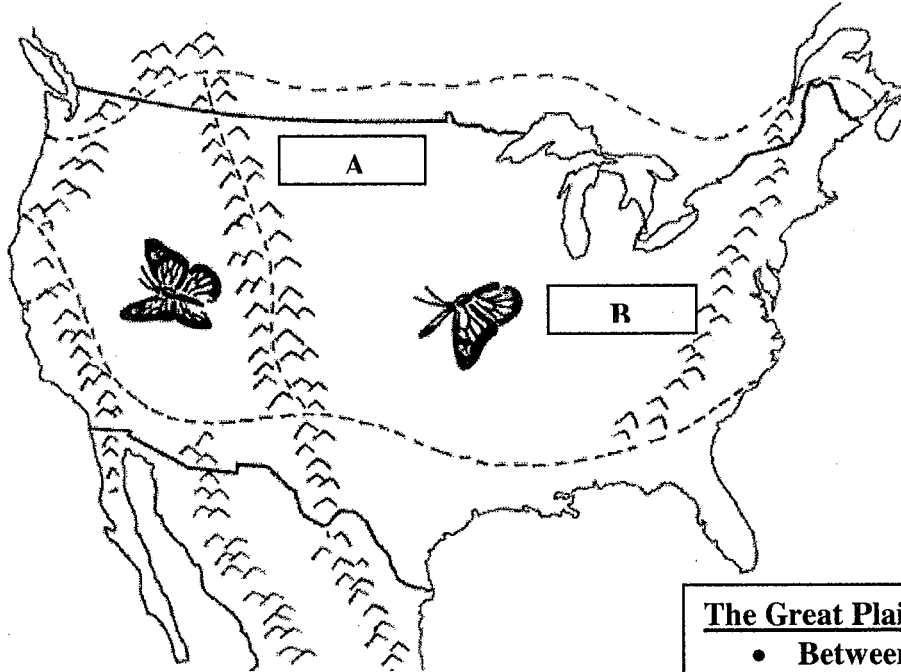
**Word  
BANK**

Letter P is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

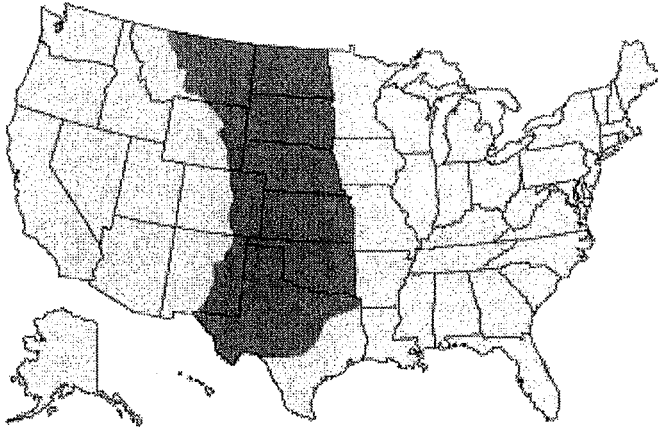
- The major characteristic of the United States is probably its great variety.
- Its physical environment ranges from the Arctic to the subtropical, from the moist rain forest to the arid desert, from the rugged mountain peak to the flat prairie.

Identify two significant mountain ranges in the United States:

- The Appalachian Mountains – Letter \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Rocky Mountains – Letter \_\_\_\_\_.



**The Great Plains:**



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**The Great Plains:**

- Between North Central Plains east and Rocky Mountains on the west
- Stretches from central Texas to the Canadian border
- Parts of 10 states of the United States (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico) are within the Great Plains region
- Flat land
- Grasslands
- Dry region

From west to east, the major geographic features of the United States are

- (1) Rocky Mountains → Great Plains → Mississippi River → Appalachian Mountains
- (2) Great Plains → Mississippi River → Rocky Mountains → Appalachian Mountains
- (3) Rocky Mountains → Great Plains → Appalachian Mountains → Mississippi River

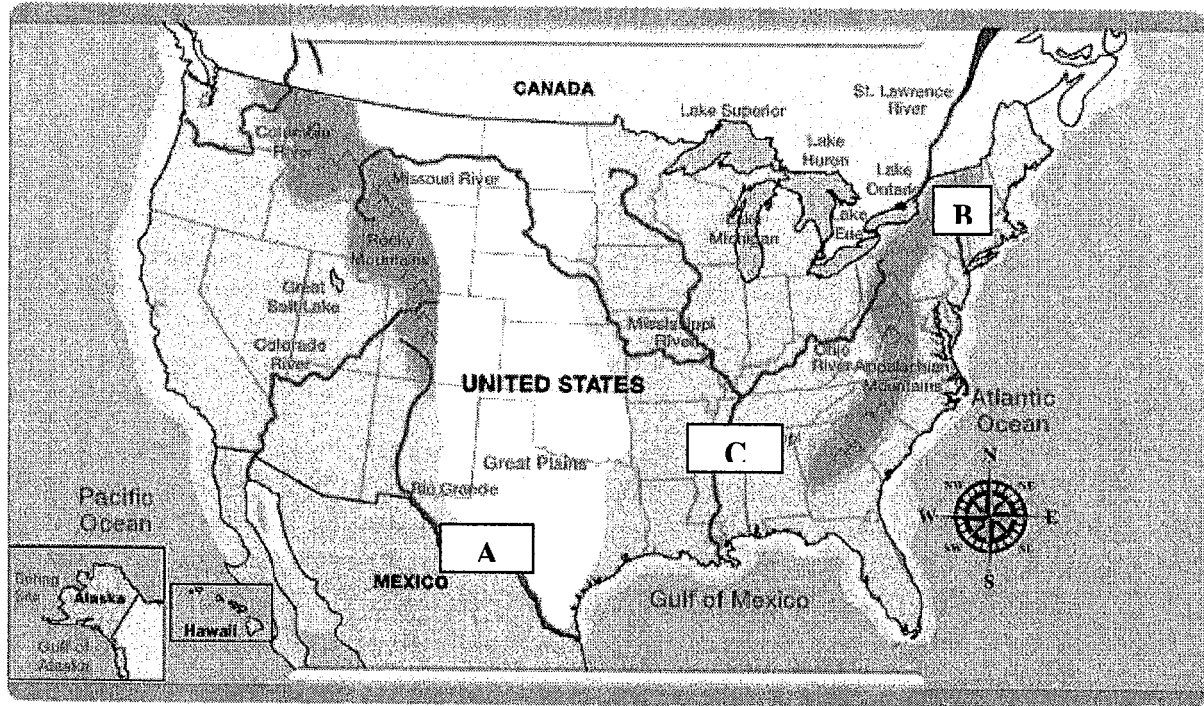
(4) Mississippi River → Appalachian Mountains → Great Plains → Rocky Mountain

Identify the following rivers using the map below:

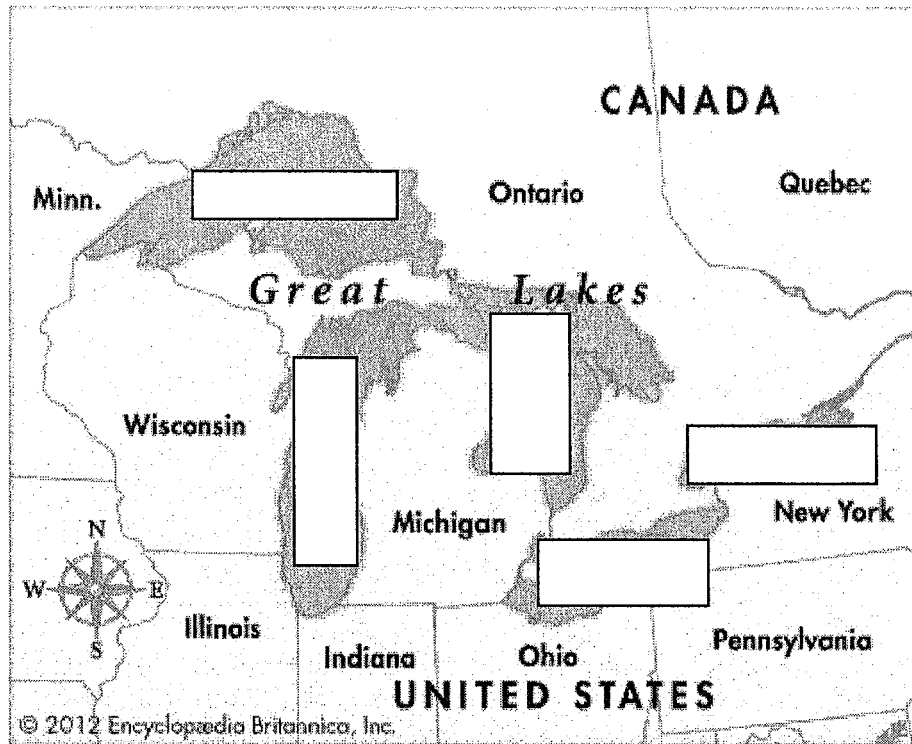
The Mississippi River is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

The Rio Grande River is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

The Hudson River is letter \_\_\_\_\_.



