

Chapter

19

The United States



The World and Its People

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



To learn more about the people and places of the United States, view *The World and Its People Chapter 4* video.



Our World Today **online**

CLICK HERE

Chapter Overview Visit the *Our World Today: People, Places, and Issues* Web site at tx.owt.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 19—Chapter Overviews** to preview information about the United States.

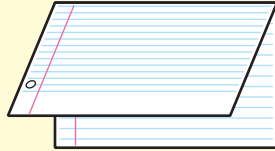
FOLDABLES™

Study Organizer

TX TAKS Practice

Identifying Main Ideas Study Foldable Asking yourself questions as you read helps you to focus on main ideas of the material and better understand it. Make this foldable and use it as a journal to record and answer your own questions about the United States.

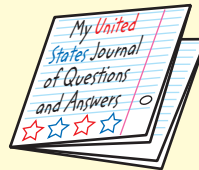
Step 1 Fold a sheet of paper in half from top to bottom.



Step 2 Then fold the paper in half from side to side.



Step 3 Label the foldable as shown.



Reading and Writing Before you read the chapter, list questions you have about the land, people, and economy of the United States. Then, as you read the chapter, write down more questions that occur to you on the pages of your journal. Be sure to review your questions and fill in all the correct answers.

◀ **Statue of Liberty in
New York Harbor, New York**

Why It Matters

Leading the Free World

The United States is the most powerful nation in the world. It has the world's largest economy and is a leading representative democracy. Immigrants from nearly every other nation of the world have moved here in order to enjoy the freedom the United States Constitution provides.

A Vast, Scenic Land

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

The United States has a great variety of landforms and climates.

Terms to Know

- contiguous
- megalopolis
- coral reef

Reading Strategy

Create a chart like the one below. Fill in details about each of the seven physical regions of the United States.

Region	Details



Exploring our World

Who in the United States gets to see the sunrise first? The people in Maine are the first. As the earth rotates, the sun shines on an extremely varied land. It warms the valleys in the East, shimmers on the lakes in the North, and bakes the deserts in the Southwest. In the far Pacific, the sun greets Hawaii's tropical beaches. Finally, the sun sets beyond Alaska in the North.



The United States stretches 2,807 miles (4,517 km) across the middle part of North America. The 48 states in this part of the country are **contiguous**, or joined together inside a common boundary. These states touch the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean. Our neighbors are Canada to the north and Mexico to the south.

Two states lie apart from the other 48. Alaska—the largest state—lies in the northwestern portion of North America. Hawaii is in the Pacific Ocean about 2,400 miles (3,862 km) southwest of California.

From Sea to Shining Sea

The United States is ranked as the fourth-largest country in the world. Only Russia, Canada, and China are larger. Like a patchwork quilt, the United States has regional patterns of different landscapes. You can see swamps and deserts, tall mountains and flat plains.

The contiguous states have five main physical regions: the Coastal Plains, the Appalachian Mountains, the Interior Plains, the Mountains and Basins, and the Pacific Coast. Alaska and Hawaii each has its own set of physical landforms.

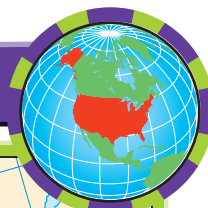
The Coastal Plains A broad lowland runs along the eastern and southeastern coasts of the United States. The eastern lowlands are called the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The lowlands in the southeast border the Gulf of Mexico and are called the Gulf Coastal Plain. Find these coastal plains on the map below. Then look at the population map on page 522. What large cities lie in the Atlantic Coastal Plain?

Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C., all lie in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. These cities and their suburbs form an almost continuous line of settlement. Geographers call this kind of huge urban area a **megalopolis**.

The Gulf Coastal Plain is wider than the Atlantic plain. Soils in this region are better than those along the Atlantic coast. Texas and Louisiana both have rich deposits of oil and natural gas. The large cities



The United States: Physical



Applying Map Skills

TAKS Practice

1. What river forms part of the boundary between the United States and Mexico?
2. What is the tallest mountain in the 50 states?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps





City and Country

The Interior Plains of the United States include industrial cities of the North, such as Chicago (above), and the agricultural lands of the Great Plains, like this area in Texas (above right).

Region What river divides much of the Interior Plains?

of the Gulf Coastal Plain include Houston and New Orleans, which are shown on the map on page 522.

The Appalachian Mountains Along the western edge of the Atlantic Coastal Plain rise the Appalachian (A•puh•LAY•chuhn) Mountains. The Appalachians are the oldest mountains on the continent. How can you tell? Their rounded peaks show their age. Erosion has worn them down over time. The highest peak, Mount Mitchell in North Carolina, reaches 6,684 feet (2,037 m).

The Interior Plains When you cross the Appalachians heading west, you enter the vast Interior Plains. This region has two parts. East of the Mississippi River are the Central Lowlands. Here you will find grassy hills, rolling flatlands, and thick forests. The land is fertile, and farms are productive. This area also contains important waterways.

