

Grade 5 History & Geography

Unit 9: The Geography of the United States

10 lessons and a unit quiz. Use this pack with the **The Geography of the United States Student Reader** (print it, or download it once from the course) to teach the whole unit without the internet.

What is in this pack

- A lesson plan for each chapter: the Big Question, words to know, which pages to read, questions to talk over and the activity pages.
- The unit quiz, ready to print.
- Answers for the teacher at the back: every discussion question and the quiz key.

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Lesson schedule

Two or three lessons a week, about 30 minutes each. Tick each one off as you go.

	Lesson	Reader pages	Activity pages
☐	Chapter 1: The United States	PDF pages 8–13	AP 1.1, AP 1.2, AP 1.3, AP 1.4
☐	Chapter 2: New England	PDF pages 14–21	AP 2.1, AP 2.2
☐	Chapter 3: The Mid-Atlantic Region	PDF pages 22–29	AP 2.1, AP 2.2
☐	Chapter 4: The South	PDF pages 30–37	AP 2.1, AP 2.2, AP 4.1
☐	Chapter 5: The Midwest	PDF pages 38–43	AP 2.1, AP 2.2, AP 5.1
☐	Chapter 6: The Great Plains	PDF pages 44–49	AP 2.1, AP 2.2
☐	Chapter 7: The Rocky Mountain Region	PDF pages 50–57	AP 2.1, AP 2.2, AP 7.1
☐	Chapter 8: The Southwest	PDF pages 58–63	AP 2.1, AP 2.2
☐	Chapter 9: The West Coast	PDF pages 64–71	AP 2.1, AP 2.2, AP 9.1
☐	Chapter 10: Alaska and Hawaii	PDF pages 72–81	AP 2.1, AP 10.1
☐	Unit quiz	—	—

Page numbers are the PDF page numbers of the Student Reader file, so they match what your PDF reader shows.

Chapter 1: The United States

THE BIG QUESTION

How does the narrator describe the location of the United States in relation to Earth's hemispheres, continents, and oceans?

Words to know

- **region** — an area of Earth's surface that has some unique geographic characteristic that sets it apart from other areas *The Southwest region of the United States has a very dry climate.*
- **geography** — the physical and human features of a place *The geography of the Great Plains is very flat.*
- **natural resource** — something from nature that is useful to humans *Water is a natural resource that people use for drinking, cleaning, and playing.*
- **landform** — a natural physical feature on Earth's surface *The Grand Canyon is a famous landform in the southwestern United States.*
- **indigenous** — native to a particular region or environment *Oak trees are indigenous to many parts of the United States.*

Read

Read Chapter 1 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 8–13. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What types of things do states in each region have in common?
2. What is the name of the planet that the aliens are from?
3. The aliens have been exploring different areas of Earth during the past year. What area will they explore next, and what do they hope to learn?
4. In what hemisphere is the United States located?
5. On what continent is the United States located?
6. What bodies of water touch the United States on its eastern and western coasts?
7. How many states are in the United States?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How does the narrator describe the location of the United States in relation to Earth's hemispheres, continents, and oceans?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: The Fifty States and Their Capitals — Teacher Guide PDF page 91
- Activity Page 1.2: Start the Match! — Teacher Guide PDF page 92
- Activity Page 1.3: Finish the Match! — Teacher Guide PDF pages 93–94
- Activity Page 1.4: Territories of the United States — Teacher Guide PDF pages 95–98

Chapter 2: New England

THE BIG QUESTION

How might being close to the ocean have helped the development of certain industries in New England?