The Great Lakes:



Identify the following countries, bodies of water, and one state on the map below:

Mexico is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

Canada is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

United States is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

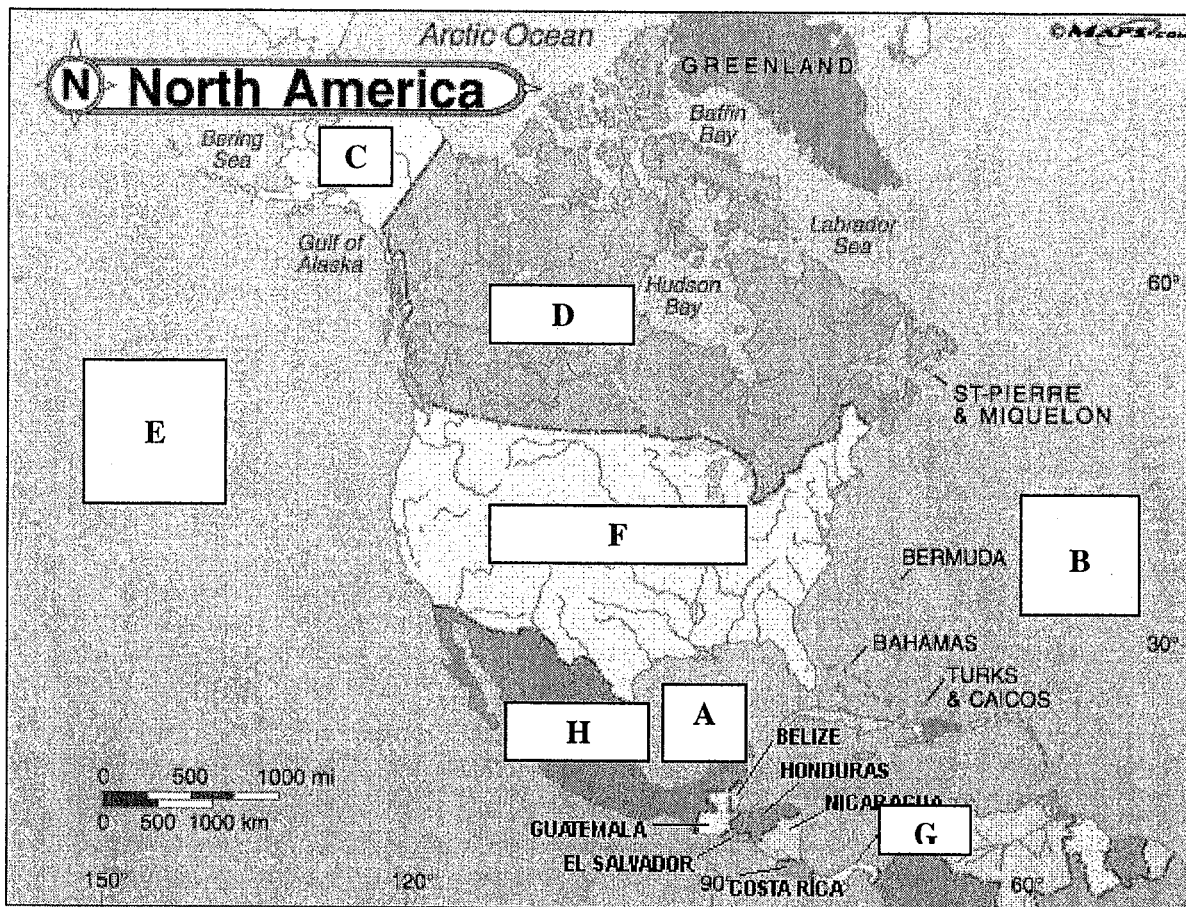
Alaska is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

Pacific Ocean is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

Atlantic Ocean is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

Gulf of Mexico is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

Panama is letter \_\_\_\_\_.

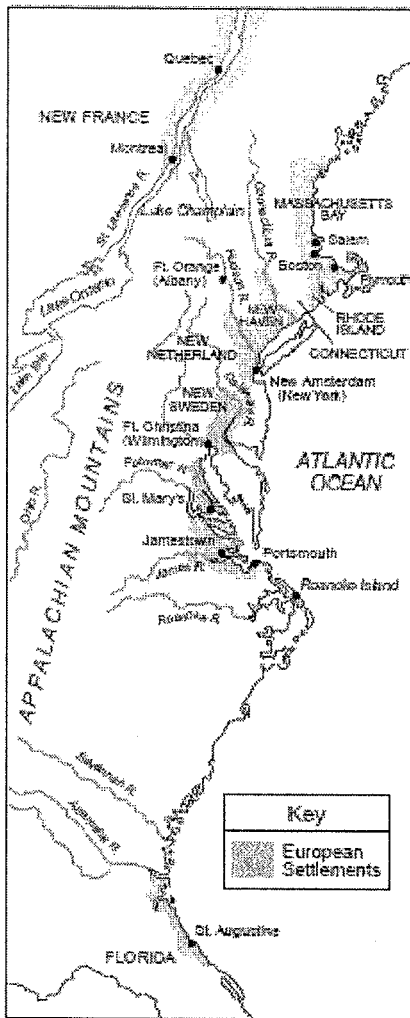


Which ocean is located off the west coast of the continental United States?

- (A) Pacific Ocean
- (B) Atlantic Ocean
- (C) Indian Ocean
- (D) Arctic Ocean

Which ocean is located off the east coast of the continental United States?

- (A) Pacific Ocean
- (B) Atlantic Ocean
- (C) Indian Ocean
- (D) Arctic Ocean



### Barriers to Expansion:

“One of the greatest obstacles for early settlers intent upon moving westward, were the Appalachian Mountains. They extend, in an almost unbroken chain, from Maine to Alabama, with very few places to pass through. Early settlers quickly found the Cumberland Gap (at the junction of modern-day Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia) to be one of the easiest ways westward (and inland) from the colonies.

Four hundred miles west of the Cumberland Gap, settlers would encounter the largest river in North America, At that point, the 2,552 mile long Mississippi River was nearly one mile wide, and over 100 feet deep. Travelers had to go miles upstream to find a ford (a place to cross the river).

Once across the Mississippi River, the Great Plains made for fairly easy travel. It was not until settlers saw the Rocky Mountains that westward expansion slowed. Most people were diverted either far to the south, or chanced high passes through the mountains, sometimes getting stranded in unpredictable winter snowstorms.”  
~ regentsprep.org

Harper & Row, 1987 (adapted)

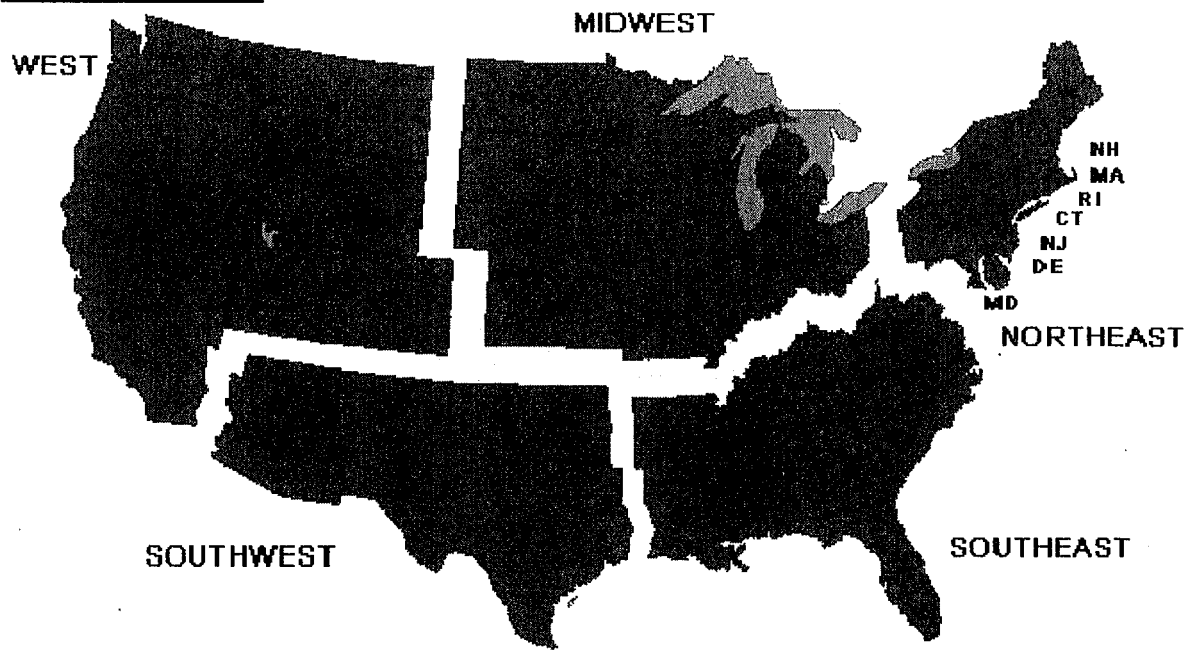
### Questions:

- 1- What was an obstacle for early settlers who wanted to move west?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2- Why was it an obstacle (Thinking Question – not in passage)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3- Where are the Appalachian Mountains located in the United States?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4- Where is the Cumberland Gap located?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5- Why was the Cumberland Gap useful for settlers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6- What is the largest river in North America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7- What would a settler travelling west past the Appalachian Mountains and then past Mississippi River encounter? \_\_\_\_\_



1. The relatively flat, grassy region of the United States between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains is known as the
  - (1) Great Plains
  - (2) Great Basin
  - (3) Coastal Plain
  - (4) Piedmont
2. On which continent would you find the countries of Mexico, Canada, and the United States?
  - (1) South America
  - (2) North America
  - (3) Europe
  - (4) Asia
3. The longest river in North America is the
  - (1) Hudson River
  - (2) Mississippi River
  - (3) Columbia River
  - (4) Rio Grande River
4. Which ocean is located off the east coast of the United States?
  - (1) Pacific Ocean
  - (2) Atlantic Ocean
  - (3) Indian Ocean
  - (4) Arctic Ocean
5. Which ocean is located off the west coast of the United States?
  - (1) Pacific Ocean
  - (2) Atlantic Ocean
  - (3) Indian Ocean
  - (4) Arctic Ocean
6. New York is located near
  - (A) Connecticut
  - (B) Texas
  - (C) Oregon
  - (D) Alaska
7. What two U.S. states are not located in the middle of the North American continent?
  - (1) Arkansas and Nebraska
  - (2) Alaska and Florida
  - (3) Hawaii and California
  - (4) Hawaii and Alaska
8. Which U.S. state is geographically closest to Russia?
  - (1) New York
  - (2) Texas
  - (3) Oregon
  - (4) Alaska
9. Which of the following U.S. states shares a border with Mexico?
  - (1) Florida
  - (2) New York
  - (3) Texas
  - (4) Maine
10. Which river flows through New York?
  - (1) Mississippi River
  - (2) Columbia River
  - (3) Rio Grande River
  - (4) Hudson River
11. Which mountain range is located in the eastern portion of the United States?
  - (1) Rocky Mountains
  - (2) Appalachian Mountains
  - (3) Sierra Madre Mountains
  - (4) Andes Mountains
12. Nebraska is located near
  - (A) Hawaii
  - (B) New York
  - (C) Kansas
  - (D) California

**Regions of the USA:**



- Identify two states in the Northeast:

- \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Identify two states in the Midwest:

- \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Identify two states in the Southeast:

- \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Identify two states in the Southwest:

- \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Identify two states in the West:

- \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

**What is New England?**

- New England is a region in the northeastern United States, including the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

