Intro to U.S.A and Canada

• Regions of North America

Warm Up:
List the states you have visited and tell me which one you like the best and why?
What is North America?

• Continent / Landmass in the North & West Hemisphere

• What countries are included?
  – Canada
  – United States
  – Mexico
  – Caribbean Islands
  – Central America
  – Greenland
  – Iceland

What are the largest cities?
1. Mexico City
2. New York City
3. Los Angeles
10 Largest Cities in North America by Population (based on current estimates)

- 1. Mexico City, Mexico: 8,851,080 (2010).
- 2. New York City, USA: 8,175,133 (2010).
- 3. Los Angeles, USA: 3,792,621 (2010).
U.S. Regional Physical Geography

- vast central plain
- mountains in west
- hills and low mountains in east
- rugged mountains and broad river valleys in Alaska
- rugged, volcanic topography in Hawaii
• Almost every type of climate is found in the 50 United States – because they extend over such a large area North to South.

• Canada has a cold climate because of its latitude.
Culture of the United States?

• The U.S. is called a “melting pot”

What does this mean?

The Statue of Liberty has this inscription…

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

What does this mean to you?
What Major Ethnic* Groups?

- White 66%
- Hispanic 15%
- Black 13%
- Asian 4.43%
- Amerindian and Alaska native 0.97%
- Native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander 0.18%
- Mixed Race 1.61%

*Race vs. Ethnicity*
Overview of United States

• World's third-largest country by size (after Russia and Canada)

• 3rd largest population (after China and India) = 310,232,863 (July 2010 est.)

• How many states?
  – 50

• What type of Government System?
  – Constitution-based federal republic; strong democratic tradition

• What is a Federal Republic?
  – There is a National Government and there are State Governments

• What are the three branches of government?
  – Executive (President / Governor)
  – Legislative Congress (House of Reps. / Senate) – both National and State
  – Judicial (Court System) – Federal Court and State Courts
The Northeast: sub regions are New England and Mid-Atlantic

**New England**
Made up of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island, New England is the easternmost region of the United States. The Atlantic Ocean shoreline in New England is dotted with many islands, bays, and coves. Some of the earliest and most successful English colonies were established here, giving the region its name.

**The Mid-Atlantic States**
The Mid-Atlantic region is comprised of the Appalachians and their foothills, as well as the Atlantic Coastal Plain. To the north and northwest, it is bordered by the easternmost Great Lakes. The region includes Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York, which is home to largest city in the United States, New York City.
Physical Geography of the Northeast

• Mountains
  • Appalachian (Northern)

• Forests – famous for fall color of leaves

• Coastlines – many coves, harbors, small islands

• Bodies of Water
  • Niagara Falls
  • Atlantic Ocean
Appalachian Mountains
What is the Northeast’s “Climate Region”?

• **Humid Continental**
  • has 4 distinct seasons
  • Cold, snowy winters and hot summers.
  • Fall is their most famous season.
    • this area receives precipitation throughout the year.

• Moderate growing season that decreases as you go north.

• Vegetation is mixed forests with deciduous and coniferous trees.
Economy of the Northeast

What are the resources of the Northeast?

• Fish, clam, and lobster from the coast

• Lumber, paper, and maple syrup from the forests

• Dairy products and farming

• Banking / Finance

• Tourism is also important
  • New York City
  • Atlantic City New Jersey (Gambling)
  • Niagara Falls (Honeymoon Capital of the USA)

• This region is the home to most major corporations in the United States.
Culture of Northeast

The Northeast has the longest history of European settlement.

Historically, the Northeast has been the gateway to immigrants.

**Major Cities:**
- Boston, MA,
- Providence, R.I.
- New York City, NY.

- Most of New England is rural - small towns and villages
- Politics: usually votes Democrat;
- Early center of American literature – Famous writers
  - Emerson
  - Thoreau
  - Hawthorne
  - Poe
  - Stephen King
What is the future of the Northeast?

- Continued shift to **tertiary and quaternary economic activities** in major cities

- Continued **Rural to Urban Migration**
  - Young generations moving out (leaving the family farm and business behind for the big city)

- Increases in technology make this possible
Rust Belt and Great Lakes Region
Physical Geography of the Rust Belt

- **Great Lakes:**
  Erie, Michigan, Huron, Superior, Ontario
- **Rivers:**
  Ohio, Allegheny, Monongahela, Mississippi, St. Lawrence
- **Mountains:**
  Appalachian Mountains
Climate of the Rust Belt

**Climate** - Humid Continental

- Four seasons, with long, cold winters.

Why is it called the “Rust Belt”?

