

Mapping United States Regions

Read how people and physical features shape regions and maps.

5.6 "Geography. The student understands places and regions in the United States. The student is expected to: 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 examples of political or economic regions, circle physical features or traits, and number the five largest cities by population from 1 to 5 as they appear in the passage. Your marks will show how maps can organize different kinds of regions.

Regions Tell a Story

- ① Regions are areas that share features. Political regions are shaped by government boundaries. The United States has 50 states, each with its own state government. Economic regions grow from people's work and trade. For example, the Corn Belt in the Midwest produces large amounts of corn. Farms, roads, food businesses, and workers connect this region through human activity.
- ② Physical regions form from natural features. The Rocky Mountains rise in the West, while the Great Plains stretch east of them with broad, mostly flat grasslands. The Appalachian Mountains are older mountains in the East. The Great Lakes hold freshwater along the northern border. Climate and vegetation also help describe regions, such as dry desert plants in the Southwest or forests in wetter places.
- ③ Maps help people locate both political and physical features. A United States map should label every state and the five largest cities by population: New York City, New York; Los Angeles, California; Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; and Phoenix, Arizona. It can also show the Mississippi River flowing south toward the Gulf of Mexico. To make a physical-feature map clear, use a title, labels, and symbols explained in a key.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why is the Corn Belt an economic region? Use two details from the passage.

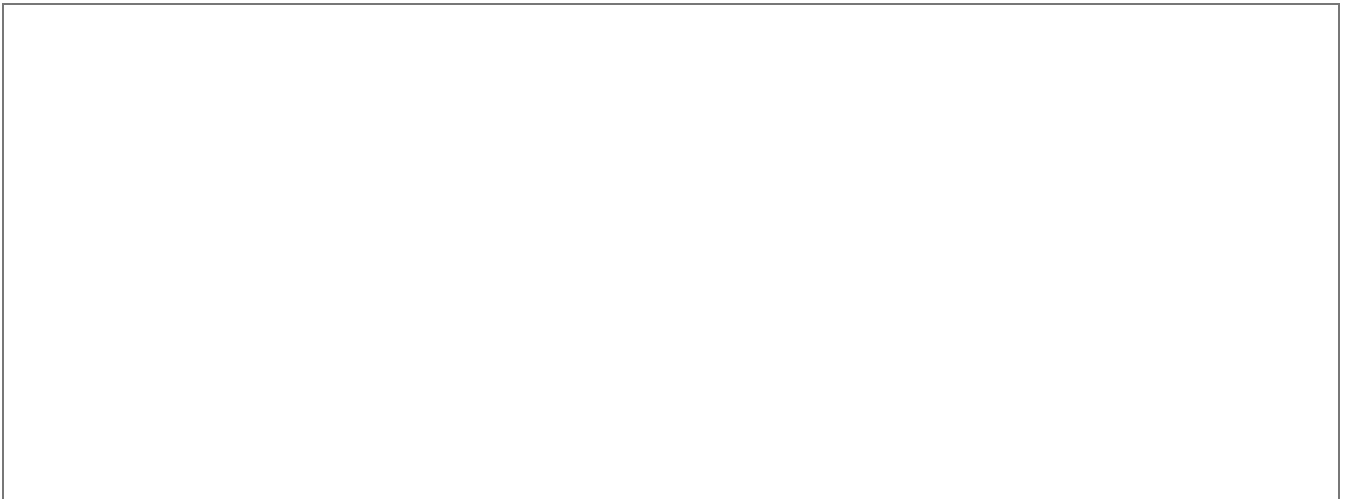
2 How are the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains different?

3 List the five largest cities by population named in the passage and the state for each one.

4 Where does the passage say the Mississippi River flows, and what body of water does it flow toward?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In the box, create a simple physical-feature map of the contiguous United States. Add a title and a key, then draw and label the Appalachian Mountains, Great Lakes, Mississippi River, Great Plains, and Rocky Mountains in their correct relative locations.



PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline examples of political or economic regions, circle physical features or traits, and number the five largest cities by population from 1 to 5 as they appear in the passage. Your marks will show how maps can organize different kinds of regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the Corn Belt an economic region? Use two details from the passage.	It is connected by corn farming, roads, food businesses, and workers. These human activities produce and trade corn.
2	How are the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains different?	The Rocky Mountains are high mountains in the West. The Great Plains are broad, mostly flat grasslands east of the Rockies.
3	List the five largest cities by population named in the passage and the state for each one.	New York City, New York; Los Angeles, California; Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Phoenix, Arizona.
4	Where does the passage say the Mississippi River flows, and what body of water does it flow toward?	It flows south toward the Gulf of Mexico.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Title: Physical Features of the Contiguous United States. A simple United States outline shows the Rocky Mountains in the West, the Great Plains east of the Rockies, the Appalachian Mountains in the East, the Great Lakes along the northern border, and the Mississippi River running south through the central United States. A key explains the symbols used for mountains, lakes, plains, and the river.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the Corn Belt that connect human work, production, or trade to the region. For the map, accept a simple outline or sketch when all five features are labeled in correct relative locations and the student includes a title and key.