**So, in the map above, in what region is New England located?**

\_\_\_\_\_

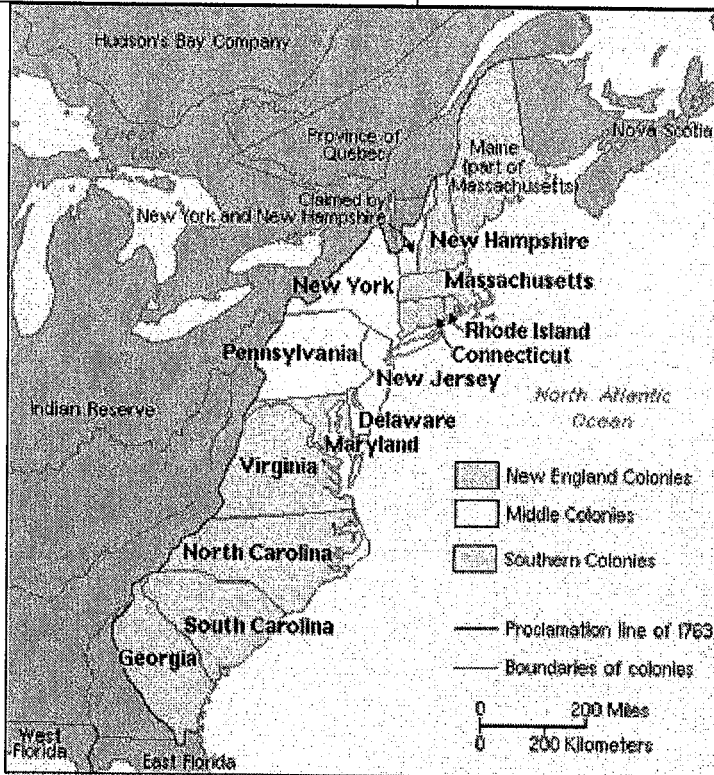
**Therefore, even within a region, there may be subdivisions.**

**Can you identify specific geographic features for each region?**

\_\_\_\_\_

## Geographic Variations in the Thirteen Colonies:

New England	The Middle Colonies	The Southern Colonies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colder winters than other colonies</li> <li>• Soil in New England was full of large rocks</li> <li>• Farming was difficult</li> <li>• Covered with trees</li> <li>• Used the trees for lumber and to build ships</li> <li>• Ships were used to fish or to hunt for whales</li> <li>• New England became the leader in ocean shipping and commerce</li> <li>• There were many natural ports and harbors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A milder climate and much better soil than New England</li> <li>• The Middle Colonies were well suited for small farms</li> <li>• Middle Colonies shipped crops to Philadelphia and New York</li> <li>• As Philadelphia and New York grew as trading centers, manufacturing increased</li> <li>• Philadelphia also became an important shipbuilding center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The warmest of the English colonies</li> <li>• The warm climate made it possible to grow crops throughout the year</li> <li>• The land was flat and the soil was rich</li> <li>• Tobacco and rice were the two most important cash crops</li> <li>• The climate was ideally suited for plantations where slaves did the manual labor</li> </ul>



1- State three facts about New England using the chart above:

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2- State three facts about the Middle Colonies using the chart above:

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---



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3- State three facts about the Southern Colonies using the chart above:

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---



---

4- How are the areas similar and how are the areas different?

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---



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Geography matters!





## A Geographic Perspective of the USA – Part II

US History

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Label the Thirteen Colonies in the map below:

**13 Colonies**

©EnchantedLearning.com

**You may use this map of the current United States to help you label the thirteen colonies.**

**By the way, in what region of the United States were the thirteen colonies located?**

\_\_\_\_\_

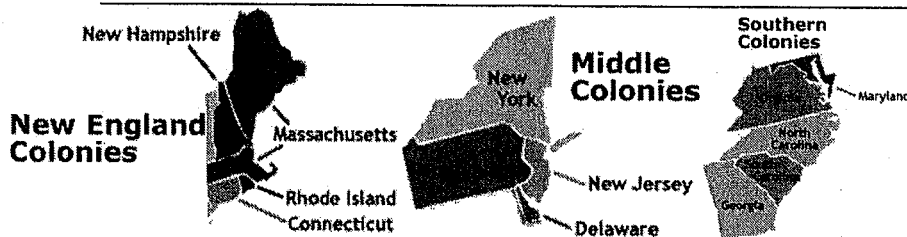
**Define colony:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Reading:

“The English colonies in North America were located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian Mountains. France had colonies to the north. Spain had colonies to the south. The thirteen colonies can be separated into three parts, or regions, by geography and climate: New England, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies.” ~ eduplace.com

### Questions:

- 1- On which continent were the Thirteen Colonies (the English colonies in the Americas) located?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2- What was the eastern boundary of the Thirteen Colonies?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3- What was the western boundary of the Thirteen Colonies?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4- What European countries controlled colonies in North America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5- What were the three geographic regions of the Thirteen Colonies?  
\_\_\_\_\_



The three regions ☺

### The Three Regions:

New England	Middle Colonies	Southern Colonies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rocky soil</li> <li>• Crops did not grow well in the rocky, sandy soil</li> <li>• Forests and hills made it hard to farm</li> <li>• Summers were warm, but winters were long and cold</li> <li>• The growing season was short – only about five months long</li> <li>• Colonists used other natural resources to make a living</li> <li>• They cut down trees to make buildings and boats</li> <li>• They caught fish and whales for food and other products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The soil was rich and deep</li> <li>• It was good for farming</li> <li>• The growing season was longer than in New England</li> <li>• There was more sun and lots of rain</li> <li>• Colonists used riverboats on long, wide rivers such as the Hudson and Delaware</li> <li>• They sent crops to sell in nearby towns</li> <li>• Colonists also hunted deer and beaver for food and fur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Southern Colonies had the best climate and land for farming</li> <li>• The climate was warm almost all year long</li> <li>• The soil was rich</li> <li>• The growing season lasted for seven or eight months</li> <li>• There were many waterways along the southern coast</li> </ul> <p>~ eduplace.com</p>

### Practice Multiple-Choice Questions from the New York States Regents:

- |  |   |            |               |            |               |
|--|---|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The original settlements in the thirteen British colonies were all located             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) east of the Appalachian Mountains</li> <li>(2) along the Gulf Coast</li> <li>(3) on the Great Plains</li> <li>(4) west of the Mississippi River</li> </ol> </li> <li>In which area did good harbors, abundant forests, rocky soil, and a short growing season most influence the colonial economy?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Southern colonies</li> <li>(2) Middle Atlantic region</li> <li>(3) Northwest Territory</li> <li>(4) New England colonies</li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presence of which pair of geographic conditions discouraged the development of a plantation economy in the New England colonies?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) wide coastal plain and absence of good harbors</li> <li>(2) rocky soil and short growing season</li> <li>(3) numerous rivers and humid climate</li> <li>(4) flatlands and lack of forests</li> </ol> </li> <li>During the colonial period, goods were most commonly transported on             <table border="0"> <tr> <td>(1) rivers</td> <td>(3) railroads</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(2) canals</td> <td>(4) turnpikes</td> </tr> </table> </li> </ol> | (1) rivers | (3) railroads | (2) canals | (4) turnpikes |
| (1) rivers   | (3) railroads   |            |               |            |               |
| (2) canals   | (4) turnpikes   |            |               |            |               |

5. During the first half of the 1800s, geographic factors influenced the economy of New England by

- (1) encouraging the establishment of large plantations
- (2) promoting the growth of trade and manufacturing
- (3) increasing the region's reliance on slave labor
- (4) supporting rice and indigo farming

6. Which geographic feature contributed the most to the development of commerce throughout colonial America?

- (1) mountains (3) natural harbors
- (2) grasslands (4) interior lakes

7. Because of fertile land and a long growing season, plantations in the thirteen colonies developed in

- (1) New England
  - (2) the Middle Atlantic region
  - (3) the South
  - (4) the upper Mississippi River valley
- Base

8. Which heading best completes the partial outline below?

I. \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Villages with town meetings
  - B. Small farms and commercial fishing
  - C. First American college
- (1) New England Colonies
  - (2) Middle Colonies
  - (3) Southern Colonies
  - (4) Spanish Colonies

9. Which type of map shows the most detailed information about Earth's natural features, such as rivers, lakes, and mountain ranges?

- (1) political
- (2) demographic
- (3) weather
- (4) physical

10. The relatively flat, grassy region of the United States between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains is known as the

- (1) Great Plains
- (2) Great Basin
- (3) Coastal Plain
- (4) Piedmont

11. Which geographic factor most helped the United States maintain its foreign policy of neutrality during much of the 1800s?

- (1) climate of the Great Plains
- (2) oceans on its east and west coasts
- (3) large network of navigable rivers
- (4) mountain ranges near the Atlantic and Pacific coasts

12. Which geographic feature contributed the most to the development of commerce throughout colonial America?

- (1) mountains
- (2) grasslands
- (3) natural harbors
- (4) interior lakes

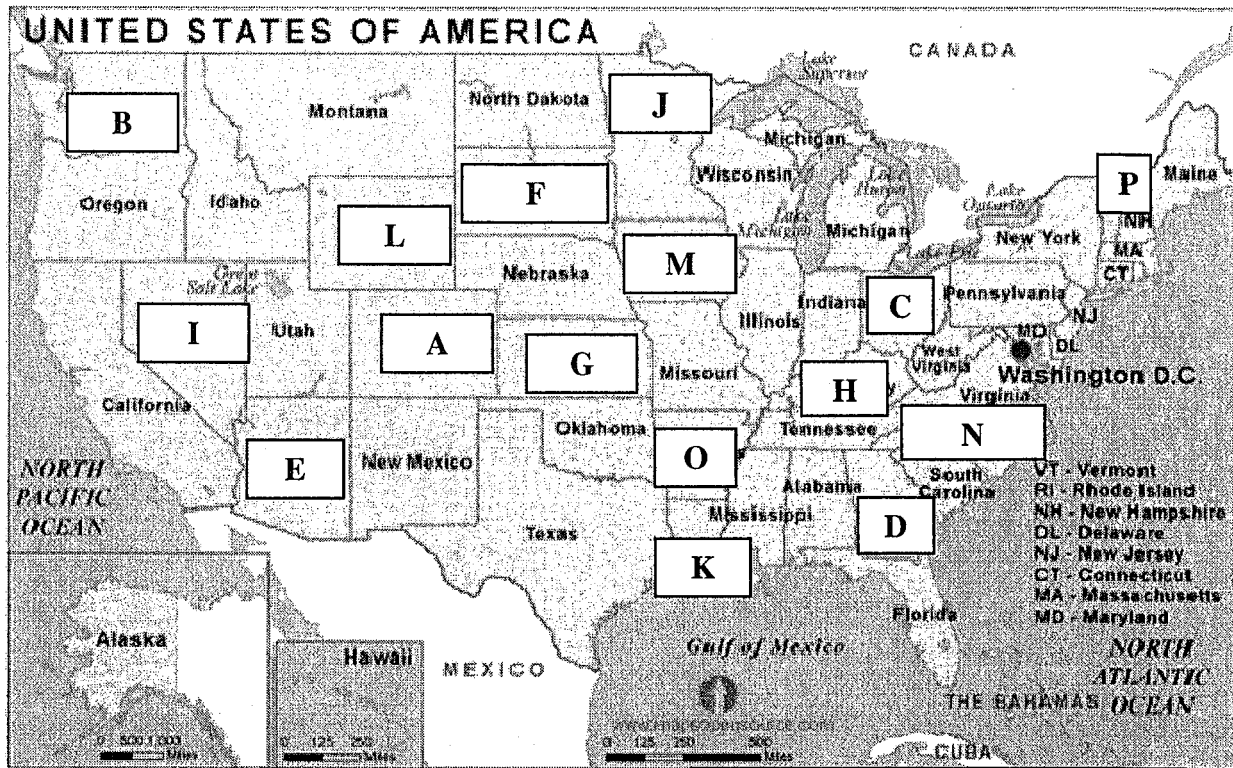
13. Which heading best completes the partial outline below?

