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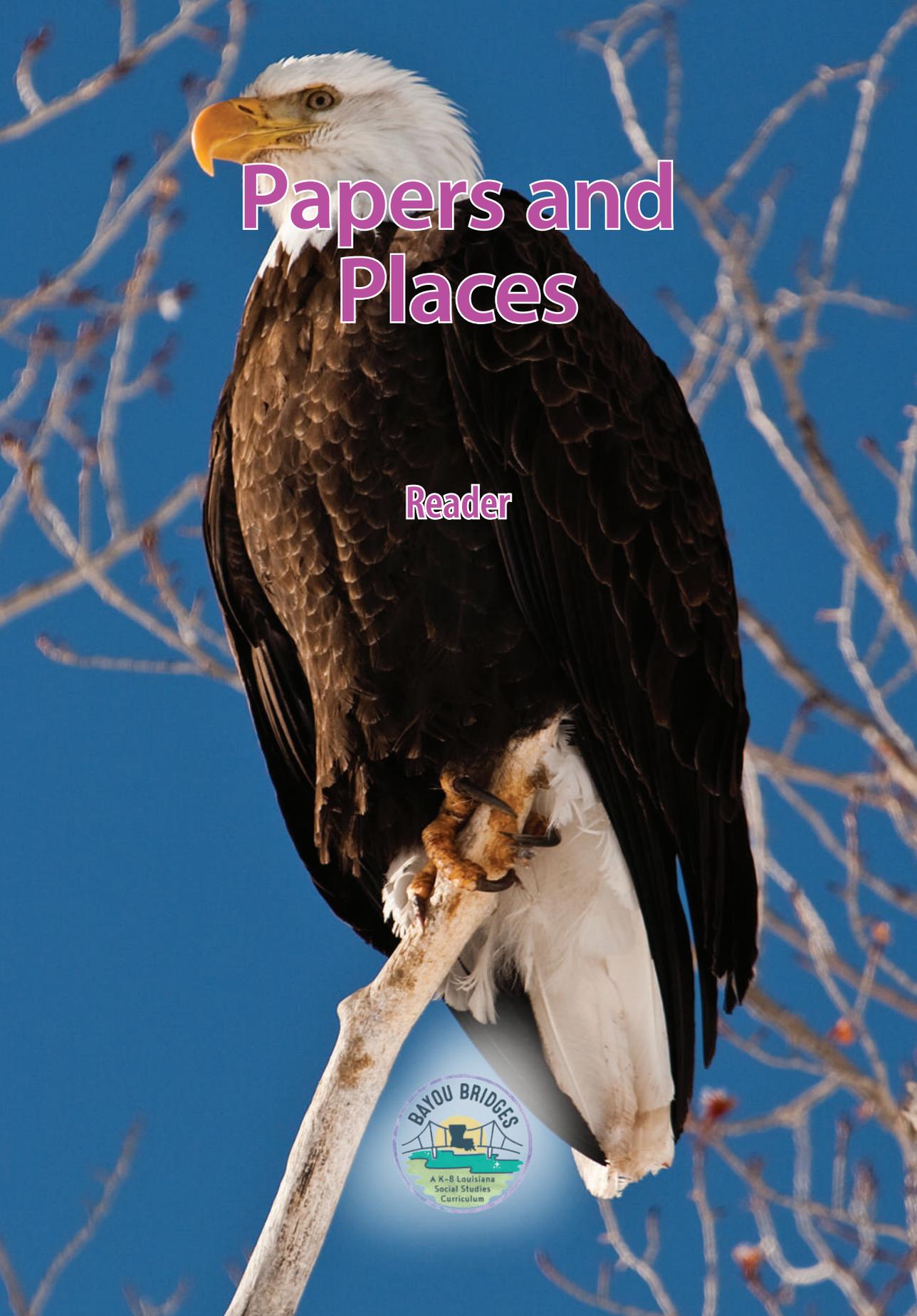
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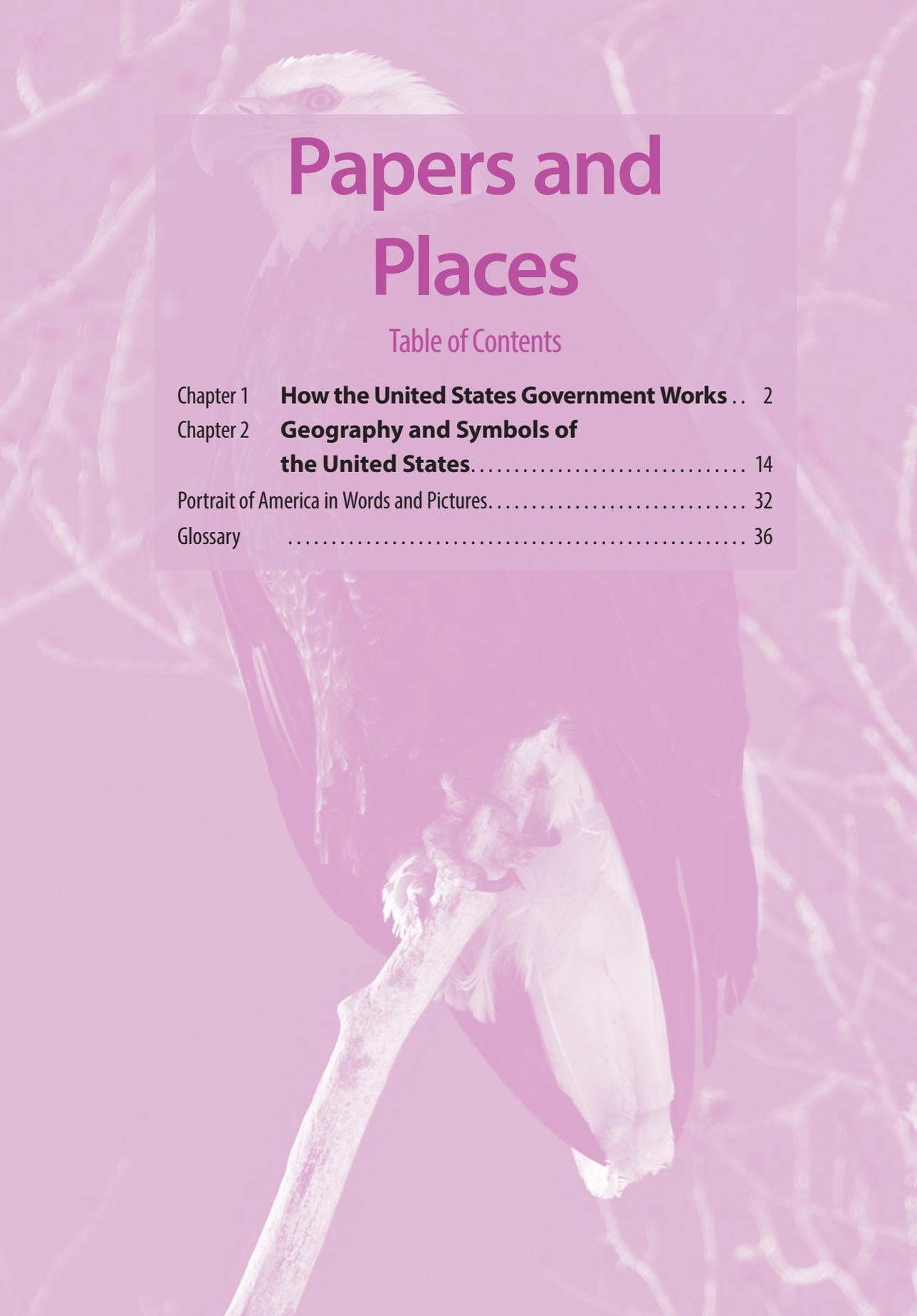
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Papers and Places

