

Regions People Create

See how human activities connect places across the United States.

5.6.A “describe political and economic regions in the United States that result from patterns of human activity;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases that show economic activity, and circle two phrases that show political activity. These details explain why places can form different kinds of regions.

Human Patterns Make Regions

- ① Regions are areas that share something. Some United States regions form because people make similar choices about work, travel, and government. An economic region connects places with related jobs or products. A political region connects places where people often support similar leaders or policies. Region boundaries are not always sharp lines. They can shift as people move, businesses change, or voters change their views.
- ② The Corn Belt is an economic region in the Midwest. Many farmers grow corn there, and nearby businesses sell seed, repair farm machines, store grain, or turn corn into food and fuel. Railroads, highways, and rivers help move crops to buyers. These linked activities make the area an economic region, even though not every county grows the same amount of corn.
- ③ Political regions can also grow from human activity. In some large cities, many residents use public transportation and live close together. They may support city spending on buses, schools, or housing. Nearby rural communities may focus more on farm issues and road access. These patterns can influence elections and policies, but people within any region can hold different opinions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is an economic region different from a political region?

2 What human activities connect places in the Corn Belt? Name two.

3 How do railroads, highways, and rivers help make the Corn Belt an economic region?

4 What different concerns may influence political patterns in large cities and nearby rural communities?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a possible economic region based on a real human activity. Write four sentences that name the region, describe at least two connected jobs or businesses, explain why it is an economic region, and tell how its boundary could change.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases that show economic activity, and circle two phrases that show political activity. These details explain why places can form different kinds of regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is an economic region different from a political region?	An economic region connects places with related jobs or products. A political region connects places where people often support similar leaders or policies.
2	What human activities connect places in the Corn Belt? Name two.	Answers may include growing corn, selling seed, repairing farm machines, storing grain, turning corn into food or fuel, and moving crops to buyers.
3	How do railroads, highways, and rivers help make the Corn Belt an economic region?	They help move crops to buyers, connecting farming and related businesses.
4	What different concerns may influence political patterns in large cities and nearby rural communities?	Large-city residents may support spending on buses, schools, or housing. Rural communities may focus more on farm issues and road access.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Harbor Seafood Region includes coastal towns where many people catch, pack, and sell fish. Boat crews bring fish to docks, and workers deliver it to markets and restaurants. These connected jobs make the towns an economic region. Its boundary may change where fishing and seafood businesses become less common.

Accept reasonable descriptions that correctly connect a region to shared human activities, jobs, products, or political choices. For the open response, check for four sentences and all required parts.