Words to know

- **industry** — a business that manufactures a product or provides a service *The travel industry includes hotels, car rental companies, and agents who help people plan vacations.*
- **port** — a town or city built around a harbor, where ships can dock *The city of Boston was an important port in early America, and it is still an important port today.*
- **populated** — having people living in the area *Cities are more populated than areas with farms and ranches.*

Read

Read Chapter 2 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 14–21. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What states make up New England?
2. Using the map on page 9, which New England states border Canada?
3. How is Vermont different from the other states in New England?
4. How do some people in Maine take advantage of the fact that the Maine coast is next to the Atlantic Ocean?
5. Why is the northeastern part of the United States called New England?
6. What industries were important in New England during colonial times?
7. What two “firsts” are associated with the city of Boston?
8. What else is Boston known for?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How might being close to the ocean have helped the development of certain industries in New England?
- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Regions of the United States Chart — Teacher Guide PDF pages 99–101
- Activity Page 2.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 102

Chapter 3: The Mid-Atlantic Region

THE BIG QUESTION

What are the main features of New York City and Washington, D.C.?

Words to know

- **densely populated** — having many people living in a small area *Large cities are usually densely populated.*
- **immigrant** — a person from one country who moves to another country to live *The immigrant moved from Haiti to the United States in search of a new job and a better life.*
- **bay** — a part of a sea or ocean that extends into land *The tall ship sailed into the bay before docking at the harbor.*
- **Congress** — the law-making branch of the American government that is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate *Members of Congress debated whether to pass the new law.*
- **The National Mall** — a tree-lined park in Washington, D.C., that is surrounded by museums, monuments, and government buildings *The class began their field trip by first touring the National Mall.*

Read

Read Chapter 3 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 22–29. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What states make up the Mid-Atlantic region?
2. Using the map on page 17, which Mid-Atlantic states share a land or water border with Canada?
3. Where is the Statue of Liberty located?
4. Why is New York City considered a city of immigrants?
5. What are some of the cultural attractions of New York City?
6. How does the climate of the Mid-Atlantic region compare to the climate of New England?
7. Why is Washington, D.C., the only city that isn't in a state?
8. What is Congress and what does it do?
9. Who was America's first president?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What are the main features of New York City and Washington, D.C.?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Regions of the United States Chart — Teacher Guide PDF pages 99–101
- Activity Page 2.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 102

Chapter 4: The South

THE BIG QUESTION

How might physical geographical features contribute to the development of regional culture?

Words to know

- **geographical features** — the different kinds of landforms, waterways, or physical characteristics in a region *The regions of the United States have many unique geographical features, including mountains, lakes, and deserts.*
- **national park** — a piece of land that is protected by the federal government because of its natural beauty or historical importance *The area around the Yellowstone River became America's first national park.*
- **peninsula** — a piece of land sticking out into a body of water, so that it is almost surrounded by water *The state of Florida is located on a peninsula that sticks out into the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.*
- **Gulf Stream** — a warm ocean current that begins in the Gulf of Mexico and travels north along the coast from Florida all the way to Newfoundland in Canada *The Gulf Stream carries warm water from south to north.*

Read

Read Chapter 4 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 30–37. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. How does the climate in the South differ from the climate in the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions?
2. How have African Americans influenced Southern culture?
3. What was the Civil War?
4. What body of water forms the eastern border of the South?
5. Why is Spanish commonly spoken in Miami?
6. How does Florida's climate influence the way people there live?
7. Which two cities in Tennessee are famous for their music?
8. What is the longest river in the United States?
9. Based on the explanation of the importance of the Mississippi River, what industry or industries do you think are likely to be found in New Orleans?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How might physical geographical features contribute to the development of regional culture?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Regions of the United States Chart — Teacher Guide PDF pages 99–101
- Activity Page 2.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 102
- Activity Page 4.1: Pack Your Traveling Bag — Teacher Guide PDF page 103

Chapter 5: The Midwest

THE BIG QUESTION

How is life different in rural parts of the Midwest compared to busy cities?