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Chapter 1

How the United States Government Works

A Framework for Government

The Constitution is a very important document. It is an overall plan for the United States government, and it explains what powers the government can and cannot have. The Constitution explains the three branches of government, and it assigns duties and responsibilities to each part.

The Framing Question

How does the Constitution set up the U.S. government?

People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and when elected shall have been seven Years a Citizen of the State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and original Members of the Senate shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Representatives and original Members of the Senate shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

The Constitution outlines the structures and powers of the U.S. government.

Parts of the Constitution

The Constitution is divided into different parts. You have learned that the first section, the preamble, begins with the famous words “We the People.” The preamble states the purpose of the Constitution. Next, there are seven articles that describe the structures and jobs of the government. Some examples of the articles are:

- Articles I–III, which outline the three branches of government;
- Article IV, which explains the relationships among the states and between the states and the federal (national) government; and
- Article V, which explains how to **amend**, or change, the Constitution.

Vocabulary

amend, v. to change or add to something already established

The Branches of Government

The men who wrote the Constitution, known as the Framers, thought a lot about how the government should be organized. Many were worried that the national government could become too powerful. To make sure this didn’t happen, the writers used two important principles to create a limited government.

The first principle they used was the separation of powers.

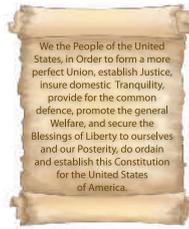
The Constitution separates the national government into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Each branch has its own jobs and powers:

- The **legislative** branch makes the laws.

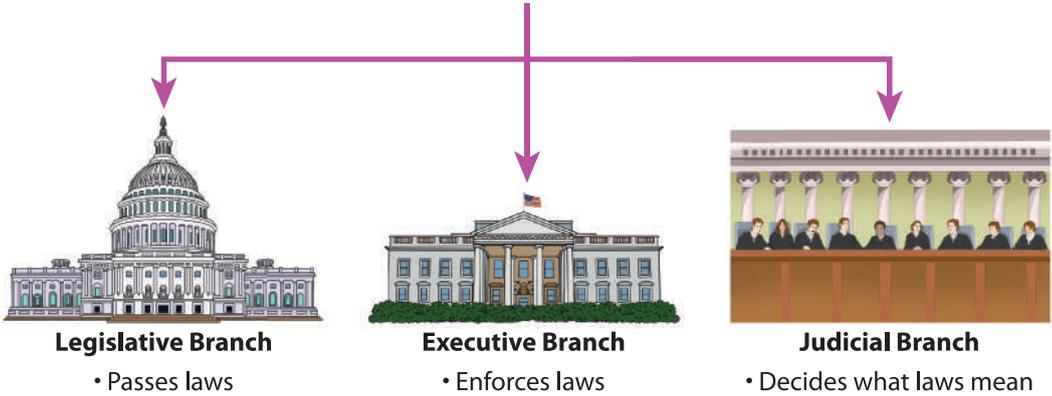
Vocabulary

legislative, adj. having the power to make laws

Separation of Powers



The Constitution



The Constitution separates the government into three branches. Each has its own powers and responsibilities.

- The **executive** branch carries out the laws.
- The **judicial** branch decides the meaning of laws.