- Road salt is used to melt snow, which corrodes car bodies.
Economy of the Rustbelt

• Heavy industry – Manufacturing (Secondary Economic level)
  – **Pittsburgh** - Steel (gone overseas)
  – **Detroit** - Auto (increased competition from Japan)
  – **Milwaukee** - Beer (competition from microbreweries)

What is happening in this area as factory jobs move overseas?
Culture of the Rust Belt

• **Blue Collar** - Use hands and physical force for labor

• Urban areas are ethnically diverse

Why?
• **Migration** - Southern African Am. after end of slavery and during Civil Rights movement

• Rural areas are mostly Anglo

• Music – Blues, Jazz (Chicago, St. Louis), and Motown (Detroit)

• Cities identify strongly with local sports teams
Future of the Rust Belt

How can the area survive?

- Diversify economy
  - Do not base it on any 1 thing!

- Change jobs from secondary to tertiary economic activities
Great Plains and Midwest
Physical Geography of the Great Plains and Midwest

- Mostly flat, open prairie land
- Major Rivers:
  - Mississippi
  - Missouri
  - Arkansas
  - Platte
  - Red
- Black Hills
- Mt. Rushmore - The Mount Rushmore National Memorial is a sculpture carved into the granite face of Mount Rushmore in South Dakota
Climate of the Great Plains

- Stretching from Canada to Mexico across the midsection of the country, the Great Plains region has a climate that varies greatly from north to south and east to west.

- Much of region is Humid Continental climate

- Four Seasons - Long Winters

- Adequate rainfall, melted snow keeps lakes and rivers full

- The western Great Plains is semi-arid, while the eastern portion is considerably wetter.

- Environmental Concerns - **Tornado Alley** – lots of them during summer storms

- Cold winters, especially in the northern areas
The Ogallala aquifer (aka the High Plains aquifer)

- provides drinking water for more than 80% of the population
- irrigates 13 million acres of land
- This underground reservoir is fed by precipitation and ancient stores of water that have been trapped in layers of sediment dating back to the last ice age.
The Dust Bowl during the 1930s Depression

- Periodic droughts have affected the Great Plains.

- Poor agricultural land management and drought can have catastrophic effects.

- Farmers in the 1920s routinely removed native grasses, which had been stabilizing the soil and reducing erosion.

- The Dust Bowl of the 1930s was caused by drought conditions and over-removal of native grasses.

This iconic 1936 photo Migrant Mother by Dorothea Lange shows Florence Owens Thompson, then 32, and her children in Nipomo, San Luis Obispo County.
The Economy

What dominates the economy of the Great Plains? Commercial farming

- More than 70% of the Great Plains' land area is used for agriculture.
- Heavily dependent on crops, including corn, wheat, barley, hay, and cotton.
- *Enough food produced to feed the entire world!!!*

Farms And Ranches
- *Cattle Ranching*
Culture

Political Culture
• Cities tend Democrat, rural areas to Republican.

Religious Culture
• Predominantly Lutheran, due to Scandinavian immigrants

Ethnic breakdown
• Mostly Northern European, Native American

Small town life and values
Future of the Great Plains

- More of the same

- Some shift to tertiary economic function in major cities

- Young generations moving out (*leaving the family farm and business behind for the big city*)

- Rural and declining

- Increases in technology make this possible.
  - new farm equipment

- **Possible Threats:**
  - Decreases in soil moisture and water availability
South and Atlantic Coastal Plain
The South – Atlantic Coastal Plain
Physical Geography of the South

- **Mountains**
  - Appalachian Mountains
    Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, N. Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, W. Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York
  - Ozark Mountains
    (Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma)

- **Bodies Of Water**
  - Mississippi River

- **Atlantic Coastal Plain**

- **Gulf Coastal Plain**

- **Unique Features**
  - The Everglades Swamp
  - Louisiana Bayou
Climate of the South

- Mostly humid sub-tropical climate
- Long, hot summers
- Short, cool winters
- Long growing season
- Frequent hurricanes
Economy of The South

- **Farming** - cotton in coastal plains, citrus fruits in Florida and Georgia
- **Technology** - Computer and software manufacturing
- **Heavy Industry** - Relocated from Rustbelt for cheaper labor
- **Tourism** - Coastal beaches, golf, live music, great weather all year
Culture of the South

- Southern Values & Foods
- **Rural to Urban Migration** - “Old South” was rural, “New South” is more urban
- Large African-American population
- Strongly Christian
- Republican & Democrat Mix
- **Music**
  - Jazz (New Orleans)
  - Rock & Roll (Elvis)
  - Blues (BB King)
  - Country (Nashville)
  - Bluegrass (Kentucky)
- Legacy of **Civil War & Civil Rights Movement** in 1960’s
Map #1: AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULATION In the United States

Percentage of a county’s population identifying as both black or African American and non-Hispanic.