I. \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Vast timber resources
- B. Rocky soil
- C. Rich ocean fishing grounds
- D. Single-family farms

- (1) Factors in the Economic Development of Colonial New England
- (2) Reasons for the Development of Southern Plantations
- (3) Features Contributing to Dutch success in Colonial New Amsterdam
- (4) Components of the British System of Mercantilism

On the map below, several state names are missing. Identify the “new” missing states.



Letter A is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter B is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter C is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter D is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter E is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter F is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter G is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter H is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter I is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter J is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter K is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter L is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter M is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

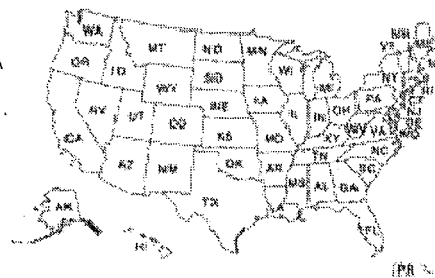
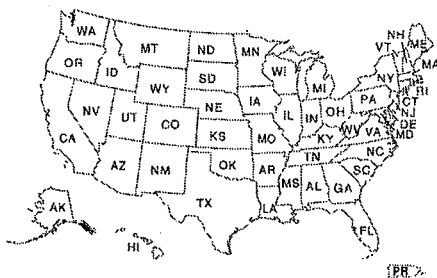
Letter N is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter O is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Letter P is the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

Arizona  
Nevada  
Louisiana  
Washington  
Iowa  
Georgia  
Arkansas  
Minnesota  
Colorado  
Kentucky  
Vermont  
South Dakota  
Wyoming  
Ohio  
North Carolina  
Kansas

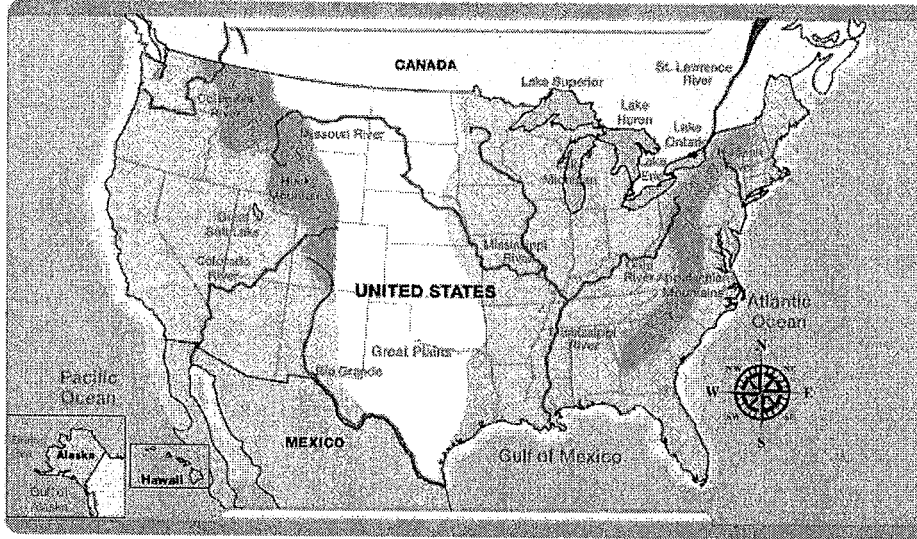
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### The Significance of the Mississippi River in American History:

**"The Mississippi River is the longest river of North America...The Mississippi River lies entirely within the United States. Rising in Lake Itasca in Minnesota, it flows almost due south across the continental interior, collecting the waters of its major tributaries along its journey to the Gulf of Mexico through a vast delta southeast of New Orleans, a total distance of 2,340 miles (3,766 km) from its source. With its tributaries, the Mississippi drains all or part of 31 U.S. states and two provinces in Canada." ~ Britannica**



**When did the United States acquire the Mississippi River?**

- **The Louisiana Purchase!**

**"The Louisiana Purchase refers to the 530,000,000 acres of territory in North America that the United States purchased from France in 1803 for \$15 million. As the United States spread across the Appalachian Mountains, the Mississippi River became increasingly important as a conduit for trade. Since 1762, Spain had owned the territory of Louisiana, which included 828,000 square miles, and which now makes up all or part of fifteen separate states between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. Friction between Spain and the United States over the right to navigate the Mississippi and the right for Americans to transfer their goods to ocean-going vessels at New Orleans had been resolved by the Pinckney treaty of 1795.**

**But this situation was threatened by Napoleon Bonaparte's plans to revive the French empire in the New World. He planned to recapture the valuable sugar colony of St. Domingue from a slave rebellion, and then use Louisiana as the granary for his empire. France acquired Louisiana from Spain in 1800 and took possession in 1802, sending a large French army to St. Domingue and preparing to send another to New Orleans.**

**Meanwhile, the French army in St. Domingue was being decimated by yellow fever, and war between France and England still threatened. Napoleon decided to give up his plans for Louisiana, and offered a surprised Monroe and Livingston the entire territory of Louisiana for \$15 million." ~ state.gov**

1. Since the late 1700s, the Mississippi River has been a vital waterway because it

- (1) divided the northern territories from the southern territories
- (2) allowed American farmers direct access to Canadian markets
- (3) connected the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean
- (4) provided farmers and merchants an outlet to the Gulf of Mexico

2. Farmers in the Ohio River valley gained the greatest economic benefit when the United States acquired the

- (1) Oregon Territory
- (2) Gadsden Purchase
- (3) Louisiana Territory
- (4) Mexican Cession

3. The relatively flat, grassy region of the United States between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains is known as the

- (1) Great Plains
- (2) Great Basin
- (3) Coastal Plain
- (4) Piedmont

4. Acquiring New Orleans as part of the Louisiana Purchase was considered important to the development of the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys because the city

- (1) provided protection from attacks by the Spanish
- (2) provided migrant workers for river valley farms
- (3) served as a port for American agricultural goods
- (4) served as the cultural center for the nation

5. Which type of map shows the most detailed information about Earth's natural features, such as rivers, lakes, and mountain ranges?

- (1) political
- (2) demographic
- (3) weather
- (4) physical

6. Which geographic advantage did the United States gain by purchasing the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803?

- (1) warm-water ports on the Atlantic coast
- (2) rich fishing areas in the Great Lakes
- (3) full control of the Mississippi River
- (4) vast coal reserves in the region west of Pennsylvania

7. Which group benefited most from the United States acquisition of the port of New Orleans?

- (1) farmers in the Ohio River Valley
- (2) Native American Indians in the Southwest
- (3) fur trappers in the Columbia River Valley
- (4) gold miners in northern California

8. Which city is paired with the geographical feature that directly contributed to its growth?

- (1) San Francisco – Rocky Mountains
- (2) New Orleans – Mississippi River
- (3) Pittsburgh – Hudson River
- (4) Cleveland – Atlantic Coastal Plain

9. The best source of information for identifying the location of the major mountain ranges in the United States is

- (1) An encyclopedia
- (2) An almanac
- (3) An atlas
- (4) A dictionary

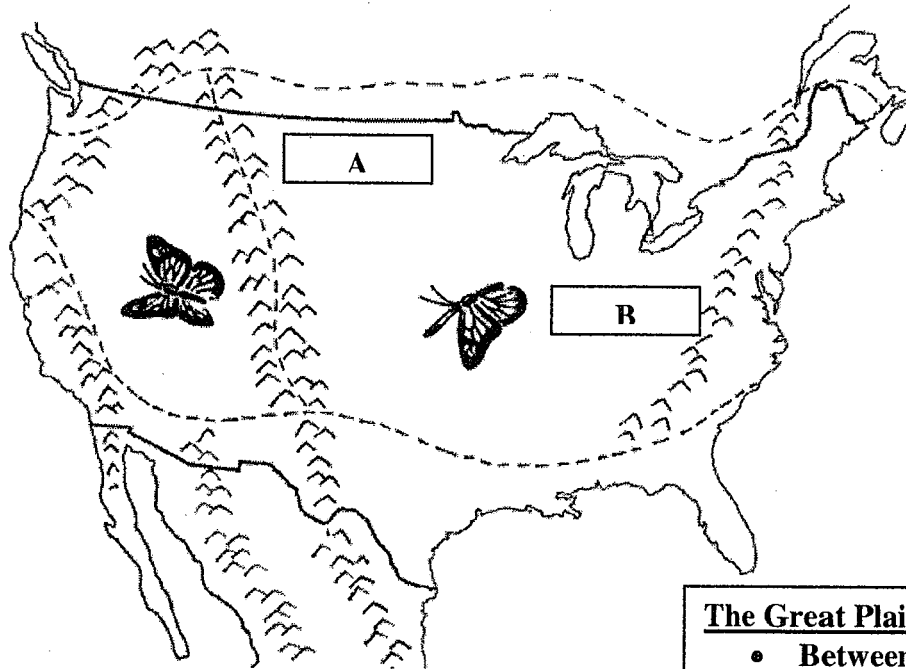
10. In the early 1800's, the need for a water route to help farmers ship their products to market was one reason for the

- (1) Gadsden Purchase
- (2) Louisiana Purchase
- (3) Mexican Cession
- (4) Missouri Compromise

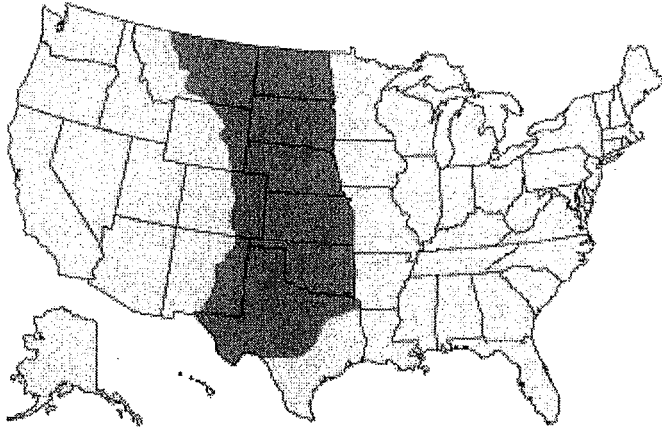
**Review:**

**Identify two significant mountain ranges in the United States:**

- The Appalachian Mountains – Letter \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Rocky Mountains – Letter \_\_\_\_\_.



