

READING B

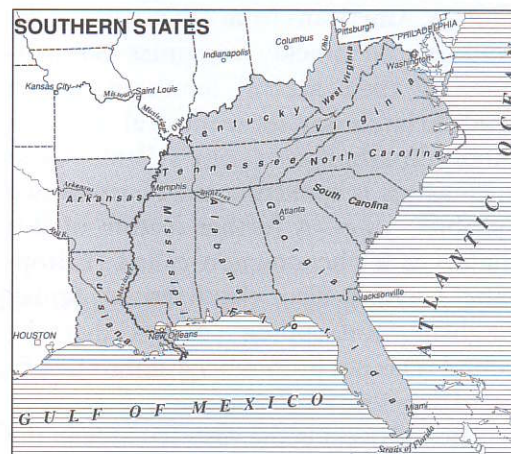
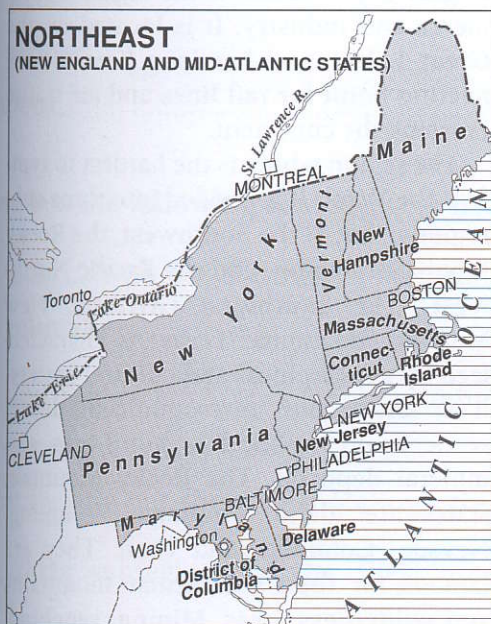
The Four Regions: Northeast – South – Midwest – West

1 Read the following text with special attention to the words in bold.

This vast country is traditionally divided into four geographical regions: the Northeast, the South, the Midwest, and the West, each with its own distinctive cultural characteristics. Although there are no clear-cut boundaries, people within a region tend to share common values, have similar economic concerns, and their relationship to the land, to local history, and traditions also shows some similarities.

The whole of **New England** (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island) and the **mid-Atlantic states** (Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland) together can be regarded as a single section of the United States: the Northeast. Together with the District of Columbia it **comprises** eleven states. It was this region that the early settlers

occupied, and thus this is the foundation on which America was built. Although the Northeast constitutes only one-fifteenth of the total land area of the country, more than a quarter of the whole population lives there. Compared with other regions, it is more **urban**, more industrial, and culturally more **sophisticated**. Above all, New Englanders are **Yankees**, people who characterize themselves as economical, reserved, and dedicated to hard work. These are typical qualities they inherited from their Puritan forefathers. Outside the US people tend to think of all Americans as Yankees, reflecting New England's great influence on the nation as a whole.



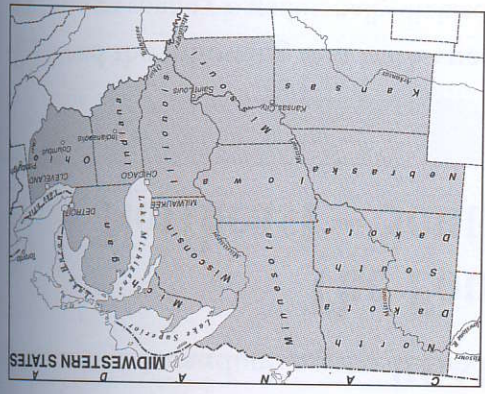
Further south down the Atlantic coast are the **tobacco and cotton states**, with Washington on the border between North and South. Regional identity has been the strongest in the Southern states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee

Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida. (West Virginia, although geographically located in the South, differs in many aspects from the "typical" Southern states.) In these states the peculiarities of Southern history have played an important role in shaping the region's character. These were slave-owning states before the Civil War, and even after that, until the 1960s, the relationship of whites and blacks was very tense. Separation and clashes occurred regularly between the two races.