The Great Lakes—the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world—lie in the Central Lowlands. Glaciers formed Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario in the distant past. The waters of these connected lakes flow into the St. Lawrence River, which empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

West of the Mississippi River stretch the Great Plains. The landscape in many places is blanketed with neat fields of grain and grassy pastures and takes on a checkerboard pattern. The Great Plains are about 500 miles (805 km) wide and stretch west to the Rocky Mountains, north into Canada, and south to the Mexican border. The rich grasslands of the Great Plains once provided food for millions of buffalo and the Native Americans who lived there. Today, farmers grow grains and ranchers raise cattle on the Great Plains.

Mountains and Plateaus The Rocky Mountains begin in Alaska and run all the way south to Mexico. Running along these mountains is a ridge called the Continental Divide. This ridge separates rivers that flow west—toward the Pacific Ocean—from those that flow east—toward the Mississippi River. Many important rivers begin in the high, snowy peaks of the Rockies. The Rio Grande, as well as the Missouri, Platte, Arkansas, and Red Rivers all flow east. The Colorado, Snake, and Columbia Rivers flow west.

Between the Rockies and the Pacific Coast are plateaus, canyons, and deserts. Plateaus are areas of flat land that rise above the land around them. A canyon is a deep valley with steep sides. The most famous of these is the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

The Pacific Coast Near the Pacific Coast rise two other mountain ranges, the Cascade Range and the Sierra Nevada. Find these ranges on the map on page 503. Even in a place as far south as California, the tops of these high mountains remain covered with snow year-round.


To the west of these Pacific ranges lie fertile valleys. The Willamette Valley in Oregon and the Central Valley in California both produce abundant crops. Many of the fruits and vegetables you eat may come from these valleys.

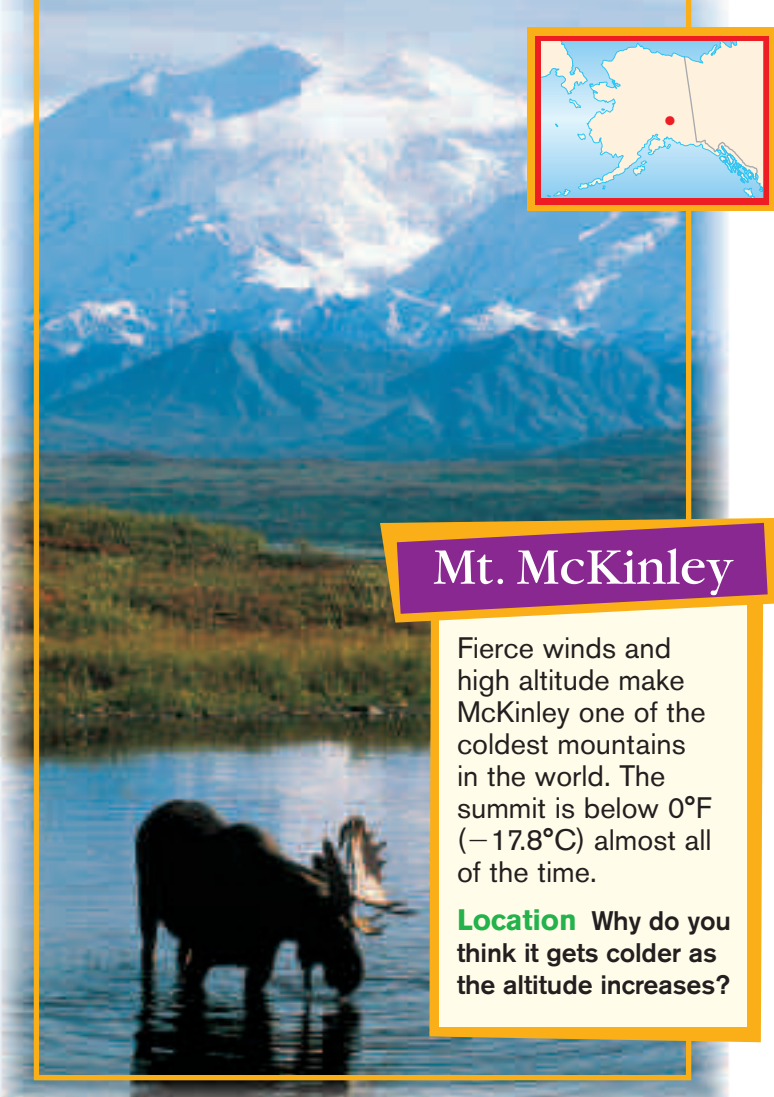
Alaska Mountain ranges form a semicircle over the northern, eastern, and southern parts of Alaska. Mount McKinley—the tallest mountain in North America—stands 20,320 feet (6,194 m) high in the Alaska Range. The northern part of the state borders on the frigid Arctic Ocean, and you can almost see Russia from Alaska's western shores. Most people in Alaska live along the southern coastal plain or in the central Yukon River valley.


