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Unit 1 The Land and Early People

The Big Idea

Geography People interact with their environment and are affected by it.

What to Know

- How do the geography and the climate of the United States differ from region to region?
- What was the impact of early North American civilizations?
- How did geography and climate affect Native American groups?



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A timeline is titled The Land and Early People. Events comprise: Early Native Americans hunt large animals about 12,000 years ago; the farming settlement of Jericho is founded in southwest Asia about 10,000 years ago; people in Asia began making pottery about 8,500 years ago; early Native Americans begin farming about 5,000 years ago; people in Asia begin training horses about 4,500 years ago; the Navajo move to the desert Southwest about 1,000 years ago; and over 30,000 live in Cahokia about 800 years ago.

People



A Navajo family

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Three members of a Navajo family are shown, an adult and two children.

People of the Southwest and the West

- Lived in a vast area between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean
- Included diverse groups of both hunters and farmers
- Used a variety of natural resources to build their homes



An Iroquois Family

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Two adults and two children are pictured.

Eastern Woodlands People

- Lived mostly in areas east of the Mississippi River in what is now the United States
- Used wood to make canoes, tools, and shelters
- Main crops were corn, beans, and squash



A Makah Hunter

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A person holds a spear and wears clothing made of fur.

Northwest Coast People

- Lived in what is now Canada, Washington, and Oregon
- Skilled whalers and fishers
- Traveled long distances to trade

Plains People

- Lived in a wide area from what is now Texas to Canada

- Main food source was buffalo



A Cheyenne Couple

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A man and woman are pictured.



An Arctic Family

CHAPTER 1 Our Nation's Geography



Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A snowy mountain rises behind a forest with lake in foreground.

Lesson 1 States and Regions

WHAT TO KNOW How are the 50 states alike, and how are they different?

VOCABULARY

contiguous p. 15

region p. 15

relative location p. 15

continent p. 18

population p. 18

PLACES

United States

Canada

Mexico

Focus Skill

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

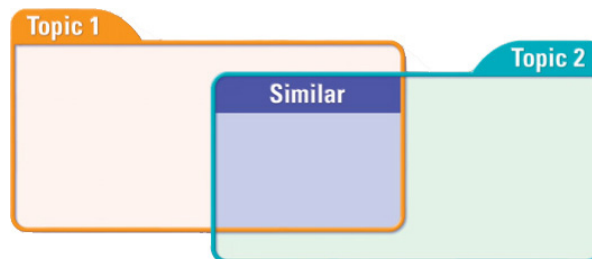


IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A Venn diagram shows two fields labelled Topic 1 and Topic 2 and their overlap field labelled Similar.

You Are There

You are in the library in the town of Derby Line, Vermont. It looks like any other town library, but it is not. This library is located in two different countries, the **United States** and **Canada**.

If you stand in one part of the library, you are in the state of Vermont. If you walk to another part of the library, you are in the province of Quebec. You enter the library in the United States, but you check out books in Canada!





DERBY LINE LIBRARY The black line on the library floor shows where the border between the United States and Canada lies.

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: In one photo, two people are seen talking in a library with a black line on the floor between them. Another photo shows the exterior of the Derby Line Library.

A Nation of 50 States

The United States is a nation made up of 50 states. Forty-eight of them share at least one border with another state. They are **contiguous** (kuhn•TIH•gyuh•wuhs), or next to each other.

Two states, Alaska and Hawaii, are separated from the other states. Alaska, our northernmost state, shares a border with the country of Canada. Hawaii is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. It is more than 2,000 miles from the 48 contiguous states.



MAP SKILL

PLACE What is the capital of your state?

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A U.S. map shows national and state capitals and borders.

Regions of the United States

To make it easier to talk about different areas of the country, people often group the 50 states into five large regions. A **region** is an area in which many features are similar.

The five regions of the United States are the West, the Southwest, the Midwest, the Southeast, and the Northeast. Each region is based on its relative location in the United States. The **relative location** of a place is where it is compared to other places. For example, the Midwest region is between the Northeast and the West.

The states within each region are alike in many ways. The states often have similar kinds of land, and the people who live there often earn their living in similar ways. The states in each region may also share a history and culture.

Reading Check COMPARE AND CONTRAST How are the states in a region similar?

Inlets and Lakes

Hundreds of inlets along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts help define the shape of the United States. An **inlet** is any area of water extending into the land from a larger body of water.

Gulfs and Inlets

The largest inlets are called **gulfs**. The largest gulf bordering the United States is the **Gulf of Mexico**. Another large gulf, the Gulf of Alaska, lies south of Alaska along the Pacific Coast.

Hundreds of bays and sounds also shape the coastline. A **sound** is a long inlet that separates offshore islands from the mainland. The largest bays and sounds provide harbors where ships can safely dock. Most of the country's largest bays and inlets are found along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Our Largest Lakes

The largest lakes in the United States and in all of North America are together known as the **Great Lakes**. They are located along the border between the United States and Canada.



These five lakes—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario—are among the world's largest freshwater lakes.



LAKE MICHIGAN The city of Chicago lies on the shore of Lake Michigan.

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A sailboat is seen on Lake Michigan with the Chicago skyline in the background.

The Great Lakes and the rivers connected to them form an important inland waterway. This waterway links the Midwest and the Atlantic Ocean.

Most lakes in the United States are made up of fresh water, but the **Great Salt Lake** in Utah is as salty as any ocean. Some people even consider it to be a sea—an inland body of salt water.

Reading Check: Compare and Contrast How do the Great Lakes and the Great Salt Lake differ?