Words to know

- **agriculture** — the growing of crops and raising of livestock for food and other purposes *One of the leading industries in the Midwest region is agriculture.*
- **dairy** — relating to milk or milk products *The rancher raised dairy cows and sold their milk to the cheese factory.*
- **commerce** — the buying and selling of goods and services *The downtown area of Chicago is the center of commerce in the city.*

Read

Read Chapter 5 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 38–43. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. If you were traveling through Iowa and Illinois, what crop would you notice growing in rows in many fields? What is this crop used for?
2. Why is Wisconsin called “America’s Dairyland”?
3. What states are considered part of the Midwest?
4. What industries are important in the Midwest?
5. What waterways enable goods from Michigan to be shipped all over the world?
6. Using the map on page 33, which states border Canada?
7. Why is Chicago an important city?
8. Why is Chicago called the “Windy City”?
9. What geographic features are found in northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How is life different in rural parts of the Midwest compared to busy cities?
- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Regions of the United States Chart — Teacher Guide PDF pages 99–101
- Activity Page 2.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 102

- Activity Page 5.1: Domain Vocabulary: Chapters 1-5 — Teacher Guide PDF page 104

Chapter 6: The Great Plains

THE BIG QUESTION

Why are the Great Plains less populated than other regions of the United States?

Words to know

- **hide** — an animal's skin *Native Americans used buffalo hide to make clothing and shelter.*
- **reservation** — an area of land set aside by the federal government for Native Americans *The Cherokee were forced to move from their land in the Southeast to a reservation in present-day Oklahoma.*
- **erosion** — the carrying away of soil and rock by water, ice, or wind *Wind storms can lead to erosion of the soil.*
- **barren** — having little or no vegetation *The hills of rock in South Dakota are barren.*

Read

Read Chapter 6 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 44–49. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. Which states make up the Great Plains region?
2. Using the map on page 39, which Great Plains state borders Canada?
3. Why is the eastern area of the Great Plains called “America’s Breadbasket”?
4. What other products come from the western area of the Great Plains?
5. What happened to the many herds of bison that roamed in this region in the 1800s?
6. How did the arrival of European American settlers affect the lives of Native Americans?
7. What weather phenomenon is common in the Great Plains?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why are the Great Plains less populated than other regions of the United States?
- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Regions of the United States Chart — Teacher Guide PDF pages 99–101
- Activity Page 2.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 102

Chapter 7: The Rocky Mountain Region

THE BIG QUESTION

What causes geysers to occur?

Words to know

- **mountain range** — a line or group of mountains *The Andes Mountains are the highest mountain range in the Americas.*
- **mine** — to dig into the earth in search of minerals or coal *To find coal to use as fuel, the settlers had to mine for it beneath layers of rock.*
- **geyser** — a naturally occurring hot spring in which hot water and steam are released from the ground up into the air in a tall stream *The tourists waited patiently for the geyser to erupt.*
- **magma** — melted rock inside Earth's crust *Hot magma bubbled beneath the surface of Earth.*
- **glacier** — a large, slow-moving mass of compacted snow or ice *A glacier was responsible for creating many mountains and valleys in the Rocky Mountain region.*

Read

Read Chapter 7 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 50–57. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What states make up the Rocky Mountain region?
2. Using the map on page 45, which Rocky Mountain states border Canada?
3. How are the Rocky Mountains different from the Appalachian Mountains?
4. Why did settlers choose to settle in the Rockies during the 1800s?
5. What is one of the most important industries in the Rockies today?
6. What animals can be found in national parks in the Rocky Mountain region?
7. What is Old Faithful?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What causes geysers to occur?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Regions of the United States Chart — Teacher Guide PDF pages 99–101
- Activity Page 2.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 102

- Activity Page 7.1: Remarkable Names and Places — Teacher Guide PDF page 105

Chapter 8: The Southwest

THE BIG QUESTION

How are the Southwest's climate and landscape connected?

Words to know

- **oil field** — an oil-rich area where equipment is set up to remove the oil from the ground *Texas is home to many valuable oil fields.*
- **ranch** — a large farm where livestock is raised *The farmer raised cattle and sheep on his ranch.*
- **space program** — the series of government-supported efforts to explore outer space *The space program was responsible for putting the first person on the moon.*
- **gorge** — a steep, narrow canyon *The boy watched from the edge as the rock bounced down the sides of the deep gorge.*

Read

Read Chapter 8 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 58–63. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What states are included in the Southwest?
2. Using the map on page 53, which states in the Southwest share a border with Mexico?
3. What are some notable statistics about the state of Texas?
4. What are two of Texas's main industries?
5. Why is Mexican culture so common in the Southwest region?
6. Where is the desert in the Southwest region, and what is it like?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How are the Southwest's climate and landscape connected?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Regions of the United States Chart — Teacher Guide PDF pages 99–101
- Activity Page 2.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 102

Chapter 9: The West Coast

THE BIG QUESTION

Why are the Cascade Mountains important to the climate of the Pacific Northwest?