Hawaii Eight large islands and more than 120 smaller islands make up Hawaii, our island state in the Pacific Ocean. Volcanoes on the ocean floor erupted and formed these islands. Some of the islands have **coral reefs**, formed by the skeletons of small sea animals. These structures lie just above or submerged just below the surface of the water.

 **Reading Check** What is the Continental Divide?

The United States

 **On Location**





Mt. McKinley

Fierce winds and high altitude make McKinley one of the coldest mountains in the world. The summit is below 0°F (−17.8°C) almost all of the time.

Location Why do you think it gets colder as the altitude increases?

A Variety of Climates

Because the United States is such a large country, you probably expect it to have a variety of climates. You are right! Most of the country lies squarely in the middle latitude region—from 23°30'N to 66°30'N latitude. This means the region has the greatest variety of climates. With Alaska and Hawaii, our country also has high-latitude and tropical climates.

In spite of the great variety of climates in the United States, generally the climate is mild, or temperate. That means most places are not usually too hot or too cold. In general, the farther north you travel, the summers grow shorter and cooler and the winters become longer and colder. As you travel south, the summers become longer and hotter and the winters shorter and milder. Being located in the middle of North America gives the United States an average warmer climate than Canada, and an average cooler climate than Mexico.

It is important to remember that climate also changes with elevation. The higher the land, the cooler the temperatures. The highest mountain peaks are snow-covered year-round, while the low valleys and deserts stay much warmer year-round.

As you would expect, the climate in much of Alaska is similar to that of northern Canada. Hawaii and Florida have warm tropical climates with heavy rainfall much of the year.

 **Reading Check** In general, what is the climate of the U.S.? What does this mean?

 **TAKS Practice**

Section 1

Assessment

Defining Terms

1. **Define** contiguous, megalopolis, coral reef.

Recalling Facts

2. **Place** How does the United States rank in size among all the countries of the world?
3. **History** Which region once supported millions of buffalo and the Native Americans who depended on them?
4. **Place** What is the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world?

Critical Thinking

5. **Understanding Cause and Effect** How were the Hawaiian Islands formed?
6. **Drawing Conclusions** What challenges do you think result from the distance between Alaska, Hawaii, and the other states?

Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like this one to compare the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains. In the separate outer parts of the ovals, write the qualities that make each region different. In the overlapping area, write the characteristics that the two areas share.

Atlantic Coastal Plain



Gulf Coastal Plain



Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the physical map on page 503 and the population map on page 522. At what elevations do the cities with more than 5 million people lie?

Section
2

An Economic Leader

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

The powerful United States economy runs on abundant resources and the hard work of Americans.

Terms to Know

- free enterprise system
- fossil fuel
- landfill
- recycling
- free trade

Reading Strategy

Create a chart like this one. List at least five challenges the United States faces in the twenty-first century.

Challenges



Exploring our World

Have you ever seen an apartment building on wheels? You might in northern Alaska. Crews of oil companies there need a place to stay. They search constantly for new sources of oil in the area. Because they have to move often, the oil companies built homes on wheels. As a truck lumbers across the Alaskan ice, it tows a mobile apartment building.



The United States has a large, energetic, and growing economy. Fueling all of this economic activity is freedom. The **free enterprise system** is built on the idea that individual people have the right to run businesses to make a profit with limited government interference and regulation. Americans are free to start their own businesses and to keep the profits they earn. They are free to work in whatever jobs they want—and for whatever employers they want. This has helped create great economic success.

The World's Economic Leader

The United States is rich in resources and has a hardworking labor force. As a result, the country has built the world's largest economy—in terms of how much money is made from the sale of its goods and services. In fact, the American economy is larger than the next two largest economies—China's and Japan's—combined.

Farms in the United States produce about one-half of the world's corn and about one-tenth of its wheat. American farmers raise about 20 percent of the world's beef, pork, and lamb. The country exports

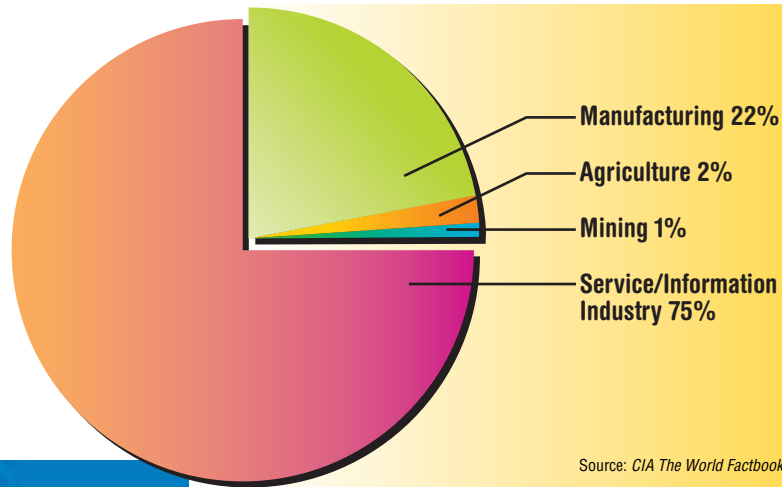
The Economy of the United States



Analyzing the Graph

The economy of the United States is divided into the four main areas shown here.

