

Land and Lives

Compare physical settings and human patterns across U.S. regions.

8.10.B “compare places and regions of the United States in terms of physical and human characteristics; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each physical characteristic and circle each human characteristic. If one detail includes both types of characteristics, underline the physical part and circle the human part so you can compare the regions.

Water, Land, and Communities

- ① Two United States regions show how land and people shape one another. The Great Lakes region, including states bordering Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, has abundant freshwater and a humid climate. Its land includes forests, fertile plains, and shorelines. The Sonoran Desert region in southern Arizona and southeastern California is much drier. It has hot summers, sparse vegetation, and mountain ranges separated by broad valleys. Water availability strongly differs between these regions throughout much of the year.
- ② People have built different communities and economies in response to these settings. Great Lakes cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit grew beside waterways that supported shipping, manufacturing, and trade. Many residents also work in services, education, and tourism. In the Sonoran Desert, Phoenix and Tucson rely on reservoirs, canals, and groundwater to supply homes and farms. Irrigated agriculture can produce crops there, while desert tourism and solar-energy development create other jobs. Both regions contain major cities, but their water systems differ.
- ③ Physical features also affect travel and settlement patterns. In the Great Lakes region, ports connect lake shipping routes with railroads and highways. Large cities developed where transportation and freshwater were available. In the Sonoran Desert, long distances between reliable water sources once limited settlement, and extreme heat still affects daily work and travel. Air conditioning, highways, and water-delivery projects now support large urban areas. Comparing the regions means noticing both shared human needs and different ways people adapt to climate and land.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the Great Lakes region and the Sonoran Desert region differ in climate and water availability?

2 Compare how people in each region use water to support communities and work.

3 What human characteristic do both regions share, and what water-related difference separates them?

4 Compare how the physical setting affects transportation or settlement in the two regions.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two U.S. regions that are not named in the passage. Write exactly four sentences: give one physical and one human characteristic for each region, then state one similarity or difference.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each physical characteristic and circle each human characteristic. If one detail includes both types of characteristics, underline the physical part and circle the human part so you can compare the regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the Great Lakes region and the Sonoran Desert region differ in climate and water availability?	The Great Lakes region has a humid climate and abundant freshwater. The Sonoran Desert is much drier, has hot summers, and has less reliable water.
2	Compare how people in each region use water to support communities and work.	Great Lakes waterways support shipping, manufacturing, and trade. In the Sonoran Desert, reservoirs, canals, and groundwater supply homes and farms, and irrigation supports agriculture.
3	What human characteristic do both regions share, and what water-related difference separates them?	Both regions contain major cities. Great Lakes cities developed beside natural waterways, while Sonoran Desert cities rely on reservoirs, canals, and groundwater.
4	Compare how the physical setting affects transportation or settlement in the two regions.	Great Lakes ports connect shipping routes with railroads and highways, and cities developed where freshwater and transportation were available. In the Sonoran Desert, distances between water sources and extreme heat limited settlement and still affect travel and work.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

New England has a rocky coastline and cold winters, and its cities and towns include busy ports, universities, and tourism businesses. The Appalachian region has long mountain chains and narrow valleys, and many communities developed around coal mining, manufacturing, and outdoor recreation. Both regions have forests and tourism. New England has more coastal activity, while the Appalachian region is more shaped by mountain terrain.

Accept equivalent comparisons supported by passage details. For the open response, accept any two U.S. regions not named in the passage if all four sentences include accurate physical and human characteristics and a valid comparison.