Vocabulary

executive, adj. having the power to carry out laws

judicial, adj. having the power to decide questions about laws

The branches of government work in different ways. The legislative branch is Congress. Congress is a legislature, or group of people who make the laws for the country. Its members are called *legislators*. Congress is made up of two houses. The upper house is called the Senate. It is made up of one hundred senators. Each state elects two senators, who serve for six years. The lower house is called the House of Representatives. It is made up of 435 representatives. States are given representatives based on the size of their populations.

States with larger populations have more representatives. States with smaller populations have fewer representatives.

Representatives serve for two years.

Vocabulary

propose, v. to put forward or suggest

Legislators meet at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., to pass laws. To pass a law, Congress must follow several steps. First, a legislator from either house of Congress **proposes** a bill. Next, the bill is written and sent to a committee for discussion. Once it is passed by the committee, legislators vote on the bill in the house where the bill began. If the bill receives a majority of votes in its favor, it passes that house, and it is sent to the other house for review. Sometimes the second house may make changes to the bill. If that happens, both houses must agree on the changes in the final bill. Then the bill goes to the president, who can either sign the bill, making it a



Congress meets in the U.S. Capitol building to make laws for the country as well as for important events, like a speech by the president.

law, or reject the bill, preventing it from becoming law. When the president rejects a bill, this is called a *veto*.

The executive branch is headed by the president of the United States. Every four years, Americans elect the president. The president sees that the laws are carried out and is responsible for running the government. The president also deals with other countries and serves as commander in chief of the armed forces.

The judicial branch is made up of the Supreme Court and other federal courts. These courts decide whether laws passed by Congress follow the Constitution. The Supreme Court is made up of nine judges called *justices*. They are chosen by the president and approved by the Senate. Justices serve on the Supreme Court for life.

Checks and Balances

Besides creating separation of powers through the three branches of government, the second way the Framers limited the government was through checks and balances. Each branch of government has a lot of power. But none is completely free to do what it pleases. That's because each branch can check, or stop, the others. Each branch "checks and balances" the other two. These are some examples of checks and balances in the Constitution:

- Congress can make new laws, and it can change laws that already exist, but as you have learned, the president has the right to veto, or say no to, a new law. However, Congress has the ability to override, or reject, the president's veto.
- The president can make a treaty, or agreement, with another country. The treaty only goes into effect if the Senate approves it.

- The president is commander in chief of the armed forces. Only Congress can declare war.
- The Supreme Court can decide that a law passed by Congress violates, or breaks, the Constitution.

Federalism

The Constitution divides powers between the national government and the states. This system is called *federalism*. The federal system works well because it gives each level of government the jobs it does best.

Under the Constitution, the federal government is given the responsibilities it is best suited to carry out. For example, only the federal government can print and coin money.

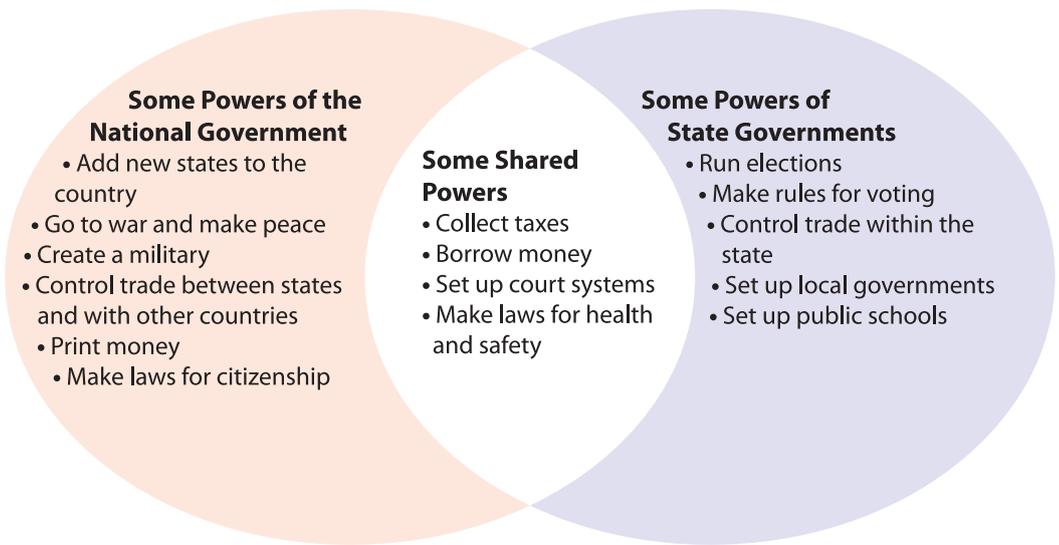
The federal government and the states share some powers. Both levels of government have the power to build roads and collect taxes. However, the Constitution also leaves many powers to the states. For example, states are responsible for creating and taking care of public schools.

The following Venn diagram lists some of the powers described in the Constitution.



States are authorized by the United States Constitution to provide public school education.

Federalism



This diagram shows some of the powers held by the federal government and the states. The center of the diagram shows shared powers given to both levels of government.

The left side of the diagram shows powers given to the national government. The right side shows powers given to the states. The middle of the diagram shows powers shared by the national government and the states. One example of a shared power is collecting taxes. The national government needs this power to pay for the armed forces and many other things. But the state governments also need this power to pay for building roads and running schools.