Economics What percentage of the U.S. economy is not made up of service/information industry?



Source: CIA The World Factbook, 2000.



▲ Filmmaking is a service industry.

more food than any other nation. Yet agriculture is only a small part of the American economy. It makes up about 2 percent of the value of all goods produced in the country.

The United States has rich mineral resources. About one-fifth of the world's coal and copper and one-tenth of the world's petroleum come from the United States. The country also has large amounts of iron ore, zinc, lead, silver, gold, and many other minerals. Mining, though, makes up little more than 1 percent of the nation's economy.

American factory workers build cars and airplanes. They make computers and appliances. They process foods and make medicines. Manufacturing accounts for about one-fifth of the American economy.

By far, the largest part of the economy is services. A service industry is a business that provides services to people instead of producing goods. Banking and finance are services. So is entertainment—and people all over the world buy American movies and CDs. The United States is a leader in tourism, another service industry. Computer-based, online services have also emerged as an important American service industry.

✓ **Reading Check** What is the largest part of the United States economy?

In the Twenty-First Century

The American economy, although strong, faces challenges in the twenty-first century. One challenge is how to clean up pollution and trash. Americans burn **fossil fuels**—coal, oil, and natural gas—to power their factories and run their cars. When sulfur oxides from coal-burning power plants and nitrogen oxides from cars combine with moisture in the air, they form acids. When acidic moisture falls to Earth

as rain or snow, it is called acid rain. Many scientists believe that acid rain harms trees, rivers, and lakes.

The fast-paced American way of life creates another problem. People generate huge amounts of trash. **Landfills**, the areas where trash companies dump the waste they collect, grow higher and higher each year. Many communities now promote **recycling**, or reusing materials instead of throwing them away. Recycling cuts down on the amount of trash.

Quality Schools The ability to develop new technology has been a major source of strength for the American economy. Researchers work constantly to find new products to make people's lives easier, healthier—and more fun. Quality schools that produce educated and creative people have helped the country become a world leader in satellites, computers, health care, and many other fields. Keeping our number one position will require just as much creative thinking and hard work. You will need to learn and use these new technologies to stay productive in your future jobs.

Health Care Some of the best health care in the world is available in the United States. New medical technologies are constantly being developed to improve the level of health care. These new technologies help to save lives, but they also raise medical costs overall.

The rising cost of medical care is a problem that affects the delivery of health care in the United States. Employers of temporary, contract,

Factories

A worker inspects computer components. Along with agriculture, America's economy is strong in technology, science, education, and medicine.

Economics What percentage of the American economy is manufacturing?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

On Location



and part-time workers do not usually offer health insurance as a benefit. Approximately one out of five people in the United States does not have medical insurance. The majority of these uninsured are children of lower income families. Because they do not have insurance, they might not be able to get some forms of medical care. For example, some preventative services are not available to people without medical insurance.

Some people think that the United States should have a national program of health insurance. In this type of program, the government provides some level of medical care at an affordable rate. Critics of nationalized health care point to countries such as Canada, where people may have lengthy waiting periods for operations and where there is little choice, if any, of doctors or hospitals.

World Trade The United States leads the world in the value of all its imports and exports. Millions of Americans depend on trade for their jobs. American leaders have worked hard to promote free trade. **Free trade** means taking down trade barriers such as tariffs or quotas so that goods flow freely between countries. In 1992 the United States, Mexico, and Canada entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This agreement, which took effect in 1994, promised to remove all barriers to trade among those three countries.

 **Reading Check** How might burning fossil fuels harm the environment in the United States?

 **TAKS Practice**

Section
2

Assessment

Defining Terms

1. **Define** free enterprise system, fossil fuel, landfill, recycling, free trade.

Recalling Facts

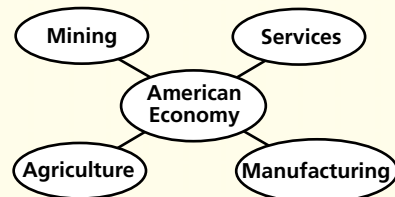
2. **Economics** What is a major challenge of the American economy in the twenty-first century?
3. **Culture** What problem has been created by the fast-paced American way of life?
4. **Economics** What was the goal of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?

Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing Information** Describe two characteristics of the United States that have helped it become a world leader.
6. **Understanding Cause and Effect** What reasons can you give for the fast-paced American way of life causing more trash?

Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like this one. In the outer ovals, write one specific example under each heading.



Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Interpreting Graphs** Study the graph of the American economy on page 508. Then determine what part of the American economy is two times larger than mining.

TIME REPORTS

FOCUS ON
WORLD
ISSUES

A New Kind of War

Battling Terrorism in the Land of the Free

THOMAS E. FRANKLIN/RECORD/CORBIS SABA

CONTENTS

1995

Terror strikes Oklahoma City.

