Invisible Region Lines

How shared human traits connect places

6.C.7.3 "Identify examples of man-made regions sharing common characteristics related to culture, human settlement, history, economic activities, and governments (e.g., Latin America, corn belt, Northeast megalopolis, Silicon Valley..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each human-made region named in the passage, then circle words that tell what its places share.

What Makes a Region?

1 A region is an area people group together because its places share a feature. Some regions have natural features, such as mountains. Others are human-made: people decide which places belong based on language, jobs, settlement, history, or government. Latin America is one example. It includes Mexico, much of Central and South America, and parts of the Caribbean. Spanish and Portuguese are widespread in the region. These languages spread during European colonization. Not everyone in Latin America speaks them, but they help explain why people group many of these places together.

2 Look at two regions built around work. In the Corn Belt, farms across parts of the central United States grow large amounts of corn. The region has no official border. A county may count as part of it when corn farming is a major activity there. In California's Silicon Valley, many companies and workers design computer chips, software, and other technology. Farms and technology offices do not look alike, but both regions are named for activities that connect many places. Their edges can change as jobs and businesses change.

3 Other regions connect places in different ways. The Northeast megalopolis stretches from around Boston through New York City to Washington, D.C. Its closely spaced cities and suburbs form a long zone of dense settlement. The Commonwealth of Nations connects countries on several continents, not nearby cities. Many members share a history of ties to the former British Empire, and they choose to work together today. Members have different forms of government, so one shared government does not define this region. A region can stretch across land or link faraway places.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which region is grouped partly by language, and which languages are widespread there?

2. Which two regions are connected by work? Explain the different work that links places in each one.

3. Which region is connected by dense settlement? Describe the pattern of places that form it.

4. Which region links countries on different continents? What shared history helps connect them?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a human-made region in a town or group of towns. Name it, describe a human trait its places share, and explain why a nearby place would not belong.

ANSWER KEY

Invisible Region Lines

GRADE 6 · 6.C.7.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each human-made region named in the passage, then circle words that tell what its places share. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which region is grouped partly by language, and which languages are widespread there?	**Latin America; Spanish and Portuguese are widespread there.**
2	Which two regions are connected by work? Explain the different work that links places in each one.	**Corn farming links places in the Corn Belt. Technology work, including designing chips and software, links places in Silicon Valley.**
3	Which region is connected by dense settlement? Describe the pattern of places that form it.	**The Northeast megalopolis is a long zone of closely spaced cities and suburbs.**
4	Which region links countries on different continents? What shared history helps connect them?	**The Commonwealth of Nations links countries on different continents. Many members have historical ties to the former British Empire.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Lantern Market District includes three blocks where families run evening food stalls. People visit those blocks after work to buy dinner, so a shared economic activity connects the blocks. The nearby park is outside the district because it has no food stalls.

Accept other accurate wording for the traits that connect each region. For the invented region, look for a name, a shared human trait, and a reason a nearby place is excluded.