Words to know

- **desalination** — the process of removing salt from water *The desalination plant processed thousands of gallons of ocean water to make it drinkable for humans.*
- **moisture** — small amounts of water, either in the air or on a surface *Small beads of moisture gathered on the cold window.*

Read

Read Chapter 9 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 64–71. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What states are in the West Coast region?
2. Which West Coast state borders Canada?
3. Which West Coast state borders Mexico?
4. For what is Los Angeles famous?
5. How do the northern and southern coasts of California differ?
6. What mountain range runs through Oregon and Washington?
7. What is the cause of the rainy areas in Oregon and Washington?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why are the Cascade Mountains important to the climate of the Pacific Northwest?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Regions of the United States Chart — Teacher Guide PDF pages 99–101
- Activity Page 2.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 102
- Activity Page 9.1: Domain Vocabulary: Chapters 6–9 — Teacher Guide PDF pages 106–107

Chapter 10: Alaska and Hawaii

THE BIG QUESTION

How does Alaska compare to Hawaii?

Words to know

- **volcano** — a mountain that has cracks leading to openings deep in the earth from which hot, melted rock may sometimes erupt *The helicopter filled with tourists flew above the rim of the smoking volcano.*
- **lava** — magma, or melted rock, that reaches Earth's surface *The lava left a path of destruction as it poured down the side of the volcano.*

Read

Read Chapter 10 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 72–81. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. Where is Alaska located?
2. Where is Hawaii located?
3. What are some unique features of Alaska?
4. What is the climate of Hawaii like?
5. What is one of Hawaii's main crops?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How does Alaska compare to Hawaii?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 2.1: Regions of the United States Chart — Teacher Guide PDF pages 99–101
- Activity Page 10.1: Meet My Region — Teacher Guide PDF page 108

UNIT QUIZ

The Geography of the United States

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. In which hemisphere is the United States?
 - a) Eastern
 - b) American
 - c) Southern
 - d) Western
2. What is the approximate distance across the United States from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean?
 - a) three thousand miles
 - b) five hundred miles
 - c) thirty thousand miles
 - d) one thousand miles
3. Which state is not part of New England?
 - a) Massachusetts
 - b) Rhode Island
 - c) New Hampshire
 - d) Virginia
4. Which best describes the climate of New England?
 - a) constant rain
 - b) four different seasons
 - c) four similar seasons
 - d) cool spring and summer, humid winter
5. What is the biggest city in New England?
 - a) Salt Lake City
 - b) Los Angeles
 - c) Boston
 - d) Denver
6. What is the first thing that many immigrants to New York City see?
 - a) the mayor
 - b) Statue of Liberty
 - c) Golden Gate Bridge
 - d) the Capitol
7. Which is the only mainland American city that isn't in a state?
 - a) Washington, D.C.
 - b) Honolulu
 - c) Anchorage
 - d) Miami

- 8.** The state of Florida is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the _____ on the other.
- a) Pacific Ocean
 - b) Mississippi River
 - c) Gulf of Mexico
 - d) Great Lakes
- 9.** Which state is located on a peninsula?
- a) Maine
 - b) Hawaii
 - c) Virginia
 - d) Florida
- 10.** Chicago is located on the shore of
- a) Chesapeake Bay.
 - b) the Missouri River.
 - c) Lake Michigan.
 - d) the Mississippi River.
- 11.** Which is not one of the Great Lakes?
- a) Erie
 - b) Superior
 - c) Michigan
 - d) Champlain
- 12.** What nickname was given to the Great Plains because so much wheat is grown there?
- a) America's Breadbasket
 - b) the Great Plains
 - c) the Fiber Belt
 - d) Wheatsville
- 13.** What is a tornado?
- a) a funnel-shaped cloud containing high winds
 - b) a kind of blizzard
 - c) a rainstorm with thunder and lightning
 - d) a hurricane that forms over land
- 14.** Which body of water is located south of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico?
- a) the Chesapeake Bay
 - b) the Pacific Ocean
 - c) the Atlantic Ocean
 - d) the Caribbean Sea