**The Great Plains:**



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**The Great Plains:**

- Between North Central Plains east and Rocky Mountains on the west
- Stretches from central Texas to the Canadian border
- Parts of 10 states of the United States (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico) are within the Great Plains region
- Flat land
- Grasslands
- Dry region

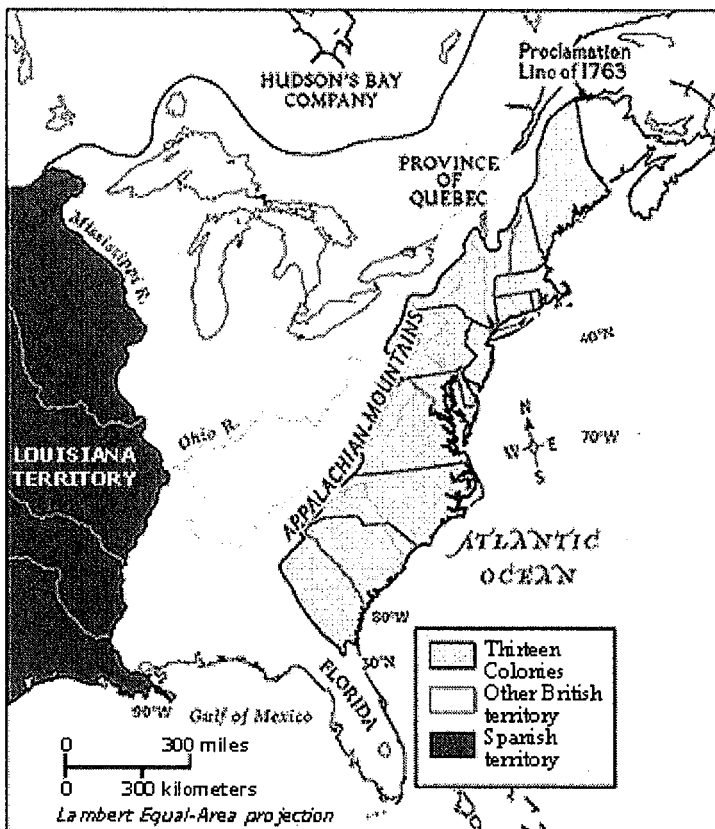
**1. The original settlements in the thirteen British colonies were all located**

- (1) east of the Appalachian Mountains
- (2) along the Gulf Coast
- (3) on the Great Plains
- (4) west of the Mississippi River

**2. The relatively flat, grassy region of the United States between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains is known as the**

- (1) Great Plains      (3) Coastal Plain
- (2) Great Basin      (4) Piedmont

## Proclamation of 1763



“In the Treaty of Paris (1763) that ended the Seven Years War, Britain gained all of Canada as well as the territory north of New Orleans, Louisiana, and between the Eastern Great Divide and the Mississippi River.

France, which was forced to cede this territory, had also ceded the territory west of the Mississippi, known as Louisiana, to Spain in 1762.

In the Royal Proclamation of 1763, portions of these new British territories were divided into Quebec and East and West Florida.

Most of the territory between the Appalachians and the Mississippi was reserved for American Indians, and colonists were barred from settling west of the ‘Proclamation Line’ that ran down the peak of the Appalachians.

This angered many colonists who had fought in the Seven Years’ War in hopes that they could gain new land west of the Appalachians.”

~ learnnc.org

1- What did Britain gain by the Treaty of Paris?

---



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2- What did France cede (gain) to Spain in 1762?

---

3- What was the territory between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River reserved for?

---



---

4- Who was barred from settling west of the Proclamation Line and why were they angered?

---



---

The main reason Great Britain established the Proclamation Line of 1763 was to

- (1) Avoid conflicts between American colonists and Native American Indians
- (2) Make a profit by selling the land west of the Appalachian Mountains

### A Geographic Perspective of the USA – Part III

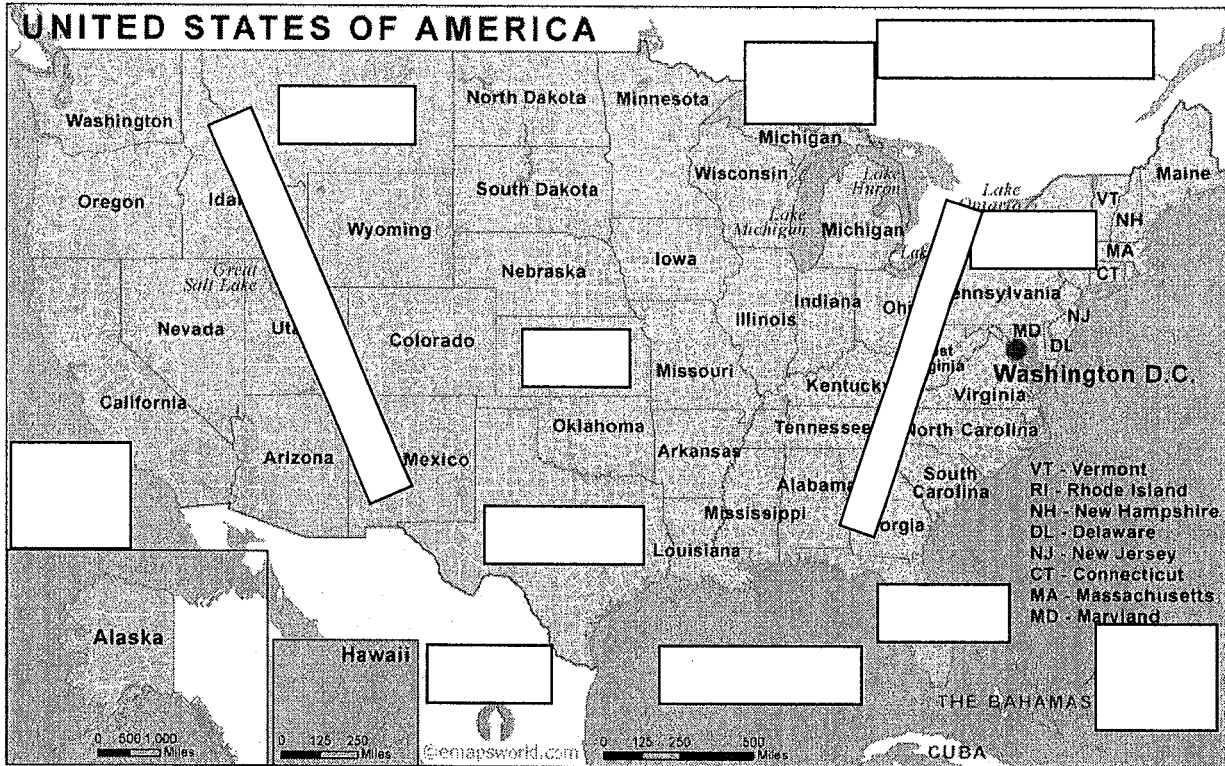
US History

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the Word Bank, label the map below:

**Word Bank:**

Mexico, Canada, Kansas, Atlantic Ocean, Florida, Texas, Pacific Ocean, New York, Gulf of Mexico, Montana, Lake Superior, Appalachian Mountains, and Rocky Mountains



**Reading:**

“The United States has been fortunately situated on the Earth. Unlike many nations, it does not share borders with unfriendly and aggressive neighbors. It is bordered only by Canada and Mexico. Wide oceans separate it from the major centers of world power in Europe and Asia.

On the one hand, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans have been effective barriers against military attack and invasion. On the other hand, they have given the American people easy access to peaceful trade.

Some nations must overcome such barriers as mountains and deserts to trade with the outside world, but not the United States. Moreover, it has long coastlines and deep harbors where ships can load and unload cargoes. From colonial times to the present, trade by sea has played a major role in the U.S. economy.” ~ U.S. History and Government

**Questions:**

1- What nations border the United States?

2- How does the author of the passage describe the neighbors of the United States?

- 3- What separates the United States from Europe and Asia?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4- Where is the Atlantic Ocean located in relation to the United States (use the map for your answer)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5- Where is the Pacific Ocean located in relation to the United States (use the map for your answer)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6- Identify two ways in which the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans benefitted the United States.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7- What must some nations overcome to trade with the outside world?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8- What geographic features have facilitated U.S. trade?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9- What has played a major role in the U.S. economy from colonial times to the present?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10- Compare the United States to a country such as Switzerland, which lacks sea or ocean coastlines.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“Geography is the study of the Earth and its inhabitants. It also reveals a given area’s physical features, biological makeup, and the culture of the people who live there.**

**Questions Geographers Ask:**

- How do the features of the land affect how people live?
- How do people’s actions affect the land?
- What uses do people make of an area’s resources?
- Where do people choose to live and why?