- 0.0%-5.3%
- 5.3%-16.1%
- 16.1%-30.4%
- 30.4%-48.8%
- 48.8%-86.0%
Future of the South

• Rapid population growth
  – Immigration from Latin America and Rust Belt
  – Increasing rural to urban migration

• Fast growth of cities

• Increase in ethnic diversity
The Sun Belt
Physical Geography of the Sun Belt

- **Mountain Ranges:** Rockies, Sierra Nevada

- **Deserts:** Mojave, Great Basin Desert

- **Rivers:** Rio Grande, Colorado

- **Tourism:** Grand Canyon
Climate of the Sun Belt

• Called the “Sun Belt” because overall climate is warm and dry

• Varied because of size and latitude.

• Many types of climates
  • Desert
  • Semi-Arid
  • Marine West Coast (CA)
  • Mediterranean (CA)
Human Geography: Economy

Tourism: Grand Canyon, Las Vegas
Entertainment: Los Angeles
Agriculture: Southern California, Rio Grande Valley
Research and High-Technology: Austin, San Diego, govt. facilities such as Air Force Bases

Region has fastest growing cities in USA. Why?
-Americans relocating to region due to climate and economy.
-Immigrants moving to region from Latin America.
Human Geography: Culture

Ethnically Diverse
• Large Hispanic population
• Asian community in California
• Native American population in Arizona and New Mexico.

Gold Rush 1849 – Brought settlers to California

Politics and Religion – Democrat in urban, Republican in rural areas.

Region is heavily Catholic.

Recreation – Snow Skiing, Water sports, Pro-sports teams, outdoor activities
Map #2: HISPANIC POPULATION

In the United States
### Table A. Leading 10 States/Equivalents by Population Change: July 1, 2007, to July 1, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 10 Fastest-Growing</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Utah</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Arizona</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Texas</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. North Carolina</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Colorado</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Idaho</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Wyoming</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Nevada</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Georgia</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. South Carolina</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 10 Numeric Gainers</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Texas</td>
<td>483,542</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. California</td>
<td>379,132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. North Carolina</td>
<td>180,820</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Georgia</td>
<td>162,447</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Arizona</td>
<td>146,759</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Florida</td>
<td>128,814</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Washington</td>
<td>99,713</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Colorado</td>
<td>96,686</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Illinois</td>
<td>75,754</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. South Carolina</td>
<td>74,886</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population growth will slow down but still keep growing.

Effects of Growth?

- Rising land cost
- Overcrowding – pollution??
- Water shortages
Pacific Northwest
Major Regions of the USA

- NORTHEAST
- RUST BELT
- SOUTH
- SOUTHWEST
- MIDWEST
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Pacific Northwest/Rocky Mountains
What are some of the physical features?
- Rocky Mountains
- Cascades
- Sierra Nevada Mountains

Bodies of Water
- Pacific Ocean
- San Francisco Bay
- Columbia River
- Great Salt Lake
- Lake Tahoe

Tourism
- Yellowstone Natl. Park
- Crater Lake National Park
Pacific NW Climate

- Primarily Marine West Coast, Highlands

- **Vertical Climate Zones**

- **Pacific Ocean regulates temps. and precipitation**

- Northwest receives 100’s of inches of precip. per year
Pacific NW Economy/Resources

“Birth Place” of the “Tech boom”
- Microsoft = Seattle
- eBay, Google = San Francisco
- Intel = Portland

How do Universities add growth to economy?
- Research creates jobs
- New technologies create jobs

Example: Google was created at Stanford U.
- Forests cover most of the Pacific Northwest (produces paper, etc.)
- Fishing - coastal states
- Tourism: Sierra Nevada and Rockies (Skiing) & along coast
Culture: Pacific NW/ Rocky Mts.

• **Very Ethnically Diverse**
  – Large Asian Population
  – Large Spanish / Hispanic Influence
  – Russian
  – Native American

• **Recreation** – Snow Skiing, Water sports, Pro-sports teams, ethnic festivals

• **Numerous museums cultural centers**
Future of the Pacific NW

- Rapid urban population growth
- Why?
- Immigration from elsewhere in USA, Latin America and Asia
- Decreasing lumber industry, continued growth of high-tech sectors in cities
- Increase in tertiary & quaternary industries
- Increase in ethnic diversity
Alaska and Hawaii

Alaska and Hawaii, Pacific Ocean

**Historical Geography**

- Alaska was purchased from Russian Empire in 1867, for $7.2 million, became a territory in 1912, and the 49th state of the U.S. in 1959.

- Hawaii was independent republic from 1894 until 1898, then annexed by USA. Attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan on December 7, 1941. Became a state in 1959.

**Economic Geography**

- Tourism and fishing, agriculture in Hawaii
- Oil, mining, and forestry important in Alaska

**Cultural Geography**

- Large populations of Hawaiians, Native Americans, and Asians