

Name _____

Date _____

Regions of the US

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. The Northeast is often called “the birthplace of our nation,” and there are a few reasons why. In 1620, the Pilgrims came to Massachusetts and signed the Mayflower Compact. This was one of the first democratic documents in the US. In 1775, the Revolutionary War began in Boston, Massachusetts. In this war, the 13 original colonies fought for independence from Great Britain. A year later, the Declaration of Independence was officially adopted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 4. In it, Thomas Jefferson argued for individual rights, including the rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Massachusetts and Pennsylvania have which of the following in common?

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| A. The Pilgrims signed important documents in both states. | B. Both states were once part of the Northeast but are not any longer. |
| C. Thomas Jefferson lived and worked in both states. | D. Founding documents of the US were signed in both states. |

2. The Southeast region includes: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. This region has a humid, subtropical climate with hot summers. Hurricanes can reach land in the summer and fall, too. This region is also thought to be the home of an early type of blues music called Delta Blues or Mississippi Blues. The Midwest is an inland region, which means it doesn't border any ocean. The Midwestern climate is perfect for growing many different kinds of crops and raising cattle. Corn is grown in the eastern part of the region (the Corn Belt), while the Wheat Belt is located in the drier Great Plains. The northern states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan are known for their dairy. That's where a lot of cheese, milk and butter come from. Today, some people in Wisconsin are so proud of their state's dairy farming history, they wear foam cheese hats to football games! In addition to farming, the Midwest is also the historic center of the American car industry. Henry Ford opened Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan, in 1903.

Which of the following is the Midwest region known for?

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| A. farming and the car industry | B. hurricanes |
| C. a hot, humid climate | D. blues music |

3. Three of the four states in the Southwestern region border Mexico. You can see the Mexican influence on the architecture, food and art of this region today. However, the first people to settle this region were the Native Americans. Many different tribes lived in the Southwest, including the Hopi, Navajo and Apache.

Which of the following is true of the Southwest?

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| A. Mexicans were the first people to settle the Southwest. | B. One Southwestern state does not border Mexico. |
| C. Mexico is part of the Southwest. | D. The Hopi were the only tribe to live in the Southwest. |
4. The West really changed in 1848 when gold was discovered in California. This event sparked the Gold Rush, as people moved to the region hoping to get rich. By the end of 1849, the number of people living in California who were born in other states and territories had grown from 1,000 to 100,000!

How did the West most likely change from 1848-1849?

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| A. The population decreased dramatically. | B. Buildings and homes stopped being built. |
| C. The population increased dramatically. | D. The West expanded to include Hawaii. |
5. Located in California, Silicon Valley is home to many of the world's largest technology companies, including Apple and Google. Considered part of the West region, this specific area is important enough that it is known as the Silicon Valley region. Silicon is an important material used to make computers and other electronics, and this material gives the region its name. Silicon Valley is defined by its industry (technology) as well as its location. It's also part of a larger region called the San Francisco Bay Area, which includes San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose.

Silicon Valley is best described as which of the following?

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| A. a large region that includes San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose | B. a physical region known for the silicon deposits that are naturally found in the ground |
| C. an industrial region that is also part of the San Francisco Bay Area and the West | D. a political region that has its own form of government separate from the state of California |

6. Remember, a region is an area that shares a common trait or traits. So there are many ways we could divide the US into regions. It depends what traits we are focusing on. These five regions are based on geography. But we might also describe regions in the US by shared politics, history or culture. Regions can also change over time. After all, Hawaii didn't become a US state until 1959, and until 1820, Maine was considered a part of Massachusetts.

If you focused on the shared trait of history instead of geography, you would most likely

- A. divide the US into different regions.
- B. not be able to divide the US into any regions.
- C. not have any labels on your map of the US.
- D. create an inaccurate map of the US.