

Lesson 4: Land and Regions

Vocabulary

region a large area of land with common features

geography the study of Earth and how people use it

agriculture the business of growing crops and raising animals

irrigation a way of bringing water to dry land

climate the weather in an area over a long period of time

precipitation the amount of water that falls to Earth; rain, snow, or sleet

interdependent depending on one another

Regions of the United States

The United States has five **regions**: the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, and West. Dividing the U.S. into these regions makes it easier to study the country's **geography**.

Northeast states are: Maine (ME), Vermont (VT), New Hampshire (NH), Massachusetts (MA), Connecticut (CT), Rhode Island (RI), New York (NY), New Jersey (NJ), Pennsylvania (PA), Delaware (DE), and Maryland (MD).

Southeast states are: Virginia (VA), West Virginia (WV), Kentucky (KY), Tennessee (TN), North Carolina (NC), South Carolina (SC), Georgia (GA), Alabama (AL), Mississippi (MS), Florida (FL), Louisiana (LA), and Arkansas (AK).

Midwest states are: Missouri (MO), Ohio (OH), Kansas (KS), Illinois (IL), Michigan (MI), Wisconsin (WI), Indiana (IN), Nebraska (NE), South Dakota (SD), North Dakota (ND), Minnesota (MN), and Iowa (IA).

Southwest states are: Arizona (AZ), New Mexico (NM), Oklahoma (OK), and Texas (TX).

West states are: Washington (WA), Utah (UT), Oregon (OR), Montana (MT), Wyoming (WY), Colorado (CO), Idaho (ID), Nevada (NV), California (CA), Alaska (AK), and Hawaii (HI).

People and the Land

Landforms, such as mountains or plains, affect how people use the land. Flat land is usually the best land to use for **agriculture**. **Irrigation** allows people to grow crops in areas that were once too dry to farm. The country's largest cities were built near bodies of water. Before there were cars or airplanes, people used the water to move goods and to travel.

Check the Weather

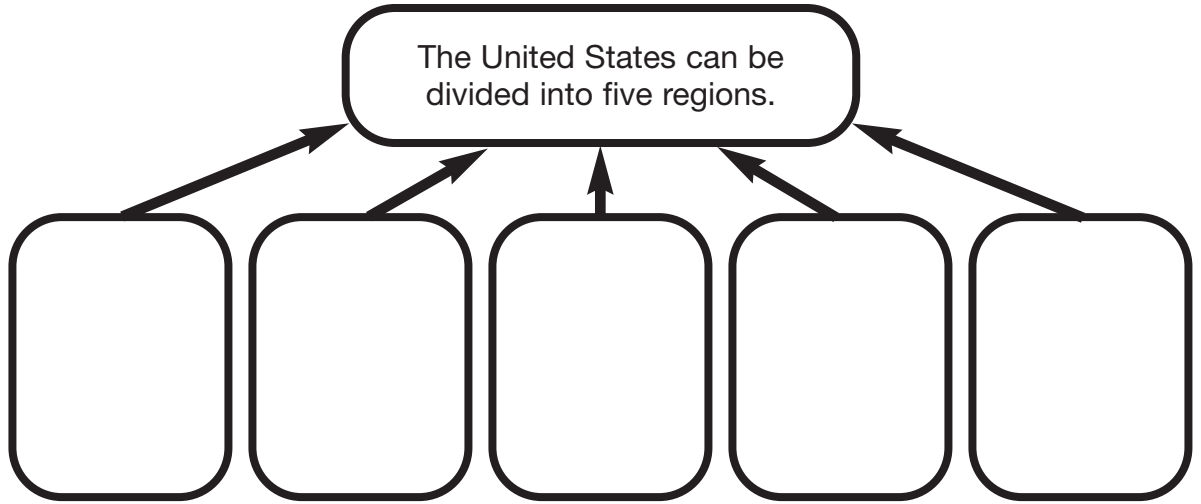
Different areas of the country have different **climates**. Temperature is part of an area's climate. The amount of **precipitation** an area gets is also part of its climate. Climates in the United States become cooler as you move north. The eastern half of the country is mostly humid. It gets more precipitation than the western half. The West is mostly dry.

Regions Work Together

The country's regions are **interdependent**, meaning they need each other. Different materials are often found in different regions. Regions therefore must work together to make a product. Links between regions are getting stronger because of computers. Computers make staying in touch easier for people in different regions.

Lesson 4: Review

1.  **Main Idea and Details** Fill in the states in each region of the United States.



2. What is one benefit of dividing the United States into regions?

3. Why are many cities located next to bodies of water?

4. Describe a major difference between the climates of the eastern and western parts of the United States.

5. **Critical Thinking: Draw Conclusions** Do you think the Internet has helped strengthen connections between the different regions of the United States? Explain your answer.
