Where Regions Meet

Compare boundaries and connections around the Great Lakes

SS24.HG.2 "Explain what constitutes a region and analyze relationships between regions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the rule that defines each region in the passage. Circle places that belong to more than one region, then number two ways regions are connected.

More Than One Way to Draw a Region

1. Imagine rain falling on a farm near Lake Erie. Some of that water runs through streams into the lake. The Great Lakes basin is the land whose water drains into the Great Lakes and their connecting waterways. Its edge follows drainage divides, high ground that sends water in different directions. This makes the basin a physical region, defined by a shared natural feature rather than by a state or national line. It includes land in both the United States and Canada. A farm outside the drainage divide may be nearby, but its water flows elsewhere, so it lies outside the basin.

2. Now consider the Midwest, a region the U.S. Census Bureau defines by grouping twelve states. Michigan belongs to the Midwest, and part of it also lies in the Great Lakes basin. Iowa is in the Midwest, but its rivers ultimately drain toward the Mississippi River rather than the Great Lakes. Ontario, a Canadian province, includes land in the Great Lakes basin but is not part of the U.S. Midwest. These comparisons show that two regions can overlap without having the same boundaries. The rule used to draw a region, such as water flow or an official state grouping, changes which places belong.

3. Regional boundaries do not stop movement. Ships carry grain and other goods through the Great Lakes between U.S. ports and Canadian ports, linking economies on both sides of the national border. Water also carries fertilizer washed from fields into streams and lakes. Runoff from land in one state or province can affect water quality used by communities in another. Governments may set different rules, but the shared basin gives them a reason to coordinate efforts to limit pollution. Shipping and runoff show two relationships between regions: trade connects their economies, while water flow connects their environmental choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What determines whether land belongs to the Great Lakes basin? Why might a nearby farm be outside it?

2. Use Michigan, Iowa, and Ontario to explain why the Midwest and the Great Lakes basin overlap but have different boundaries.

3. Why might governments in different states or provinces need to work together to protect water in the Great Lakes basin?

4. How does shipping connect places on opposite sides of the U.S.-Canada border?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town on each side of a ridge. Rain west of the ridge drains to Cedar River, rain east drains to Pine River, and both towns buy supplies from the same regional market. In four sentences, define the two drainage regions and the shared market region, identify which town belongs to each, and explain one relationship between the regions.

Where Regions Meet

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the rule that defines each region in the passage. Circle places that belong to more than one region, then number two ways regions are connected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What determines whether land belongs to the Great Lakes basin? Why might a nearby farm be outside it?	**Land belongs if its water drains into the Great Lakes or their connecting waterways. A nearby farm may lie across a drainage divide, where its water flows elsewhere.**
2	Use Michigan, Iowa, and Ontario to explain why the Midwest and the Great Lakes basin overlap but have different boundaries.	**Michigan is in the Midwest and partly in the basin. Iowa is in the Midwest but drains toward the Mississippi River; part of Ontario is in the basin but not in the U.S. Midwest.**
3	Why might governments in different states or provinces need to work together to protect water in the Great Lakes basin?	**Runoff from one state or province can flow into shared waters and affect communities in another, so limiting pollution requires coordination.**
4	How does shipping connect places on opposite sides of the U.S.-Canada border?	**Ships move grain and other goods between U.S. and Canadian ports through the Great Lakes, linking their economies through trade.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Cedar River drainage region includes the town west of the ridge because its rain flows to Cedar River. The Pine River drainage region includes the town east of the ridge because its rain flows to Pine River. The market region includes both towns because they buy supplies from the same regional market. Trade connects towns in the two separate drainage regions.

Accept equivalent descriptions that distinguish a drainage boundary from an official state grouping. For Your Turn, look for both drainage regions, the shared market region, correct town placement, and a trade connection.