Civic Virtues

Civic virtues are the qualities of thoughtful people who care about their community. Like the Constitution, people play an important role in the government. Through civic virtue, people uphold the principles of the Constitution. One way to show civic virtue is to vote in local, state, and national elections. This way, every voice is heard. Another way people demonstrate civic

virtue is by writing to or visiting elected leaders. Those who hold these positions want to make their communities better. They are often happy to hear directly from their **constituents**.

Vocabulary

constituent, n. a person who lives and votes in an area

Running for local office and serving on committees are other ways to be active in one's community. You can also volunteer to serve the community.

Becoming a Citizen

In the 1800s and early 1900s, millions of immigrants came to the United States. Many came to the United States because they wanted freedom. Some came looking for jobs and opportunity.



People gather in Seattle, Washington, for a citizenship ceremony.

Others came because they were hungry and poor. For many, the United States was simply a safer place to be. But all these people wanted a better life in the United States and to live here permanently.

The United States remains a **beacon** of hope for others around the world. Hundreds of thousands of people try to become U.S. **citizens** each year. They do this because citizenship offers many benefits. Citizens can vote and run for office. They also can more easily get citizenship for other members of their family.

The Constitution addresses citizenship. People born in the United States are automatically citizens. People born in other countries who move to the United States can become citizens by going through the process of **naturalization**. Naturalization laws have changed over time. To become a citizen today, you must:

- have lived in the United States for at least five years, or three years if married to a U.S. citizen;
- be at least eighteen years old;
- show knowledge of U.S. history and government; and
- take an oath of **allegiance** to the country.

Vocabulary

beacon, n. something that guides or provides a source of hope

citizen, n. a person who belongs to a country and has protections under that country's laws

naturalization, n. the process of becoming a citizen of a country if born outside of that country

allegiance, n. loyalty to a group

PRIMARY SOURCE: EXCERPT FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN'S RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON VOTER PARTICIPATION

Many presidents have used examples from America's history to encourage people to vote and to get involved in politics. President Reagan gave this speech over the radio on October 18, 1986.

Every time we vote we're grabbing a hold of a lifeline that's three thousand miles [4,828 km] long and more than two centuries old and, with millions of others, helping to pull America forward into the future. Yes, every time we vote we're standing up, side by side, with the Founding Fathers, with the men of Valley Forge, with patriots and pioneers throughout our history, with all those who dedicated their lives to making this a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people. Every time we vote we help to make America stronger.

I'm sure you've heard friends say, "Oh, my vote won't matter." Well, the next time someone says that to you, I hope you'll remember that time and again, over the years, elections have turned on a handful of ballots. . . .

Voting is a precious right that for two centuries Americans have fought and died to protect. Let's all honor that sacrifice this election day. Whether you're Republican, Democrat, or independent, circle November 4 on your calendar and then show that you care about America's future and get out and vote.

Source: Radio Address to the Nation on Voter Participation, October 18, 1986.

PRIMARY SOURCE: EXCERPT FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

A farewell address is the last speech that a president gives while they are still in office. Farewell addresses may look back at the president's time in office. They may also give advice to the incoming president or the American people. President Obama gave this speech on January 10, 2017.

... I learned that change only happens when ordinary people get involved and they get engaged [interested], and they come together to demand it.

After eight years as your president, I still believe that. And it's not just my belief. It's the beating heart of our American idea—our bold experiment in self-government. It's the conviction [strong belief] that we are all created equal, endowed [given] by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It's the insistence that these rights, while self-evident, have never been self-executing; that We, the People, through the instrument of our democracy, can form a more perfect union.

What a radical idea. A great gift that our Founders gave to us: the freedom to chase our individual dreams through our sweat and toil [hard work] and imagination, and the imperative [requirement] to strive together, as well, to achieve a common good, a greater good.

Source: President Obama's Farewell Address, January 10, 2017.