**In area, the United States is the fourth largest nation in the world. Only Russia, China, and Canada cover larger areas than the United States.**

**The United States reaches from the icy fringes of the Arctic (Alaska) to the tropics (in Hawaii) while the 48 contiguous states (states that share an uninterrupted expanse of territory – obviously not Alaska and Hawaii) cover a range of climates from chilly to mild to hot and from dry to moist. Because of this geographic variation, almost anything can grow somewhere in the United States.**

**Big countries also benefit most from natural resources. The larger a nation’s area, the more likely it is to contain a wide variety of the resources on which people and industries depend. Because the land and water surfaces of the United States vary immensely, its natural resources range from oil and iron to forests and fish – not to mention rich soils for growing crops.” ~ U.S. History and Government**

**Questions:**

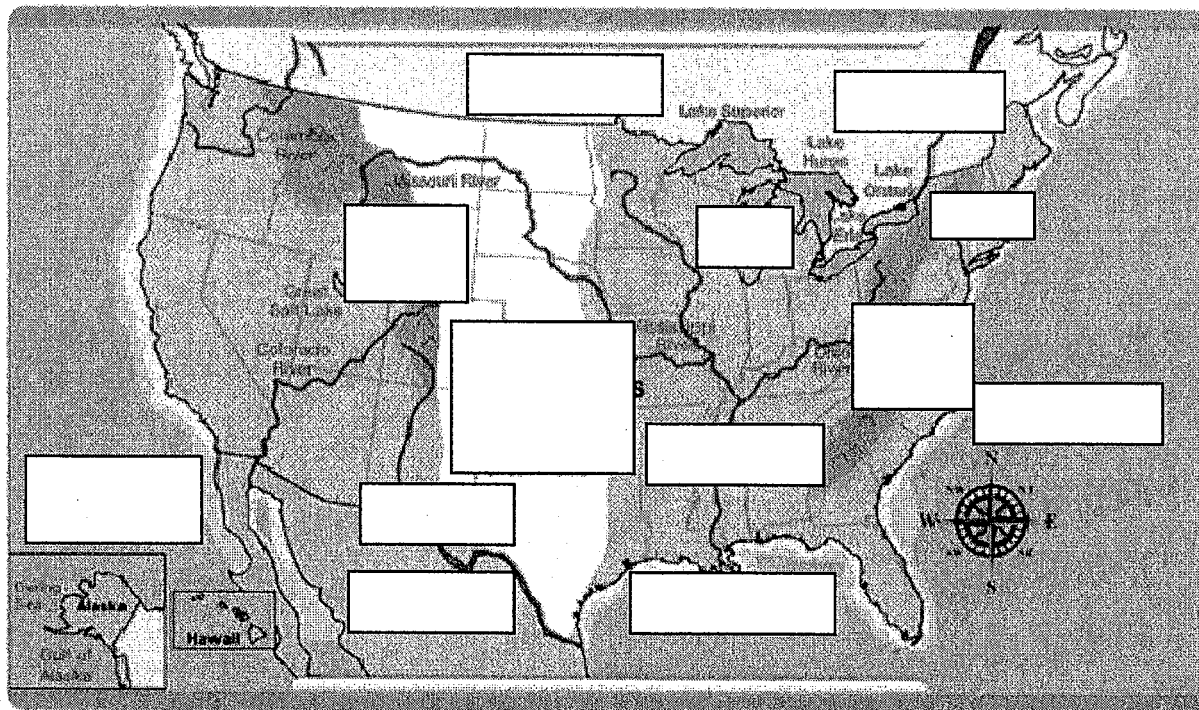
- 1- Define geography.  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 2- Identify one important question geographers ask.
- 3- Where does the United States rank regarding area compared to other countries in the world?
- 4- How many states are there in the United States?
- 5- Which states are not contiguous states?
- 6- Define contiguous.
- 7- How does geographic variation benefit the United States?
- 8- What advantages do nations with larger areas have?
- 9- Describe the natural resources of the United States.

Using the Word Bank, label the map below:

**Word Bank:**

Mississippi River, Hudson River, Rio Grande River, Great Plains, St. Lawrence River, Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Lake Michigan, Canada, Mexico, Gulf of Mexico

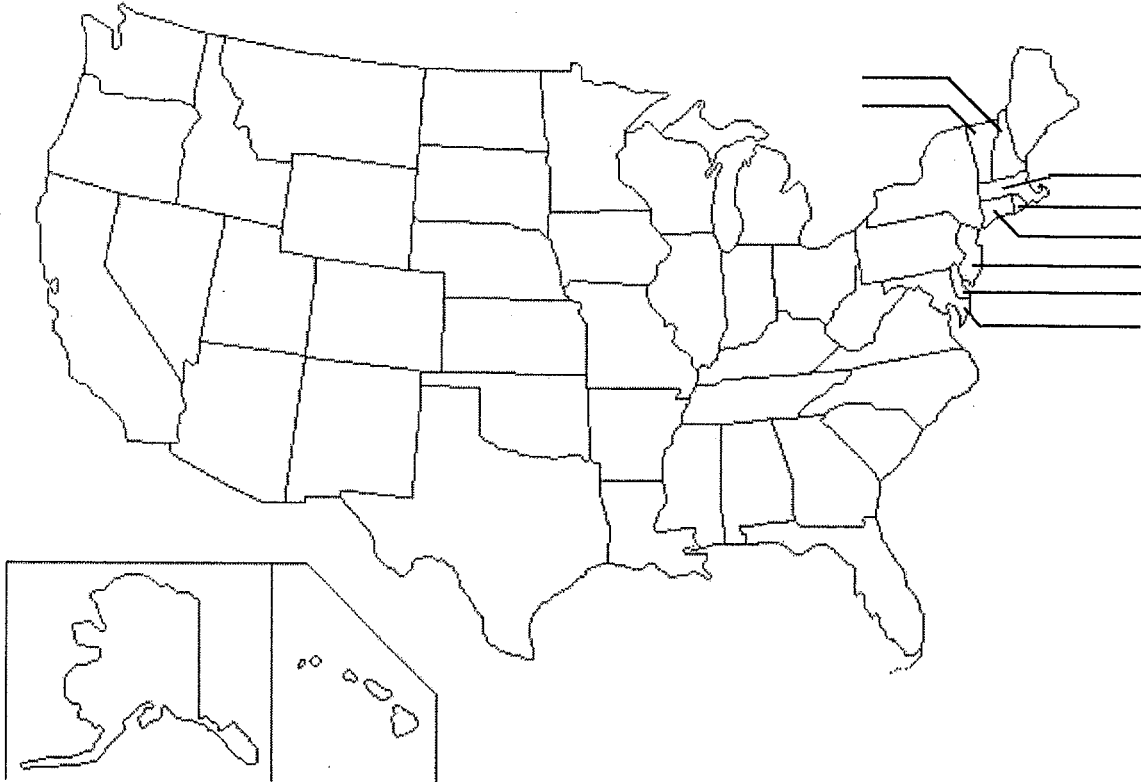


Geography matters! It's where you and your neighbors live. ☺

# Do You Know Your 50 States?

Label each of the states on the map with its abbreviation. The states are listed in alphabetical order to the right with their abbreviations. Good luck.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

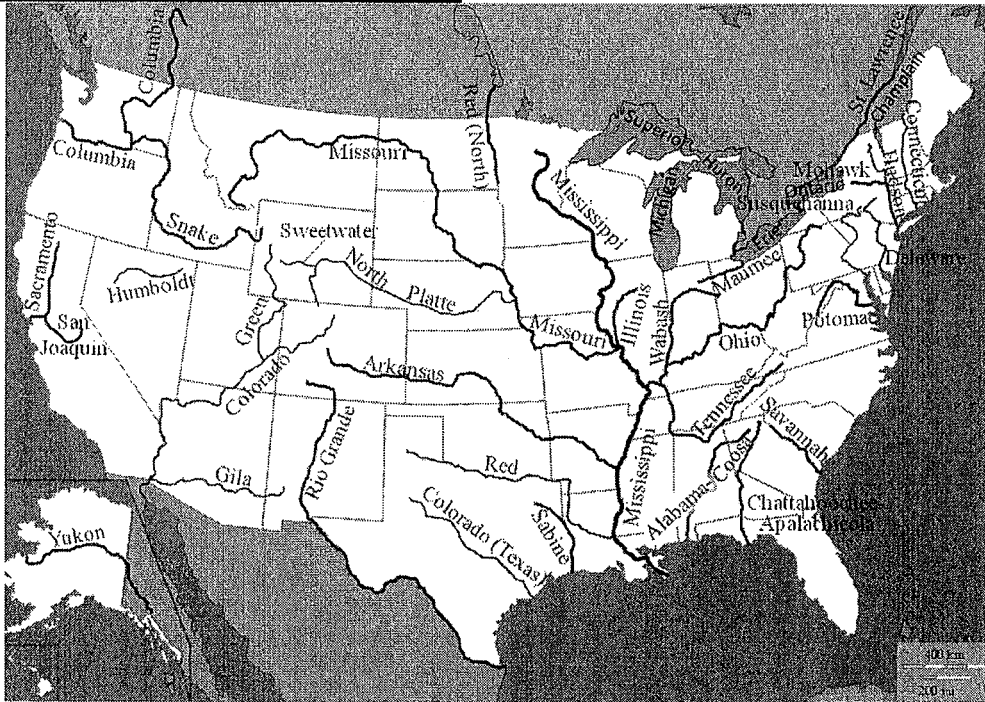


You may use the abbreviations for some States – where the space is too limited for writing:

Alabama (AL)	Alaska (AK)	Arizona (AZ)	Arkansas (AR)	California (CA)	Colorado (CO)	Connecticut (CT)
Delaware (DE)	Florida (FL)	Georgia (GA)	Hawaii (HI)	Idaho (ID)	Illinois (IL)	Indiana (IN)
Iowa (IA)	Kansas (KS)	Kentucky (KY)	Louisiana (LA)	Maine (ME)	Maryland (MD)	Massachusetts (MA)
Michigan (MI)	Minnesota (MN)	Mississippi (MS)	Missouri (MO)	Montana (MT)	Nebraska (NE)	Nevada (NV)
New Hampshire (NH)	New Jersey (NJ)	New Mexico (NM)	New York (NY)	North Carolina (NC)	North Dakota (ND)	Ohio (OH)
Oklahoma (OK)	Oregon (OR)	Penn-(PA) sylvania	Rhode Island (RI)	South Carolina (SC)	South Dakota (SD)	Tennessee (TN)
Texas TX	Utah UT	Vermont (VT)	Virginia (VA)	Washing- Ton (WA)	West WV Virginia	Wisconsin (WI)
Wyoming – (WY)						



## Major Water Features of the United States:



Major Rivers and Lakes Used for Migration in the United States

### Reading:

“Water is an important natural resource, and so are rivers and lakes – landforms defined by water. Rivers and lakes are useful for transportation, food (fish, shellfish, edible plants such as seaweed), and the removal of wastes.

Together, the five Great Lakes make up the largest body of fresh water in the world. The Great Lakes lie between the United States and Canada, bordering the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. Only Lake Michigan is entirely within the United States. The four lakes straddling the U.S.-Canadian border are (from west to east) Lakes Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario.

Long before Europeans set foot in North America, Native Americans were fishing the Great Lakes and carrying people and goods across them by boat. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, cargo ships have crisscrossed the lakes carrying products needed for modern industry – iron ore, coal, and wheat, for example. The lakes are also a major source of fish.”

~ U.S. History and Government

### Questions:

- 1- How do rivers and lakes benefit humans?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2- Identify the five Great Lakes.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3- What is the only Great Lake entirely within the United States?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4- What do the other four Great Lakes straddle?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 5- How did the Great Lakes benefit the Native Americans long before the arrival of the Europeans?