Fast Fact People in the United States use more than 40 billion gallons of water from the Great Lakes every day.

32

32



15 Major Bodies of Water in the United States



MAP SKILL

LOCATION Which city on the map borders the Ohio River?

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A U.S. map labels major bodies of water and shows state and national borders and select cities.

Rivers

Rivers are bodies of fresh, moving water. Every river

Biography

Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Responsibility

“There are no other Everglades in all the world.”

Marjory Stoneman Douglas defended the environment at a time when many people did not think about conserving Earth's natural resources. Her books and volunteer work showed people the importance of protecting the environment, mainly Florida's Everglades.

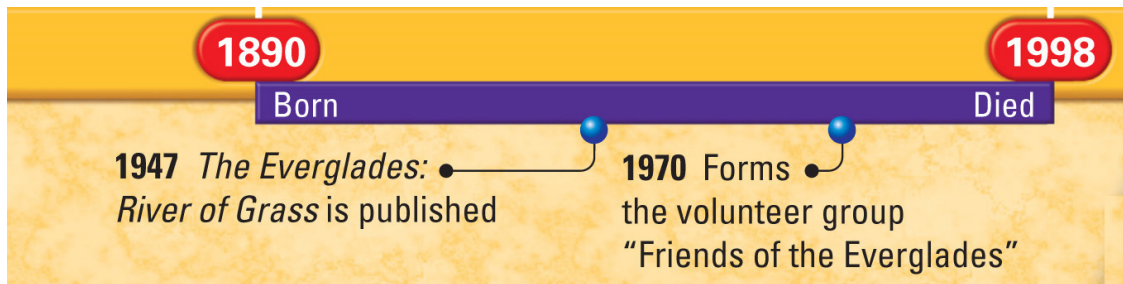


IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A photo shows Marjory Stoneman Douglas. A timeline indicates she was born in 1890, published The Everglades: River of Grass in 1947, formed the volunteer group "Friends of the Everglades" in 1970, and died in 1998.

Douglas was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1890. When she was 25, she moved to Miami, Florida, to work as a reporter for the Miami Herald. In 1942, she began working on a project about American rivers. She published The Everglades: River of Grass in 1947. That same year, the

Everglades became a national park.

Douglas's book showed people that the Everglades was home to many rare plants and animals that were worth protecting. In 1970, she formed a volunteer group called "Friends of the Everglades". Douglas continued to travel and give speeches about the Everglades until her death at the age of 108.

Why Character Counts

How did Marjory Stoneman Douglas help protect the environment?

Go Online For more resources, go to www.harcourtschool.com/ss1

36

36

Lesson 4 Climate and Vegetation

WHAT TO KNOW How do climate and vegetation differ across the United States?

VOCABULARY

elevation p. 37

natural vegetation p. 38

arid p. 39

tundra p. 39

PLACES



Rocky Mountains

Focus Skill COMPARE AND CONTRAST

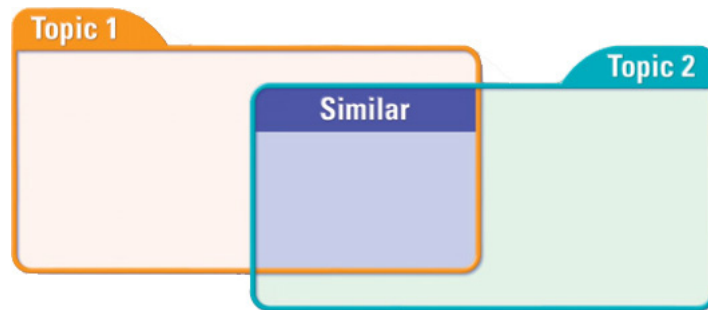


IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A Venn diagram shows two fields labelled Topic 1 and Topic 2. Their overlap field is labelled Similar.

You are There As your horse moves forward to catch up with the group, you feel a rush of cold air. It's cool outside, even though the sun is shining bright. The Rocky Mountains look huge in the distance. It's your first visit to Colorado and your first time horseback riding. There is snow on the mountains ahead, but the land around you is perfectly green.



THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS Many people participate in outdoor activities, such as horseback riding or snow skiing, in the Rocky Mountains.

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: Several people ride horses in a queue with a snowy mountain in background.



16 The Four Seasons

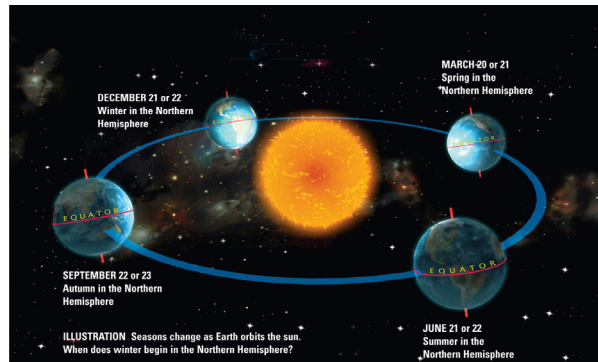


ILLUSTRATION Seasons change as Earth orbits the sun. When does winter begin in the Northern Hemisphere?

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: A diagram explains how Earth's orbit is responsible for the change of the seasons. Different portions of Earth face the sun over the course of the year. In December the Southern Hemisphere faces the sun and it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere. In March the Pacific Ocean faces the sun and it is Spring in the Northern Hemisphere. In September the Atlantic Ocean faces the sun and it is Autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.

Climate

The climate of a place can affect what people wear, what kinds of activities they do, and how they earn