Chapter 2

Geography and Symbols of the United States

Exploring the United States

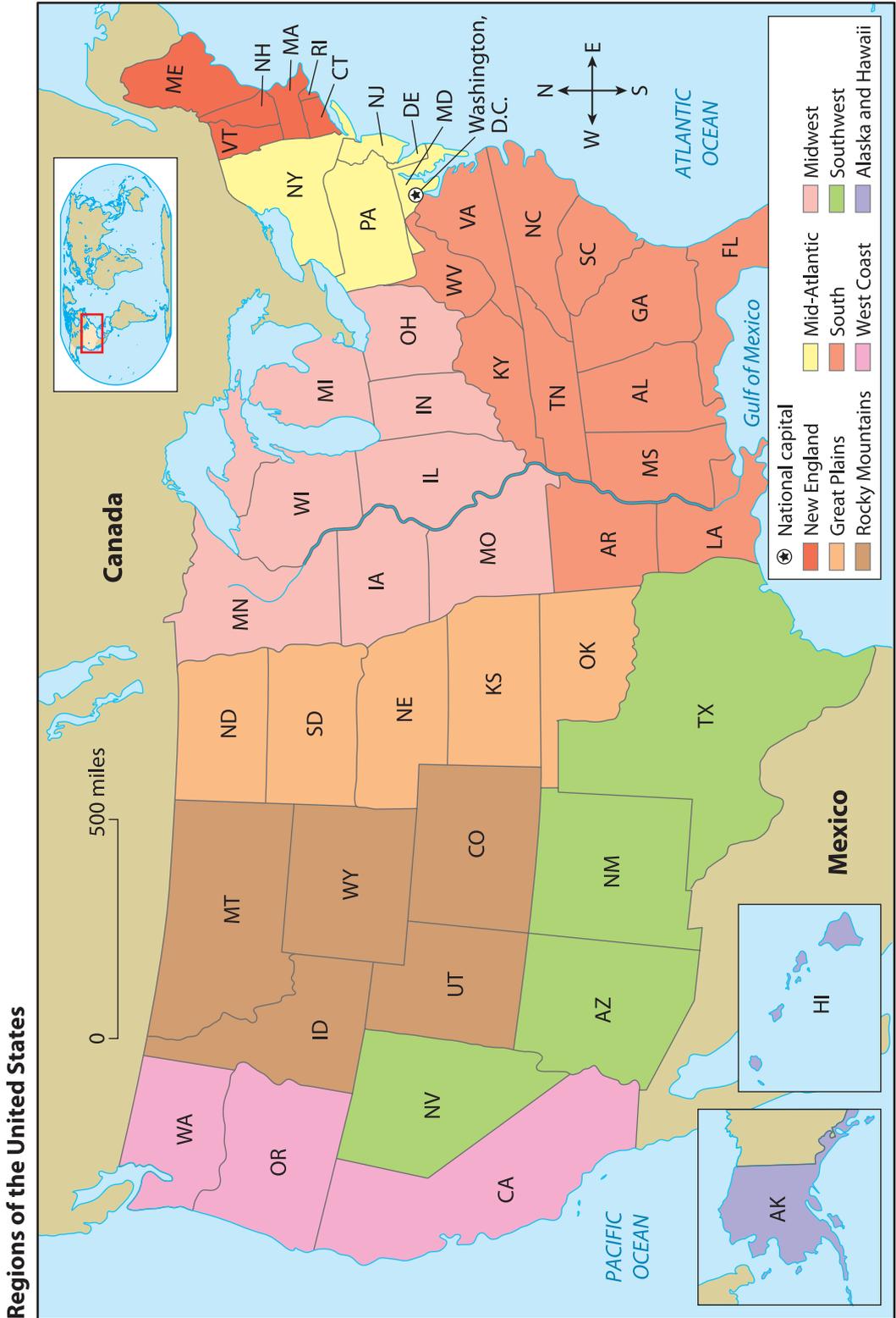
The United States is a large country. It stretches about three thousand miles from coast to coast. Within this large area are several different **regions**. The states in each region have many things in common, such as geography and climate. Regions also have similar natural resources and economic activities. In addition, each region has its own unique geography and identity.

The Framing Question

What are the major geographic features and national symbols associated with the United States?

Vocabulary

region, n. a large area that may have certain characteristics related to its geography, form of government, or traditions that set it apart from other places



Each region of the United States has its own special characteristics and traditions.

New England

New England is in the northeastern part of the United States. It is made up of six states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The Atlantic Ocean borders all of these states except one—Vermont. There are mountains, hills, forests, and lakes in New England. The Appalachian mountain range begins here and continues down the eastern United States. This range has gentle slopes and rounded tops covered with trees. The New England region has four very different seasons. It has a cool spring, a warm summer, a cool fall, and a long, cold, snowy winter.

You may wonder why the area is called New England. It is because in the 1600s, people from England crossed the Atlantic Ocean and settled in the area. Over time, shipbuilding and fishing became important **industries** in New England. Fishing is still an important industry in the region today. Other important industries include education, technology, tourism, and manufacturing.

Vocabulary

industry, n. a group of similar or related businesses

The New England Region



The Appalachian Mountains, a major feature of this region, are among the oldest mountains on Earth.

The Mid-Atlantic Region

The Mid-Atlantic region is near the middle of the Atlantic coastline. It includes five states—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. It also includes the city of Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States. The Mid-Atlantic region has a climate like New England's. However, the summers are hotter, and the winters are not as cold.

The Mid-Atlantic region has many industries. One of them is tourism. People come from all over the country and world to see natural wonders like Niagara Falls. Other industries include technology, health care, oil and gas, banking, transportation, and government.

The Mid-Atlantic region has some of the largest populations in the country. Its many large cities and **urban** areas are centers of industry and government. New York City is the most populated city in America.

Vocabulary

urban, adj. relating to a city



Millions of people visit Niagara Falls each year. The falls are on the border between New York State and Ontario, Canada.



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington D.C. It is dedicated to all American soldiers who died and could not be identified.

Another important city in the Mid-Atlantic region is Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia has an important place in American history. The Declaration of Independence was written and signed here.

Washington, D.C., is the only major U.S. city that is not in a state. It is the capital of the entire country. It is home to Congress, the president, and the Supreme Court. It is also



Millions of people live in New York City.

The Mid-Atlantic Region



There are many port cities in the Mid-Atlantic region. Two of these port cities—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Trenton, New Jersey—are located on the Delaware River.

Words as Symbols

Just like the monuments in Washington, D.C., words are also used as symbols. The United States has two **mottos**. The first, a Latin phrase, is *E pluribus unum*. In English, this means out of many, one. It appears on the Great Seal and on most coins. The second motto is “In God we trust.” The Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem, “The Star Spangled Banner,” are other examples of words used as symbols of the United States.

Vocabulary

motto, n. a saying that represents the beliefs of a person, organization, or country

home to many monuments that honor important people and events in American history.

The South

The South is a large region with mountains, rivers, valleys, and sandy beaches. The twelve states that make up the South are Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

The South has a different climate from the northern states. It is much hotter, especially in the summer. The difference in climate means that southern farms can grow different crops from those grown on northern farms.