- 15.** What is the name of the sculpture with the face of four presidents carved into a cliff?
- a) the Washington Monument
 - b) Mount Rushmore
 - c) Yosemite
 - d) Denali
- 16.** What is Old Faithful?
- a) a national park
 - b) a mountain
 - c) a geyser
 - d) a volcano
- 17.** Which states were once part of Mexico?
- a) California, New Mexico, Arizona
 - b) Oregon, New Mexico, Arizona
 - c) Nevada, Louisiana, Arizona
 - d) New Mexico, Arizona, Florida
- 18.** What is the Grand Canyon?
- a) a geyser
 - b) an obelisk
 - c) a gorge
 - d) a funnel
- 19.** What area of the United States receives the most rain?
- a) western Oregon and Washington
 - b) northern Maine
 - c) Hawaii
 - d) the South
- 20.** Which American state is largest in terms of land size?
- a) California
 - b) Montana
 - c) Alaska
 - d) Texas
- 21.** What is special about Alaska's geography?
- a) It is covered in snow all year.
 - b) There are no rivers.
 - c) No trees can grow because the temperature is too low.
 - d) Seventeen of the twenty tallest mountains in the United States are there.
- 22.** How many islands make up the state of Hawaii?
- a) one
 - b) four
 - c) more than one hundred
 - d) none of the above

- 23.** How were the Hawaiian Islands formed?
- a) They split off from the coast of California.
 - b) They came from erupting volcanoes.
 - c) They were the result of an earthquake.
 - d) both b and c

Answers

Chapter 1: The United States

- 1. What types of things do states in each region have in common?**
States in each region have geography, climate, natural resources, and other geographical conditions in common.
- 2. What is the name of the planet that the aliens are from?**
Proteus
- 3. The aliens have been exploring different areas of Earth during the past year. What area will they explore next, and what do they hope to learn?**
They plan to explore the United States. They hope to learn about the different regions of the United States and will report on what the land looks like, what sorts of plants and animals live there, what the weather is like, and so on.
- 4. In what hemisphere is the United States located?**
The United States is located in the Western Hemisphere.
- 5. On what continent is the United States located?**
The United States is located in North America.
- 6. What bodies of water touch the United States on its eastern and western coasts?**
The Atlantic Ocean touches the United States on its eastern coast. The Pacific Ocean touches the United States on its western coast.
- 7. How many states are in the United States?**
There are fifty states in the United States.

Chapter 2: New England

- 1. What states make up New England?**
Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island make up New England.
- 2. Using the map on page 9, which New England states border Canada?**
Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont border Canada. Page 10
- 3. How is Vermont different from the other states in New England?**
Vermont is the only state in New England that does not touch the Atlantic Ocean.
- 4. How do some people in Maine take advantage of the fact that the Maine coast is next to the Atlantic Ocean?**
Many people in Maine make their living catching lobsters, which are found in the Atlantic Ocean.
- 5. Why is the northeastern part of the United States called New England?**
New England was named after the country of England by English settlers who arrived there in the 1600s.

6. **What industries were important in New England during colonial times?**

Shipbuilding and fishing became important industries.

7. **What two “firsts” are associated with the city of Boston?**

Boston is the site of the oldest public library in the United States and the first college founded in the United States.

8. **What else is Boston known for?**

The American Revolution started in the Boston area, so there are many famous historic places. For example, the building in which colonists gave many speeches against the British prior to the war still stands, as does the house where Paul Revere lived. Tourists can visit both places today.