---
- 6- How have the Great Lakes benefitted Americans and Canadians since the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

---
- 7- What are the lakes a major source of?

---

**“The Great Lakes empty into the Atlantic Ocean through the St. Lawrence River, one of two great rivers that drain the U.S. interior. Since 1959, ships have been able to pass from the Great Lakes to the ocean through a series of canals known as the *St. Lawrence Seaway*. The seaway, built jointly by the United States and Canada, widens and deepens the St. Lawrence so that ships can travel between Lake Ontario and Montreal in Canada’s Quebec Province. From Montreal to the ocean, the St. Lawrence is navigable without the use of canals.**

**More than a century before the St. Lawrence Seaway opened; New York State dug another water route to serve as an outlet for the Great Lakes. The Erie Canal which opened to shallow canal boats in 1825, connected Lake Erie near Buffalo to the Hudson River near Albany. By means of the Hudson, cargoes from the Midwest could reach New York City, which owes much of its growth as a port and center of industry to the Erie Canal.”**

**Questions:**

- 1- How do the Great Lakes empty into the Atlantic Ocean?

---
- 2- When was the *St. Lawrence Seaway* opened?

---
- 3- What does the *St. Lawrence Seaway* allow ships to do?

---
- 4- What was opened in New York State in 1825?

---
- 5- What does the Erie Canal in New York State connect?

---
- 6- How did the Erie Canal contribute to the growth of New York City as a port and center of industry?

---

**“The greatest of all U.S. rivers is the Mississippi. With its tributaries (the rivers that flow into it), the Mississippi River drains almost the entire area from the Appalachians to the Rockies. It widens to as much as a mile and a half before pouring into the Gulf of Mexico near New Orleans, Louisiana.**

**The Mississippi itself is 2348 miles long – or 3860 miles long if its length is measured from where the Missouri River, a tributary, starts in the Rockies. Other important tributaries include the Ohio River (with its own tributary, the Tennessee River), the Arkansas River, and the Red River.**

The Mississippi figures prominently in North American history, from its use as a 'highway' by early Native Americans through its exploration by the Spaniards and French to its roles in the Civil War and as part of the modern U.S. industrial economy. Such major cities as Memphis and St. Louis arose largely because of their favored locations along the Mississippi."

**Questions:**

- 1- What is the greatest of all U.S. rivers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2- What does the Mississippi River drain?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3- Where does the Mississippi pour into the Gulf of Mexico?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4- How long is the Mississippi River?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5- Why does the author provide two answers to the length of the Mississippi River?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6- Identify several important tributaries of the Mississippi River.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7- Why did the Mississippi River figure prominently in Native American Indian history in North America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8- Identify several major cities that arose largely because of their favored locations along the Mississippi River.  
\_\_\_\_\_

"Many other rivers have also played central roles in U.S. history. Most of the nation's largest cities grew up beside navigable rivers. A few examples include Boston, Massachusetts (at the mouth of the Charles and Mystic rivers); Richmond, Virginia (at the mouth of the James River); Mobile, Alabama (at the mouth of the Mobile River); Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (where two rivers merge to form the Ohio River); and Portland, Oregon (on the Columbia River as it nears the Pacific Ocean)."

**Questions:**

- 1- Where have most of the nation's largest cities developed near?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2- What do you think is meant by a "navigable river"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3- Identify one city in the North that developed near a river (you may need to use a map from the packet).  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4- Identify one city in the South that developed near a river (you may need to use a map from the packet).  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thinking Question:**

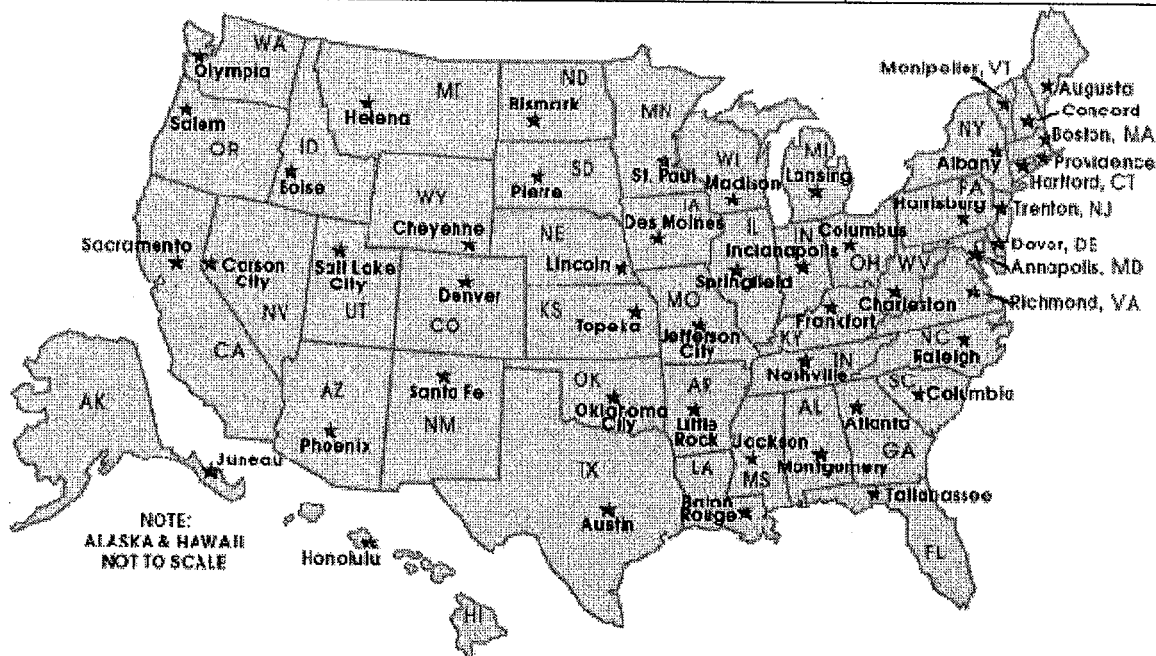
How has geography affected American history?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Write the name of the state for each capital using the map below.

Albany	_____	Harrisburg	_____	Pierre	_____
Annapolis	_____	Hartford	_____	Providence	_____
Atlanta	_____	Helena	_____	Raleigh	_____
Augusta	_____	Honolulu	_____	Richmond	_____
Austin	_____	Indianapolis	_____	Sacramento	_____
Baton Rouge	_____	Jackson	_____	Salem	_____
Bismarck	_____	Jefferson City	_____	Salt Lake City	_____
Boise	_____	Juneau	_____	Santa Fe	_____
Boston	_____	Lansing	_____	Springfield	_____
Carson City	_____	Lincoln	_____	St. Paul	_____
Charleston	_____	Little Rock	_____	Tallahassee	_____
Cheyenne	_____	Madison	_____	Topeka	_____
Columbia	_____	Montgomery	_____	Trenton	_____
Columbus	_____	Montpelier	_____		
Concord	_____	Nashville	_____		
Denver	_____	Oklahoma City	_____		
Des Moines	_____	Olympia	_____		
Dover	_____	Phoenix	_____		
Frankfort	_____				



### Interesting Geographic Fact:

“Access to oceans is a great advantage for trade and travel, and 23 of the 50 United States benefit from the ocean coastlines. At many points, arms of the sea poke inland to form protected inlets and bays. Such features include Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay (on the Atlantic coast) and San Francisco Bay and Puget Sound (on the Pacific coast).

Seacoast states often have important fishing industries. In the past, whaling also contributed significantly to the economies of the coastal regions.”

A Geographic Perspective of the USA – Part IV

US History

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**A Note about the New York State Regents in U.S. History and Government:**

- Part I: Fifty multiple-choice questions
- Part II: Thematic Essay
- Part III: Document Based Essay question

So, what is a thematic essay?

- A thematic essay addresses a particular theme.
- A theme is a subject or topic.
- Therefore, a thematic essay is a piece of writing about a subject.

A sample Thematic Essay about the theme or subject of geography from the August 2011 New York States Regents/ U.S. History & Government:

**THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION**

**Directions:** Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

**Theme: Geography – Development of the United States**

Many important events in United States history have been influenced by geography. Geographic factors or conditions include location, size, climate, natural resources, and physical features. These events in turn have had political, social, and economic impacts on the development of the United States.

**Task:**

Identify *two* important events in United States history and for *each*

- Describe how a geographic factor or condition influenced the event
- Discuss the political, social, *and/or* economic impacts of this event on the development of the United States

You may use any important event that was influenced by geographic factors or conditions. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Louisiana Purchase, the construction of the Erie Canal, migration to California in the late 1840s, the Civil War, the purchase of Alaska, the building of the transcontinental railroad, the acquisition of the Philippines, the building of the Panama Canal, the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and the construction of the interstate highway system.

**Questions:**

1- What is the theme of the essay?

2- What geographic factors do the test makers include?

- 3- According to the test makers, what kind of impacts or effects have geographic factors had on the development of the United States?
- 4- How many important events in United States history must a student write about in the essay?
- 5- What must a student describe for each important event in the essay?
- 6- What must a student discuss for each important event in the essay?
- 7- Therefore, if a student created a chart before writing this essay, what terms or words would the student label the blank spaces in the chart below:

_____	_____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____

- 8- Why is it beneficial for a student to create a chart before writing the essay?
- 9- What suggestions do the test makers offer?
- 10- Why is it critical for a student to read the directions carefully before writing the essay?

Walking in any direction will not take you where you need to go.  
Take the time to figure out where you need to go.  
You are more likely to get where you want to go if you plan the journey first.



- \* I will provide a reading and/or notes on two of the suggested topics.
- \* Students will read and underline the reading and/or notes.
- \* Students will complete a new chart for the two suggested topics.
- \* Students will complete elements of the essay.

## First Topic: The Louisiana Purchase

### **Definition:**

- Territory purchased by the U.S. from France in 1803 for \$15 million.
  - It extended from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and from the Gulf of Mexico to British America (Canada).
  - In 1762 France had ceded (to give control of) Louisiana west of the Mississippi River to Spain, but Spain returned it to French control in 1800.
  - Alarmed by this potential increase in French power, President Thomas Jefferson threatened to form an alliance with Britain.
  - Napoleon then sold the U.S. the entire Louisiana Territory.
  - The purchase doubled the area of the U.S.
- ~ Merriam-Webster

### **Reading:**

“By 1800, pioneer families had moved beyond the Appalachian Mountains into Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio. These lands were already part of the United States. On the Mississippi River, however, the city of New Orleans as well as the unexplored lands of Louisiana to the west were under French rule. In 1803, the French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte made the extraordinary offer to sell New Orleans and the Louisiana Territory to the United States for a bargain price (about \$15 million).