LISA RUDY HOKE—BLACK STAR

1996

Terrorists in Saudi Arabia blow up housing for U.S. troops.

A Day for Heroes

September 11, 2001, was a day John Jonas will never forget. A New York City firefighter, Jonas was the captain of Ladder Company 6. That morning two **hijacked** commercial airplanes were deliberately flown into the World Trade Center's twin towers.

Jonas and five other men in his company rushed to the scene. An hour later they were walking down the fire stairs of the south tower. An older woman they were rescuing told them she couldn't go on. They told her they wouldn't leave her. And just then the building collapsed around them in clouds of dust. "I'm thinking," Jonas said later, "I can't believe this is how it ends for me."

But life didn't end either for Jonas or for the five firefighters with him. Nor did it end for Josephine Harris, the woman they saved. Above and below them and in the nearby north tower, more than 2,600 people died. But somehow the part of the stairway they were on didn't collapse. "It was a freak of timing," said Jonas. Another minute,

JAMES NACHTWEY—VII FOR TIME



▲ New York City firefighters battle the World Trade Center disaster on September 11, 2001.

either way, and the crumpling building would have crushed them like the others.

More than 300 rescue workers lost their lives trying to save others that day. All of them were heroes.

No Ordinary Crime

On September 11, hijackers also flew an airplane into the Pentagon—the headquarters of the U.S. military. Another 125 people died. Other hijackers seized a fourth airplane, but the passengers heroically fought back. Instead of hitting a building, the plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania leaving no survivors.

Clearly, the horrible crashes were not ordinary crimes. They were acts of **terrorism**. Terrorism is the illegal use of violence against people or property to make a point. The point may involve a particular belief, such as religion or politics.

EXPLORING THE ISSUES

- 1. Interpreting Points of View** Do you agree with the article's view of heroes? Why or why not?
- 2. Making Inferences** How is the violence of terrorism different from the violence of war?

1998

Terrorists destroy the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

2000

Terrorists in Yemen batter a U.S. warship, the USS Cole.

2001

Suicide pilots level the World Trade Center's twin towers.

Al-Qaeda

The terrorists who hijacked the airplanes belonged to a group called al-Qaeda (al•KAY•dah). The group was founded by Osama bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi Arabian.

Al-Qaeda was created to fight the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. After the Russians left Afghanistan, al-Qaeda members changed their goals. They wanted to force all non-Muslims out of the Middle East. They hated the U.S. troops based in Saudi Arabia and the

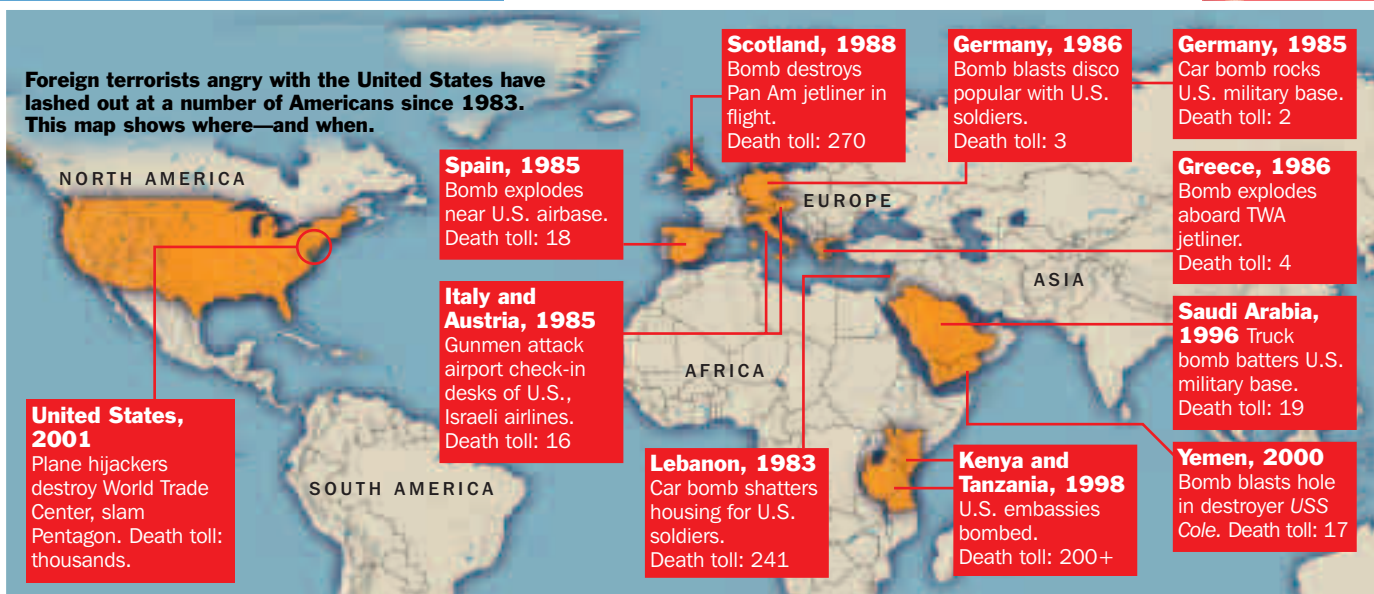
Jewish people living in Israel.