Chapter 3: The Mid-Atlantic Region

1. **What states make up the Mid-Atlantic region?**

New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware make up the Mid-Atlantic region.

2. **Using the map on page 17, which Mid-Atlantic states share a land or water border with Canada?**

New York and Pennsylvania border Canada.

3. **Where is the Statue of Liberty located?**

New York

4. **Why is New York City considered a city of immigrants?**

Beginning in the 1800s, millions of people from other countries came to New York City looking for a better way of life. Many descendants of immigrants have remained in the city.

5. **What are some of the cultural attractions of New York City?**

New York City has many museums, concert halls, and theaters; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, and the New York Public Library are just a few.

6. **How does the climate of the Mid-Atlantic region compare to the climate of New England?**

The climate of the Mid-Atlantic region is much like that of New England, though the summers are hotter and the winters are not as cold.

7. **Why is Washington, D.C., the only city that isn’t in a state?**

Because Washington, D.C., is the capital of the entire country, it was kept separate in its own district. If it had been included in a single state, that one state would have had too much power and importance because Washington is the capital of the entire country.

8. **What is Congress and what does it do?**

Congress is made up of elected representatives of every state. This group of people makes America’s laws.

9. **Who was America’s first president?**

George Washington

Chapter 4: The South

1. **How does the climate in the South differ from the climate in the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions?**

In the summer, the weather is much hotter and more humid in the South than in the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions. The South receives less snow in the winter.

2. **How have African Americans influenced Southern culture?**

In the early history of the United States, Africans were kidnapped from Africa and enslaved. They were forced to work on plantations in the South. Their descendants influenced Southern art, literature, music, dance, and food.

3. **What was the Civil War?**

The Civil War was a conflict between the North and the South in the 1860s.

4. **What body of water forms the eastern border of the South?**

the Atlantic Ocean

5. **Why is Spanish commonly spoken in Miami?**

Miami is home to many immigrants from Cuba and other islands in the Caribbean where Spanish is spoken.

6. **How does Florida's climate influence the way people there live?**

Florida's warm climate allows people to make use of the state's beaches and warm water almost year-round and also to grow crops, such as oranges.

7. **Which two cities in Tennessee are famous for their music?**

Nashville and Memphis are famous for their music.

8. **What is the longest river in the United States?**

the Mississippi River

9. **Based on the explanation of the importance of the Mississippi River, what industry or industries do you think are likely to be found in New Orleans?**

Student answers will vary. Students may note that the Mississippi River is probably used to transport goods, so shipping and trade are likely important parts of New Orleans's economy.

Chapter 5: The Midwest

1. **If you were traveling through Iowa and Illinois, what crop would you notice growing in rows in many fields? What is this crop used for?**

Corn is grown throughout Iowa and Illinois. It is used as food for both people and animals.

2. **Why is Wisconsin called "America's Dairyland"?**

It is called that because so many dairy cows are raised there. Milk from these cows is used for drinking and making dairy products, such as cheese and butter.

3. **What states are considered part of the Midwest?**

The states of Missouri, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa are considered part of the Midwest.

4. **What industries are important in the Midwest?**
Agriculture, commerce, and energy production are all important industries in the Midwest.
5. **What waterways enable goods from Michigan to be shipped all over the world?**
The Great Lakes make it possible to ship goods from Michigan around the world.
6. **Using the map on page 33, which states border Canada?**
Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota border Canada.
7. **Why is Chicago an important city?**
Possible answers: It is the biggest city in the Midwest. It is a port city and a center of railway transportation. It is the third most populated city in the United States.
8. **Why is Chicago called the “Windy City”?**
Chicago is called the “Windy City” because a newspaper writer claimed that the people of Chicago bragged about their city, or were “wind bags.”
9. **What geographic features are found in northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota?**
Northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota are covered in forests.