The Appalachian mountain range that begins in New England also stretches through the South, into West Virginia and beyond. North Carolina is home to the highest mountain in the Appalachians, at 6,684 feet (2 km). In the South, the Appalachians are known by different names. In North Carolina and Tennessee, they are called the Great Smoky Mountains. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a place the government has set aside so that people can enjoy nature. This is one of dozens of national parks across the country. Important industries in this part of the South include forestry, mining, farming, and tourism.

The coasts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida are covered with sandy beaches. One reason people go to the beaches in the South is because the water is warm. Florida is often warmer than the rest of the South. Because of the warm weather, people in Florida can grow fruits such as oranges.

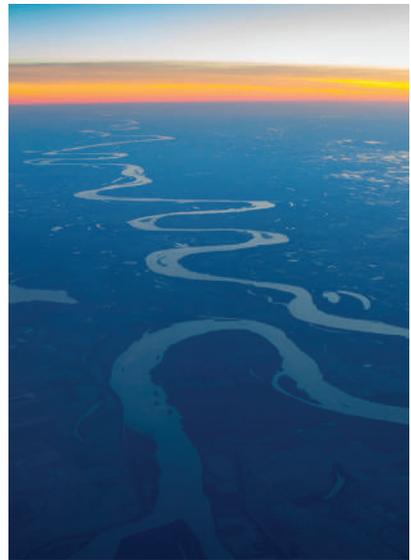
The Southern Region



Two large bodies of water border the South—the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana are part of what some people call the Deep South. Atlanta is the capital of Georgia.

Today, it is the most important business center in the South. New Orleans is in the state of Louisiana. The city is famous for music, especially jazz. It is also known for a once-a-year celebration called Mardi Gras. New Orleans is located on the longest river in the United States. The Mississippi River runs from the northern United States to the Gulf of Mexico. It is the most important river in the United States for transporting goods by boat.



The Mississippi River is home to many different kinds of fish, birds, amphibians, and mammals.

The Midwest

The Midwest region is made up of eight states—Missouri, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Rivers and lakes are major features of this region.

This region has always been very important for **agriculture**. In Iowa and Illinois, farmers grow crops like corn and soybeans. A lot of the corn grown is used to feed animals that are raised for their meat. It is also used to make other products. Wisconsin is called America's Dairyland. Wisconsin farmers raise **dairy** cows for their milk. The milk is also turned into other foods, like cheese and butter.

The states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Iowa are known for manufacturing many types of goods, including cars. Iowa is leading the way with wind power, a type of **renewable** energy. In fact, Iowa gets more than 50 percent of its electricity from wind.

Vocabulary

agriculture, n. the growing of crops and raising of livestock for food and other purposes

dairy, adj. relating to milk or milk products

renewable, adj. able to be replaced

The Midwest Region



Three mighty rivers cut through the Midwest region. They are the Mississippi River, the Missouri River, and the Ohio River.



Iowa has many kinds of farms, including wind farms!

In the northern part of this region are huge bodies of water called the Great Lakes. Canals connect the lakes to the U.S. Atlantic coast and the Mississippi River. This makes it possible for midwestern goods to be shipped all over the world. The northern parts of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota are covered with forests. Not as many people live in this area. But many wild animals like wolves, moose, and bears do.

Chicago, Illinois, is the largest city in the Midwest. Railways from both sides of the United States come together in Chicago. It is also a major port city. St. Louis, Missouri, is another important midwestern city. It is located on the Mississippi River. It is also home to the Gateway Arch, the tallest monument in the United States.

The Great Plains

The Great Plains region is near the center of the United States. It comprises the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. Most of this region is flat. It is a very **rural** region. It is covered with many farms and ranches.

Vocabulary

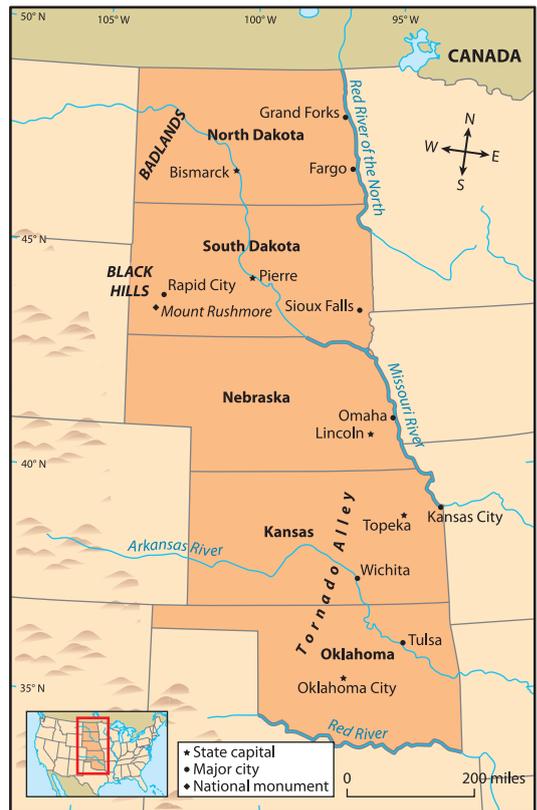
rural, adj. relating to the countryside

So much wheat is grown in this area that it is called America's Breadbasket. In the western part of the region, there are cattle ranches, where much of the country's beef is raised. Another important product of the region is oil. Oil is turned into gasoline that helps cars run.

The region has changed in the last two hundred years. Millions of animals called *bison* once lived on the Great Plains. The Native Americans who lived in the region hunted the bison for food. After European settlers arrived in the 1800s, the bison population greatly declined.