Al-Qaeda's members also believed Muslims were being changed too much by modern ideas. They hated freedom of religion and wanted strict religious leaders to control Muslim countries.

Al-Qaeda's beliefs were not shared by all Muslims. The attacks on the United States horrified people around the world, including millions of Muslims who live in the Middle East, the United States, and elsewhere. ■

Closing in on America

Foreign terrorists angry with the United States have lashed out at a number of Americans since 1983. This map shows where—and when.



INTERPRETING MAPS

Categorizing On what continents did Americans suffer the most attacks? On which continents did they suffer the least?

Behind the Hatred

What makes the United States the target of so much deadly anger? One answer is its support for Israel. Israel was founded in 1948. Soon afterwards, an Arab-Israeli war forced about 750,000 Palestinian Arabs from their homes.

Today many of those Palestinians live in refugee camps. So do their children and their grandchildren. Those 4 million Palestinians want a nation of their own. Israel has offered to exchange land for a promise of peace. But so far the Palestinians have rejected that offer.

U.S. Troops in Saudi Arabia

Another source of anger is the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government asked the United States to station troops there. But the holy cities of Makkah (Mecca) and Madinah (Medina) are in Saudi Arabia. To many Muslims, U.S. troops on Saudi soil are an insult to Islam.

To terrorist Osama bin Laden and his followers, the solution to these problems was violence. In 1996, he urged Muslims to kill U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. In 1998, he called for attacks on American **civilians**. Civilians are people



▲ Fanatics hail terrorist Osama bin Laden in 2001.


not in the armed forces or diplomatic services. By the end of 2001, several thousand people had been killed.

The United States responded to September 11 with a determination and resolve bin Laden surely didn't expect. "Our war on terror begins with al-Qaeda," President George W. Bush said. "It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated." ■

EXPLORING THE ISSUES

1. **Drawing Conclusions** What are some reasons many Americans support Israel's presence in the Middle East?
2. **Making Inferences** Why are acts of terror against civilians often effective?

War on All Fronts

 n September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush spoke to the nation and announced a war on terrorism. He warned the world, “We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.”

Al-Qaeda had followers all over the world, but it was based in Afghanistan. The Taliban, a strict religious party that controlled Afghanistan’s government, protected Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda. They refused to help the U.S. So in October, the President ordered the U.S. military to attack Afghanistan.

Aid for Children

The U.S. was not at war with the Afghan people, but with the Taliban and al-Qaeda. During the attack, U.S. planes dropped food and medicine to the men, women, and children in the civilian population.

Nations around the world backed the United States and began arresting al-Qaeda members hiding in their countries. Some sent troops to help the Americans fight in Afghanistan.

A few weeks after the attack began, the Taliban government collapsed. With the aid of the U.S. and its allies, the Afghan people created a new government. Meanwhile, American and allied troops began hunting for al-Qaeda forces in Afghanistan. The U.S. also sent troops to the Philippines, Yemen, and the nation of Georgia to train local troops to fight terrorists.



MARK RICHARDS

▲ **Safety checks help prevent terrorism. But the cost—less freedom—worries many Americans.**

Liberty and Security

At home, federal agencies stepped up their efforts to find terrorists. President Bush ordered banks to hold money belonging to groups linked to terrorists. Congress passed a new antiterrorist law making it easier to tap phones, intercept e-mail, and search homes.

Some people worried that the new antiterrorist law would chip away at our **liberties**—such as freedom of speech and the right to privacy. For this reason, Congress set a five-year time limit on parts of the new law. ■

EXPLORING THE ISSUE

- 1. Analyzing Information** Shortly after September 11, 2001, President Bush said, “No one should be singled out for unfair treatment or unkind words because of their ethnic background or religious faith.” What do you think he meant by that statement?
- 2. Problem Solving** What liberties, if any, might you be willing to give up in order to ensure national security?

Stopping Terrorism: What Can One Person Do?

The rescue workers who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were true heroes. In the months that followed, Americans honored them for their courage and sacrifice.

The response of Americans to tragedy showed the world the nation's hidden strengths—its people. Wherever they lived, Americans reacted. They gave blood. They held candlelight **vigils** to honor the victims. They flew flags to show their unity. They cut deeply into their budgets, contributing more than \$200 million in the first week to help victims' families.

They all made it clear, as a girl from Ohio told TIME For Kids, that no terrorist can weaken the nation's spirit. "They bent steel," said Danielle, 12, of the World Trade Center murderers, "but they can't break the U.S."

Be a Local Hero

Wherever you live, you can help keep that spirit alive. And you can do it even years after the disasters of September 2001 took place.

Learn all you can about terrorism. Learn what it is, why it exists, and how people at all levels of government are fighting it.

