

Name _____ Date _____

Regions of the US

Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest and West

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. The Northeast is often called “the birthplace of our nation,” and there are a few reasons why.

Notes

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.”

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.

Notes

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.

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.

Notes

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!

Notes

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.

Notes

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.

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.

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