Chapter 6: The Great Plains

1. **Which states make up the Great Plains region?**
Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota make up the Great Plains region.
2. **Using the map on page 39, which Great Plains state borders Canada?**
North Dakota
3. **Why is the eastern area of the Great Plains called “America’s Breadbasket”?**
A great deal of wheat is grown in the eastern part the Great Plains, and wheat is used to make bread.
4. **What other products come from the western area of the Great Plains?**
Beef and oil come from the western area of the Great Plains.
5. **What happened to the many herds of bison that roamed in this region in the 1800s?**
Settlers hunted the bison and nearly caused them to become extinct.
6. **How did the arrival of European American settlers affect the lives of Native Americans?**
Native Americans were forced to give up their land. The destruction of bison by European settlers also hurt Native Americans, who depended on bison for food and hides. Native Americans fought with U.S. troops and were eventually forced to move to reservations.
7. **What weather phenomenon is common in the Great Plains?**
Tornados are frequent in the Great Plains. The region has a special area called “Tornado Alley” where tornadoes often hit.

Chapter 7: The Rocky Mountain Region

1. What states make up the Rocky Mountain region?

Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Utah make up the Rocky Mountain region.

2. Using the map on page 45, which Rocky Mountain states border Canada?

Montana and Idaho border Canada.

3. How are the Rocky Mountains different from the Appalachian Mountains?

The Rocky Mountains are taller, steeper, and more jagged than the Appalachians.

4. Why did settlers choose to settle in the Rockies during the 1800s?

Many of the settlers in the Rockies were miners in search of valuable metals in the mountains, such as lead, copper, gold, and silver.

5. What is one of the most important industries in the Rockies today?

Tourism is one of the most important industries in the region.

6. What animals can be found in national parks in the Rocky Mountain region?

Elk, eagles, bison, and grizzly bears are all common to the Rocky Mountain region.

7. What is Old Faithful?

Old Faithful is a geyser located in Yellowstone National Park that shoots steam out of the ground.

Chapter 8: The Southwest

1. What states are included in the Southwest?

The Southwest includes the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada.

2. Using the map on page 53, which states in the Southwest share a border with Mexico?

Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona all border Mexico.

3. What are some notable statistics about the state of Texas?

Texas is the second-largest state in size, and it ranks second largest in terms of population.

4. What are two of Texas's main industries?

Texas raises more cattle and produces more oil than any other state.

5. Why is Mexican culture so common in the Southwest region?

Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada were all part of Mexico at one time, and many of the cultural traditions of the area were adopted by settlers and continued by indigenous people.

6. Where is the desert in the Southwest region, and what is it like?

The desert begins in western Texas and covers much of New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. Very little rain falls in the desert. In summer, it can be warmer than any other part of the United States, with temperatures as high as 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Chapter 9: The West Coast

1. What states are in the West Coast region?

California, Oregon, and Washington make up the West Coast region.

2. **Which West Coast state borders Canada?**

Washington Page 60

3. **Which West Coast state borders Mexico?**

California

4. **For what is Los Angeles famous?**

Los Angeles is famous for its ethnic diversity, for its sandy beaches, and for being the center of the movie industry.

5. **How do the northern and southern coasts of California differ?**

The northern California coast is rocky rather than sandy and has cliffs that plunge down to the ocean.

6. **What mountain range runs through Oregon and Washington?**

The Cascade Mountain range runs through the states of Oregon and Washington.

7. **What is the cause of the rainy areas in Oregon and Washington?**

As winds blow in from the Pacific, they bring moisture from the sea. As the air rises to cross the mountains, it cools off, and the excess moisture falls down as rain.

Chapter 10: Alaska and Hawaii

1. **Where is Alaska located?**

Canada

2. **Where is Hawaii located?**

Hawaii is located two thousand miles west of California, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

3. **What are some unique features of Alaska?**

Alaska is the largest state, and it has seventeen of the twenty tallest mountains in the United States.

4. **What is the climate of Hawaii like?**

Hawaii has a tropical climate with lush forests, warm air, and sunny beaches.

5. **What is one of Hawaii's main crops?**

One of Hawaii's main crops is pineapples.

Unit quiz key

1. d 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. c 11. d 12. a 13. a 14. d 15. b 16. c 17. a 18. c 19. a 20. c 21. d 22. c 23. b