Living conditions on the Great Plains can be tough. The region has little water. The summers are hot, and the winters are freezing. Spring is tornado season in the Great Plains. In the northern part of the region, the winter weather is especially hard. This might be one reason why the states of North and South Dakota have so few people.

The Great Plains Region



A major characteristic of the Great Plains region is the flatness of the land.



A tornado is a type of storm that has winds of more than one hundred miles (161 km) per hour.

The Rocky Mountain Region

The Rocky Mountains, or the Rockies, run from Canada through all of the states in the Rocky Mountain region. These five states are Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Utah.

Mountains in the Rockies have steep sides and pointed, rocky tops. Many of the mountains have snow on their peaks year-round. Colorado has more and taller mountains than any other Rocky Mountain state. The highest Rocky Mountain peak in the United States is in Colorado, at 14,433 feet (4.4 km)! Denver is Colorado's capital. It is a big, modern city, the largest in the whole Rocky Mountain region. It is called the Mile High City because it sits at 5,280 feet (1.6 km) above sea level.

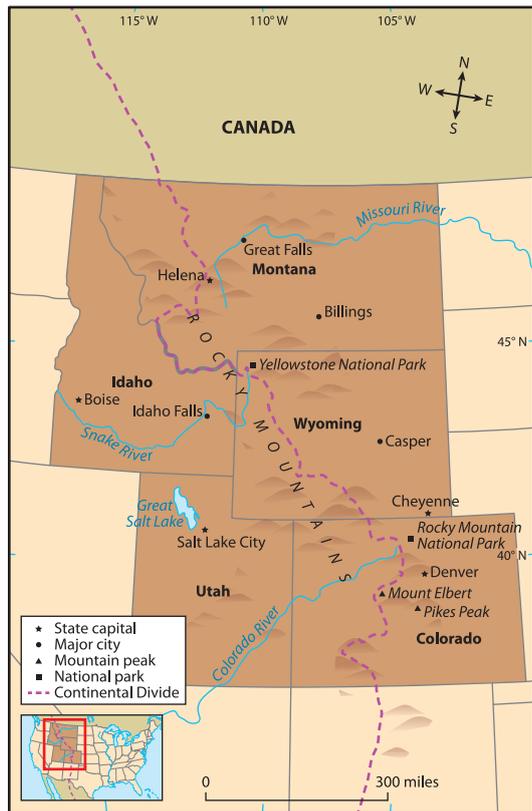
Early settlers came to the Rockies to **mine** metals discovered in the mountains.

They mined copper, lead, gold, and silver.

Today, people who live in the Rockies

work in many kinds of businesses and industries. One of the most important of these industries is tourism. People come from all over

The Rocky Mountain Region



The Continental Divide runs through the center of this region. It is a line of mountain ridges that separates rivers that flow eastward, like the Missouri River, from those that flow westward, like the Snake River.

Vocabulary

mine, v. to dig into the earth in search of minerals or coal

to admire the beauty of the mountains and to visit the region's famous national parks. People also come to ski.

Wyoming is north of Colorado. It has the smallest population of any state in the United States. It is also the home of Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone is the oldest national park in the United States. Many animals live in Yellowstone, including bison, elk, bears, and bald eagles. The bald eagle is a national symbol because it is seen as proud and free.

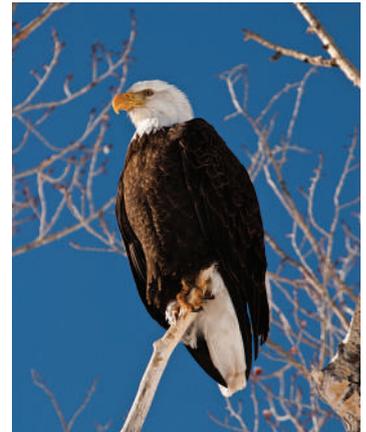
Like Wyoming, Montana has beautiful scenery and very few people. The state of Idaho is most famous for potatoes. Its farmers grow more potatoes than any other state. Utah is only a partly mountainous state. It is home to the Great Salt Lake.

The Southwest

Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada make up the Southwest region. Texas is a huge state. It is the second-largest state in population, after California. Texas is home to big cities, big **oil fields**, and big ranches. Texas raises more cattle and produces more oil than any other state. Oil was discovered



Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado, contains many peaks more than ten thousand feet (3,048 m) high. Longs Peak, shown here, is more than fourteen thousand feet (4,267 m) high.



The bald eagle is a symbol of the United States.

Vocabulary

oil field, n. an oil-rich area where equipment is set up to remove the oil from the ground

near the city of Houston in the early 1900s. Today, Houston is the largest city in Texas. The American **space program** has one of its largest offices there.

Vocabulary

“space program”

(phrase) a series of government-supported efforts to explore outer space

The desert begins in western Texas and covers much of New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. Very little rain falls in the desert. In the summer, it gets hotter than any other part of the United States. Instead of trees, Arizona’s desert has cacti. These plants are covered with sharp spines. The Grand Canyon is in northern Arizona. It is one of the great natural wonders of the United States—and of the world. It is a mile (1.6 km) deep and up to eighteen miles (29 km) across. The walls of the canyon are many different colors—red, brown, white, and yellow. The colors come from the layers of different kinds of rock.

The Southwest Region



The Southwest is home to the Grand Canyon, one of the natural wonders of the world.

The West Coast

The part of the United States that borders the Pacific Ocean is called the West Coast. It is made up of three states—California, Oregon, and Washington. California covers two-thirds of the coast. It also has more people than any other state in the country.