Then join that fight any way you can. With posters and letters, report successful efforts to combat this evil. Raise money for groups that help out the victims of terrorism everywhere.



CHRIS USHER

▲ **Terrorist attacks in September 2001 trigger a burst of patriotism everywhere in America.**

Finally, refuse to give in to fear. Terrorists use fear as a weapon. If you can keep fear from changing your life, you will have taken a big bite out of terrorism.

The novelist Stephen King—who often writes about human fears—agreed. "If everybody continues working," he said, "they [the terrorists] don't win." ■

EXPLORING THE ISSUE

- 1. Problem Solving** What might people do to stop the fear of terrorism from keeping them from doing what they want to do?
- 2. Summarizing the Main Idea** Write a new title for this piece. Share it with your classmates. Explain why you think your title fits the story.

REVIEW AND ASSESS

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE



1. Defining Key Terms

In your own words, define the following terms: *terrorism*, *hijacker*, *the Pentagon*, *al-Qaeda*, *Taliban*, *liberty*, *security*, *principles*, *ideals*, and *vigil*.

2. Writing to Inform In a 300-word article, describe a terrorist act you heard or read about. Describe how you reacted when you heard about it.

3. Writing to Persuade What do you think Americans should know about terrorism? Put your answer in a 250-word letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Support your answer with facts. Use at least five of the terms listed above.

INTERNET RESEARCH ACTIVITY

4. Use Internet resources to find information on what individuals and organizations

are doing today to help victims of terrorism. Use what you learn to write a report on current efforts, and share it with the class.

5. With your teacher's help, use Internet resources to learn more about how the tragedies of September 11 resulted in an increase of visible patriotism in the United States. Focus your research on finding personal stories of how the attacks increased individual Americans' beliefs in and loyalty to the United States. Prepare a brief report on your findings.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

6. Study the map on page 513. Research one of the terrorist attacks noted there. What does the attack tell you about the goals, thoughts, and methods terrorists have? Describe the attack and answer those questions in a brief oral report.



TERRY BARNER/SILVER IMAGE



Muslims mourn victims of the World Trade Center attack.

7. Visit your school or local library. Research a country, such as Israel, Northern Ireland, or Bosnia where the people have suffered from terrorist attacks. Find out what programs have been started by groups or individuals to bring an end to the violence. Present your findings to the whole class.



TIME/CNN Poll

Fighting Terrorism: How Far Would You Go?

What are Americans willing to do to fight terrorism? These pie graphs show what a TIME/CNN Poll found out.

To prevent terrorist attacks, would you favor or oppose the government doing each of the following?

	Favor	Oppose
1. Allow police to wire-tap phone conversations of suspected terrorists without a court's okay:	68%	29%
2. Let courts jail, for as long as they want, people suspected of links to terrorist groups:	59%	38%
3. Let police intercept e-mail messages sent by anyone in the United States and scan them for suspicious words or phrases:	55%	42%
4. Require everyone in the United States to carry an identification card issued by the Federal Government:	57%	41%
5. Let police stop people on the street and search them:	29%	69%

Source: TIME magazine, October 8, 2001; Gray slices indicate respondents who were not sure.

BUILDING GRAPH READING SKILLS

- Analyzing the Data** The U.S. Constitution bars the government from making "unreasonable searches and seizures" of citizens. Which of the graphs show how Americans think about this right? What's your thinking on this issue?
- Making Inferences** The U.S. Constitution bars the government from taking away a person's "life, liberty, or property" without a fair trial. What do most people who took part in this poll seem to think about this right? Why do you think they hold that view?

FOR UPDATES ON
WORLD ISSUES GO TO
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Critical Thinking Skill



Mental Mapping

Think about how you get from place to place each day. In your mind you have a picture—or **mental map**—of your route. If necessary, you could probably create sketch maps like the one below of many familiar places.

2. You are at the Sears Tower, one of the tallest buildings in the world. About how many miles would you have to walk to get to Medinah Temple?
3. If you met your friend at the cultural center, would it be too far to walk to the Art Institute? Should you take a taxi? Explain.

Learning the Skill

To develop your mental mapping skills, follow these steps.

- When a country or city name is mentioned, find it on a map to get an idea of where it is and what is near it.
- Create a sketch map of it and include a compass rose to determine the cardinal directions.
- As you read or hear information about the place, try to picture where on your sketch you would fill in this information.
- Compare your sketch to an actual map of the place. Change your sketch if you need to, thus changing your mental map.

Applying the Skill

Think about your own neighborhood. Create a sketch map of it from your mental map. Which neighborhood streets or roads did you include? What are the three most important features on your map?

Practicing the Skill

Study the sketch map at the right. Picture yourself standing *in* the map, then answer the following questions.

1. If you were facing north, looking at the Chicago Cultural Center, what route would you take to reach the Chicago Harbor?



