

Chapter One

Social Studies Study Guide

Vocabulary:

Landform: A natural feature of Earth's surface

Region: An area in which places share similar characteristics

Boundary: A line that divides one area or state from another

Temperature: How hot or cold a place is

Precipitation: The amount of rain or snow that falls in a place

Humidity: The amount of water in the air

Mesa: A flat-topped landform with slopes on all sides

Climate: The pattern of weather an area has over a long period of time

Canyon: A valley with steep rocky sides

Natural Resource: Something in the environment that people use

Renewable Resource: Natural resource that can be replaced

Irrigation: The use of technology to bring water to crops

Compass Rose: A map symbol that shows directions

Map Scale: A map feature that helps to find real distance between two points

Key Points:

- ◆ There are five regions in the United States: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, West.
- ◆ Both the nation's highest and lowest points are found in the West.
- ◆ The Appalachian Mountains run through both the Northeast and Southeast regions.
- ◆ The Southwest region is completely bordered by Mexico to the south.
- ◆ Places at high elevations are generally colder than lower areas.
- ◆ In the winter, winds from oceans and lakes will warm nearby land. In the summer, winds from oceans and lakes will cool nearby land.
- ◆ The natural resources in a region shape the economy and the businesses that are found there. In the Southeast, the soil and warm climate are good for growing citrus trees. A region with large deposits of iron ore will likely have steel factories.
- ◆ People adapt to the environment. In regions with lots of rain or snow, some people build houses with steep, sloped roofs.
- ◆ People conserve resources to save or protect them. Turning off lights conserves electricity. Walking and riding bikes instead of driving a car conserves oil.