A typical Southerner is more conservative, more religious, and more violent than people in the rest of the country. These characteristic features are also reflected in literature: the so-called Southern writers have a distinctive voice that can be distinguished easily from other American authors. Perhaps the best-known Southern writer is the Nobel-prize winning novelist William Faulkner.

Because fewer immigrants were attracted to the less industrialized Southern states, Southerners are the most "native" and "rural" of the inhabitants of any region; the difference is constantly decreasing, though. Americans from other parts of the country can quickly recognize Southernners by their accent. Southern speech tends to be slower, more musical, and uses more diphthongs: a one-syllable word such as *yes* is spoken in the South as two syllables, *ya-yes*. A further feature of this dialect is a phenomenon called "r-drop-ping", which also characterizes British English. "R-dropping" means that the sound (r) is not pronounced at the end of a word or before a consonant.

The Midwest is the vast, flat area in the northern middle section of the US. It includes the following states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. This region is called the **Farm Belt**, and has long been regarded as typically American. The fertile farmland and abun-



abundant resources have made the rapid development of agriculture and industry possible, and this explains why Midwesterners strongly believe that people can make something of themselves if they seize opportunities. Class divisions are not so striking here as in other regions; the middle class rules. Midwesterners are seen as **commercially minded**, **self-sufficient**, **unsophisticated** and **pragmatic**. One of their negative features is that they are not very interested in the affairs outside their region and often do not know much about the world. The Midwest is also known as a region of small towns and huge farmlands where more than half the nation's **wheat** and **corn** are grown. Chicago, the nation's third largest city, dominates the region's commerce and industry. It is located on the **Great Lakes**, and has long been a connecting point for rail lines and air traffic crossing the continent.

The region which is the hardest to typify is the **West**. It is divided into three sub-regions: that of the Southwest, the Rocky Mountain Region, and the Pacific Northwest. The Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas) is characterized by geographical and cultural variety; it is known for its magnificent desert scenery and is abundant in oil, gas, and mineral **deposits**. The Rocky Mountain states are Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado, and Utah. They are famous for their spectacular mountains and wilderness areas. **Mining**, **ranching**,



1. Write a se
2. rural:
3. abundant:
4. peculiarity
5. self-suffici
6. resources:
7. to compris
8. populous:
3. Complete
1. In.....
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- has earne
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and farming play a significant role in the region's economy. Finally, the Pacific Northwest comprises the states of Washington, Oregon, and California. This region is also very rich in natural beauty, there are mountains, forests, and **rugged coastlines**. **Lumber** and fishing are important in all three states. The state of California is unique in itself: it is the most **populous** of all states, it has the most developed economy, and the biggest number of Asian and Hispanic immigrants in the US.

2 Write a sentence with each of the words below.

1. sophisticated:
2. rural:
3. abundant:
4. peculiarity:
5. self-sufficient:
6. resources:
7. to comprise:
8. populous:

3 Complete the following sentences by using the words from the text above.

1. In.....with the Southern states, the Northeast is more,, and culturally
2. A typical Yankee is to hard work, and careful with spending the money he has earned, he is very Another characteristic feature of New Englanders is that they do not show their feelings, they are rather people.
3. The three subregions of the West are called,, and

1 Read the following text with special attention to the words in bold. Yellowstone National Park, founded in 1872, is the oldest and the most noted of the federal reserves. It is situated in the Rocky Mountain region, the largest part of it is in the state of Wyoming. The members of a scientific expedition refused to describe what they had seen: they feared they would lose their reputation as scientists.

What a Wonderful World - Yellowstone National Park

READING C

Regions	Climate	People	Agriculture	Industry	What you find the most interesting
The Northeast					
The South					
The Midwest					
The West					
- Southwest					
- Rocky Mountains					
- Pacific Northwest					

4 Based on the text and your general knowledge, find the most characteristic features of the given aspects of the main regions of the US, and fill in the table below.

4. The most important crops produced in the Midwest are and
5. The Southern states on the Atlantic coast are sometimes referred to as the states, and historically, they were the between whites and blacks occurring well after the Civil War

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