

Name _____

Date _____

Subregions of the United States

All questions require at least
THREE sentences on own paper.

PLACES & TERMS

New England six northern states of the Northeast subregion

megalopolis area in which several large cities and surrounding areas grow together

the Midwest subregion that contains the 12 states of the north central United States

the South subregion of 16 states that covers about one-fourth of the land area of the United States

metropolitan area large city and its nearby suburbs and towns

the West subregion of 13 states that stretches from the Great Plains to the Pacific Ocean and includes Alaska and Hawaii

The Northeast

What is a megalopolis?

The Northeast includes Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. These states are called New England. The other three—Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey—are sometimes referred to as the Middle Atlantic States. Many of the places first settled by Europeans are located here, along the Atlantic coast.

Many people still fish and farm, as early settlers did. But the area's coastal and inland waters turned it into the heart of trade, commerce, and industry for the country.

Most Northeasterners are now employed in such manufacturing and service industries as electronics, communications, chemicals, medical research, finance, and tourism.

Traditional industries and cold winters earned the Northeast the title of "rust belt." In recent times, many "rust belt" industries have moved to warmer climates.

The nation's first megalopolis (a region in which several large cities and surrounding areas grow together) developed in the Northeast. The "Boswash" megalopolis, as it is called, covers a 500-mile area from Boston to Washington, D.C.

1. Which states make up New England?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

The Midwest

Why is this region called the "heartland?"

The subregion that contains the 12 states of the north central United States is called the Midwest. It is known as the American heartland because of its central location.

Vast, largely flat plains are a major feature of the region. So are many waterways. They include the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and its many tributaries.

The Midwest is the nation's "breadbasket." It has fertile soil, adequate rainfall, and a favorable climate. These factors enable Midwesterners to produce more food and feed more people than farmers in any similar area in the world.

Agriculture is also the basis of many of the region's industries. They include meatpacking, food processing, farm equipment, and *grainmilling*. Its central location and excellent waterways make the Midwest a trade, transportation, and distribution center.

2. What makes the Midwest a "breadbasket?"

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

The South

How is the South changing?

The South is a subregion that covers about one-fourth of the area of the United States. Like the Northeast, the South was also the site of early European settlement. Virginia was England's first American colony.

The South's mix of cultures shows the diversity of its early settlers. There are people of British heritage, descendants of Africans brought as slave laborers, and Hispanics. Louisiana has Cajuns of French-Canadian origin and Creoles of French and Spanish descent. Also, many Hispanics from Cuba call Florida home.

The South is often referred to as the "sunbelt" because of its warm climate. Agriculture was the South's first economic activity. Cotton, tobacco, fruits, peanuts, and rice are still grown there.

The South's humid subtropical climate at first *hindered* industrialization. But industry was given a boost by the widespread use of air conditioning in the 1950s. The subregion also has vast stores of oil, coal, natural gas, and water.

In recent times, the South has attracted many industries moving away from the harsh weather of the "rust belt." The South's climate draws millions of tourists and retirees, too. There are also many rapidly growing metropolitan areas—large cities and their nearby suburbs and towns—in the South.

3. What helped industrialization in the South?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

The West

What economic activities are found here?

The West is a subregion of 13 states that stretches from the Great Plains to the Pacific Ocean and includes Alaska and Hawaii. Its dramatic landscapes include high mountains, dense forests, sunny beaches, and icy tundra.

Some areas of the West, such as its many deserts, have few people. California, on the other hand, is the nation's most *populous* state. Its excellent farmland, good harbors, and mild climate attract millions.

The West is the most rapidly growing subregion in the United States. Its growth in the 20th century was helped by the introduction of air conditioning and by irrigation. The availability of water has also been important to the development of inland cities.

4. Why is California so heavily populated?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.