Los Angeles, California, has the second-largest city population in the United States. Large roads called *freeways* connect Los Angeles to the **suburban** areas around it. Los Angeles is famous for its beautiful

Vocabulary

suburban, adj.
relating to an area where people live outside of a city

sandy beaches. It is also home to Hollywood, the center of the movie business in the United States. Thousands of movies have been made here.

Los Angeles is in the southern part of California. This area, like the Southwest, gets very little rain. People there are developing new ways to turn seawater into fresh water. This helps when water is in short supply.

A long valley stretches all the way down the center of the state. It is called the Central Valley. This area is one of the most important food-growing regions of the United States. To the north are tall cliffs along the ocean. To the east are tall mountains, called the Sierra Nevada.

Another famous city in California is San Francisco. The city sits beside a beautiful blue bay. The famous Golden Gate Bridge connects one side of the bay to the other. The bridge's two towers are seventy stories tall. They are connected to the bridge by great swooping cables. Tourism, agriculture, and technology

The West Coast Region



A long chain of mountains called the Coast Ranges extends along the coast from northern Washington to southern California.

are important industries in northern California. The area around San Francisco is called Silicon Valley. Many technology companies like Apple and Google have offices here.

Oregon and Washington make up the area called the Pacific Northwest. The Cascade Mountains run through both states from north to south. These

mountains are very important to the climate of the region. They make the western part of Oregon and Washington one of the rainiest areas in the country. The rain gives life to great forests full of towering trees. Many people in this region make their living in the lumber industry, the industry of growing and cutting down trees. The trees are used for building or making products like paper. This region also has many national parks where people can enjoy trees and nature.

Alaska and Hawaii

Two of the fifty states are not connected to the rest. Alaska and Hawaii are states that are bordered by the Pacific Ocean. Alaska is also bordered by the Arctic Ocean and Canada. They are the most recent states to become part of the United States.

Alaska is five hundred miles (805 km) north of Washington State. To get there, a person must fly or drive across the country of Canada. Many people sail to Alaska on cruise ships for vacation. It is the largest state in the United States. But less than a million people live here.



The Golden Gate Bridge is located in San Francisco, California.

Alaska and Hawaii



Although they are not connected to the rest of the United States, Alaska and Hawaii gained statehood in 1959.

Much of the rest of the state is forests, rivers, lakes, and mountains. One of these mountains, Denali, is the tallest peak in North America, at 20,310 feet (6.19 km). Alaska is so far north that it gets freezing cold in the winter. Temperatures often fall as low as forty degrees below zero Fahrenheit (-40°C). In the summer, the hills, forests, and streams are full of wildlife. This includes moose, bears, beavers, otters, eagles, wolves, and mountain goats. If you stand by the ocean, you can sometimes see a huge whale come to the surface. Oil, tourism, lumber, and fishing are important industries in Alaska.

Hawaii is two thousand miles (3,219 km) west of California. To get there, you have to fly or sail across half of the Pacific Ocean. It is made up of a chain of eight islands and 124 smaller islands. Most people live on a few of the largest islands. The islands have forests that are green even in the middle of winter. The whole Hawaiian island chain was formed long ago by erupting volcanoes. Some of them still pour out streams of lava.

Hawaii was first settled about a thousand years ago. These first Hawaiians had their own culture, including language and religion. Traditional Hawaiian culture is still very evident today in the form of food, music, language, and art. Hawaii is a popular destination, and tourism is an important industry there. One major destination is the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, which marks a famous battle of World War II. Other industries include farming, fishing, and forestry.



Kilauea, a volcano located on the Hawaiian island known as the Big Island, is still active today.

PORTRAIT OF AMERICA IN WORDS AND PICTURES

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Francis Scott Key, September 14, 1814

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the
perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



The bald eagle is a symbol on many government buildings.



The White House is where the president lives and works.



Capitol Hill is where Congress meets.



The image shows the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday in May, honors those who have died while serving their country. Veterans Day honors veterans of the United States Armed Forces. It occurs each year on November 11.



Uncle Sam is a popular character used to symbolize the United States.



The official pardoning of a turkey, or sometimes two, by the president at Thanksgiving is an American tradition.



The flag is perhaps the best-known symbol of the United States.

Glossary

A

agriculture, n. the growing of crops and raising of livestock for food and other purposes (21)

allegiance, n. loyalty to a group (11)

amend, v. to change or add to something already established (4)

B

beacon, n. something that guides or provides a source of hope (11)

C

citizen, n. a person who belongs to a country and has protections under that country's laws (11)

constituent, n. a person who lives and votes in an area (10)

D

dairy, adj. relating to milk or milk products (21)

E

executive, adj. having the power to carry out laws (5)

I

industry, n. a group of similar or related businesses (16)

J

judicial, adj. having the power to decide questions about laws (5)

L

legislative, adj. having the power to make laws (4)

M

mine, v. to dig into the earth in search of minerals or coal (24)

motto, n. a saying that represents the beliefs of a person, organization, or country (18)

N

naturalization, n. the process of becoming a citizen of a country if born outside of that country (11)

O

oil field, n. an oil-rich area where equipment is set up to remove the oil from the ground (25)

P

propose, v. to put forward or suggest (6)

R

region, n. a large area that may have certain characteristics related to its geography, form of government, or traditions that set it apart from other places (14)

renewable, adj. able to be replaced (21)

rural, adj. relating to the countryside (22)

S

“space program” (phrase) a series of government-supported efforts to explore outer space (26)

suburban, adj. relating to an area where people live outside of a city (27)

U

urban, adj. relating to a city (17)



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