In considering whether or not to buy New Orleans and the Louisiana Territory, Jefferson faced a constitutional dilemma. No clause in the Constitution authorized the national government to expand the country's borders. As a strict constructionist (a person who favors a literal or narrow interpretation of a document – a person who reads the document as it is written), Jefferson could not justify making the purchase. But to turn down the offer of Louisiana would be to miss out on the greatest land sale in history.

Jefferson's opponents in the Federalist Party argued for a loose construction of the Constitution. According to this view, the national government had many powers that were implied (to suggest something in an indirect way – to suggest something without saying it) by the ‘necessary and proper’ clause of the Constitution. Reluctantly, Jefferson adopted the loose construction view when, in 1803, he asked the Senate to ratify the treaty with France for the purchase of Louisiana.” ~ US History and Government

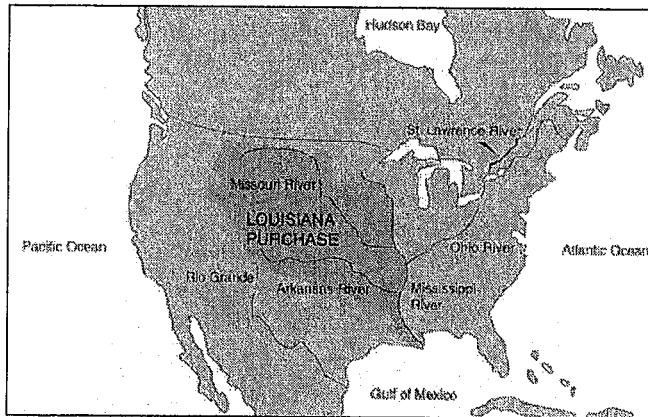
### Questions:

- 1- Where had pioneer families moved by 1800?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2- What nation controlled the city of New Orleans and the unexplored lands of Louisiana?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3- What did French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte offer to sell to the United States?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4- How much did Napoleon ask for the territory?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 5- Why did President Jefferson face a constitutional dilemma when offered the land?
- 6- How does a strict constructionist read the Constitution?
- 7- What could Jefferson not justify as a strict constructionist?
- 8- What did Jefferson's opponents in the Federalist Party believe about the Constitution?
- 9- What does a loose constructionist believe about the Constitution?
- 10- What did Jefferson reluctantly adopt when in 1803 he asked the Senate to ratify the treaty with France for the purchase of Louisiana?

So, what did the United States gain when the Louisiana Purchase occurred?

- Full control of the Mississippi River
- The port of New Orleans
- The Great Plains
- Doubled the land area of the United States
- Extended U.S. boundaries far beyond the Mississippi River all the way to the Rocky Mountains



From the essay:

Answer the questions in the spaces provided below –

- Describe how a geographic factor or condition influenced the event (the Louisiana Purchase)
- Discuss the political, social, *and/or* economic impacts (the Louisiana Purchase) of this event on the development of the United States



A map of the Great Lakes region and the St. Lawrence River. The Great Lakes are labeled: Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. The St. Lawrence River is shown flowing from the north. Major cities marked include Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Albany, and New York. The Erie Canal, Oswego Canal, and Champlain Canal are shown. The state boundaries of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio are indicated.

### Facts about the Erie Canal:

- ### More Facts on the Erie Canal:

- ### Questions:

- 30

**From the essay:**

**Answer the questions in the spaces provided below –**

- **Describe how a geographic factor or condition influenced the event (the construction of the Erie Canal)**
- **Discuss the political, social, *and/or* economic impacts (the construction of the Erie Canal) of this event on the development of the United States**

**Try this Alternative: Create “quick lists” for the two suggested topics. Write every fact you know about the two suggested topics. Afterwards, check to see if your “quick lists” addressed the two bullets of the task. If not, add a few more facts to fully address all of the bullets in the task.**

The Louisiana Purchase	The Erie Canal

Complete the passage below – using the essay question and the notes:

A Sample Essay

Introduction:

\_\_\_\_\_ is important. There have been many geographic \_\_\_\_\_ that have influenced American history. The \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase greatly affected the development of the United States and was influenced by \_\_\_\_\_ factors. The construction of the \_\_\_\_\_ Canal also greatly affected the development of the United States and was influenced by \_\_\_\_\_ factors. Geography has impacted the political, social, and economic \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States.

Body Paragraph #1:

The \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase was influenced by geography. In the 1800s, Napoleon Bonaparte, the \_\_\_\_\_ emperor, offered to sell the Louisiana Territory to \_\_\_\_\_, the President of the United States. This territory included the \_\_\_\_\_ Plains, full control of the \_\_\_\_\_ River, and the port of \_\_\_\_\_. At first, President \_\_\_\_\_ hesitated. He was a strict constructionist and believed that the \_\_\_\_\_ had to be read as it was written. Since the Constitution did not specifically state that a President could buy \_\_\_\_\_, he did not know what to do. However, the land that Napoleon offered was very \_\_\_\_\_. So, Jefferson decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the land. The Louisiana Purchase \_\_\_\_\_ the size of the United States. With the Great Plains, Americans gained important land for \_\_\_\_\_. The Great Plains are vast \_\_\_\_\_ and are good for growing \_\_\_\_\_. The Mississippi River allowed farmers to \_\_\_\_\_ their goods. Of course, the port of New Orleans gave Americans access to the Gulf of \_\_\_\_\_. With the Louisiana Purchase, Americans gained an important river and port for \_\_\_\_\_ and more land for \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ influenced President Jefferson's decision to buy the land and the Louisiana Purchase greatly \_\_\_\_\_ the United States with its many important geographic factors.

Body Paragraph #2:

A canal \_\_\_\_\_ two bodies of waters and can often increase transportation and \_\_\_\_\_. The construction of the \_\_\_\_\_ Canal was influenced by geography and changed American history. The Erie Canal is a canal that links one of the \_\_\_\_\_ Lakes (Lake \_\_\_\_\_) with the Hudson River. The canal was built because it provided Americans an important route for the \_\_\_\_\_ of goods. Since the Hudson River flows in a North/South direction, the Erie Canal created a West/East waterway in the state of \_\_\_\_\_ York. The Erie Canal enabled merchants and farmers to ship goods in one continuous voyage between New York City and ports on Lake \_\_\_\_\_. The construction of the Erie Canal greatly \_\_\_\_\_ the history of the United States.

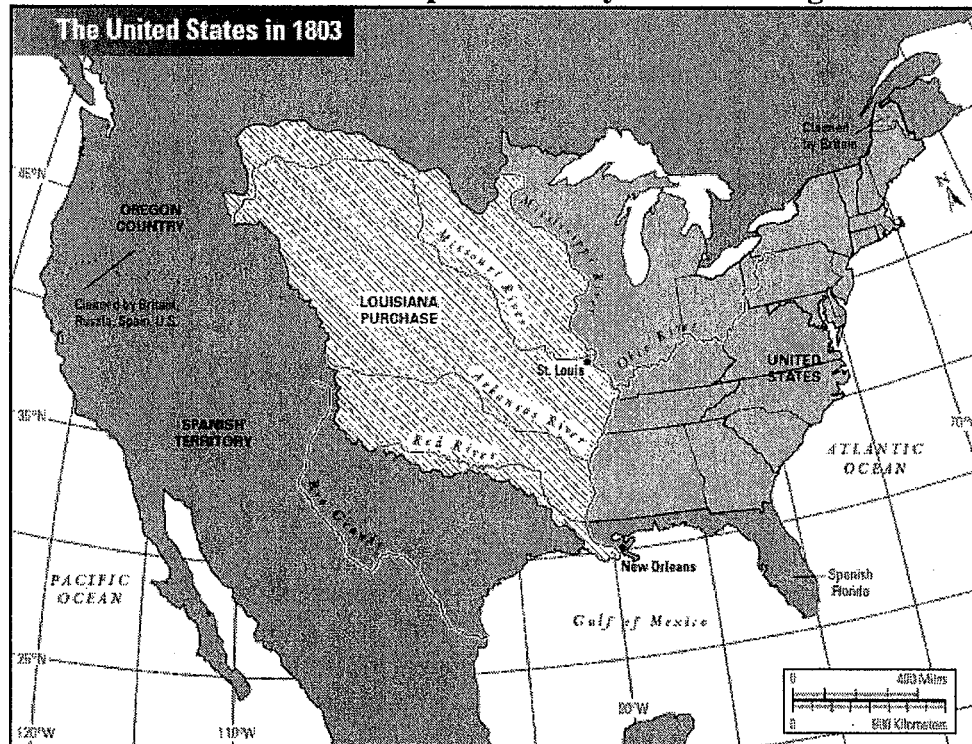
Conclusion:

Many important \_\_\_\_\_ in American history have been influenced by geography \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Erie Canal were influenced by geography. These important events had political, social, and economic \_\_\_\_\_ on American history.

### Reading: Geography Application

"In 1973 the social critic John Keats looked back to 1801, noting that at that time 'the United States was politically fragile, virtually without an army or a navy, without a friend in the world.' Indeed, President Thomas Jefferson was anxious. Foreign governments ruled the lands to the north, the entire Gulf of Mexico coastline, and the major western lands known as the Louisiana Territory. Also, in 1798, Spain had made things difficult for farmers by closing off the previously open Mississippi River to American boats carrying grain to New Orleans for export.

Then, in March of 1801, Jefferson heard a rumor that Spain had secretly given the Louisiana Territory back to France, land that Spain had been given by France in 1762. Jefferson didn't want Spain ceding the region to anyone but the United States, but Spain would admit nothing. Finally, in 1803, Jefferson, still unsure who owned what, directed his ambassador in France to offer to buy Florida and New Orleans and sent James Madison to France to help in negotiations. Much to the men's surprise, the French suddenly proposed selling all of the Louisiana Territory to the United States, though the Florida territory was excluded, for it had remained Spanish territory. The men quickly took the offer and informed Jefferson of the unexpected bounty." ~ Launching the New Nation



### Questions:

- 1- By what proportion did the size of the United States increase as a result of the purchase?
- 2- After the purchase, what formed our eastern and western boundaries?
- 3- Control of which natural feature was the most important geographical advantage of the purchase?
- 4- U.S. possession of the Louisiana lands gave what four other major rivers permanent access to New Orleans and export-shipping facilities?
- 5- In addition to the advantage of increasing the nation's size, what risks do you think acquiring all this land presented?