Section
3

The Americans

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

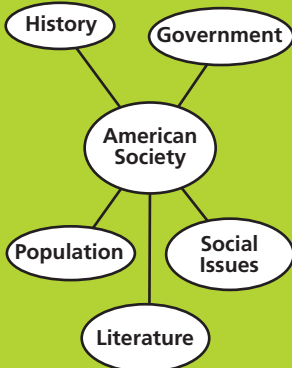
The United States has attracted people from all over the world who have created a land of many cultures.

Terms to Know

- representative democracy
- federal republic
- amend
- ethnic group
- rural
- urban
- suburb

Reading Strategy

Create a diagram like this one. In each outer oval, write under the heading one fact about American society as it relates to the topic given.



Exploring our World

The United States has often been called a nation of immigrants. You might say that Elmhurst, New York, is the capital of this immigrant nation. (This area may have the greatest ethnic diversity in the country.) Elmhurst is a section of Queens, one of the boroughs of New York City. People from more than 120 different nations live in Elmhurst.



The United States is full of people from many different lands. What attracts people to the United States? One attraction is the freedom that Americans enjoy. Economic opportunity is another. The United States gives people in many other lands hope that they and their children can enjoy better lives.

A Rich History

The first Americans lived all over the continent. Over time, they developed different ways of life using local resources. Groups fished, planted corn and beans, or followed buffalo herds. Around A.D. 1500, Europeans began to explore the Americas. The raw materials they saw—forests, animal furs, and rich soils—soon led them to set up colonies, or overseas settlements that are tied to a parent country. The French built trading posts around the Great Lakes and interior river valleys. The Spanish built towns and missions in Florida and Georgia and from Texas to California. British and northern European colonists settled along the Atlantic coast from Georgia to Massachusetts.

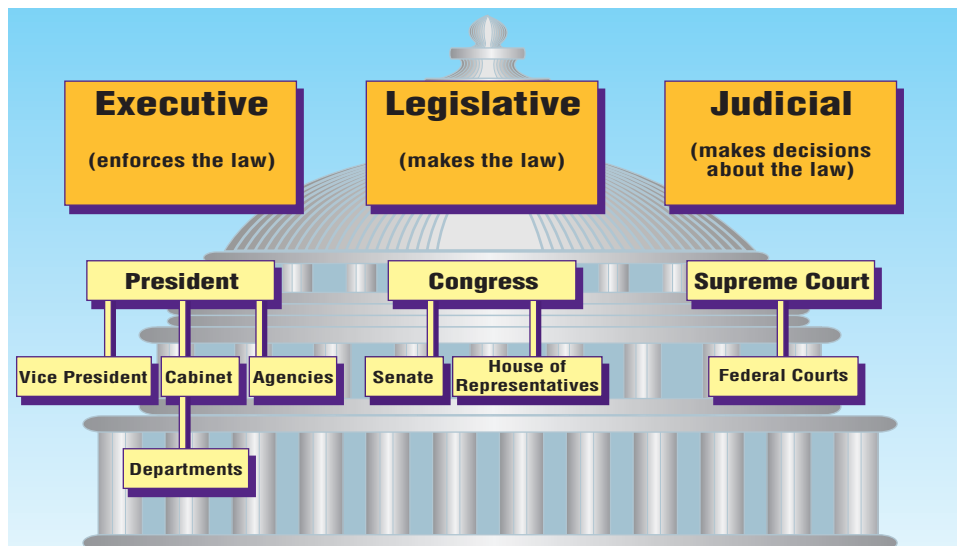
Branches of the United States Government



Analyzing the Diagram

The United States government has three main branches.

Government Which branch makes the laws?



A Federal Republic By the mid-1700s, many people living in the British colonies were frustrated with British policies that infringed on their rights. In 1775, 13 colonies rebelled. On July 4, 1776, they declared independence and created the United States of America. In 1788, they adopted a new constitution that is still used today.

The United States is a republic. A republic is a form of government in which there is no king. The head of a republic is usually a president. In a republic, power belongs to the citizens who vote. A republic is a type of **representative democracy**. Voters elect representatives to make laws for the benefit of the people they represent. The United States is also a **federal republic**. A federal government is divided between a central or national government, and individual state governments. As you can see from the chart above, the national government of the United States is also divided into three branches.

The Constitution There are many different types of democracies, and you will be studying some of these in other units. One thing that most democracies have, however, is some kind of constitution, or document that identifies the rights and responsibilities of the people. The Constitution of the United States, written in 1787, is a world-famous document. It has been used as a model by many countries.

There are many reasons for the success of this document, but experts believe that the most important reason is that the Constitution can be changed, when necessary, to meet the changing needs of the country's people. Through a process called **amending**, the people of the United States have a peaceful way to change the basic laws of their government. U.S. citizens can adapt their laws to situations that did not exist when the original Constitution was written. Americans can also correct injustices that arise from unequal treatment of people. Examples include the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery,

and the Fifteenth Amendment, which gave the right to vote to all men regardless of color or race. (Sometimes, it took more than one amendment to correct the problem. The Nineteenth Amendment gave the right to vote to women also.) The Constitution is a remarkable document that grows with the needs of the country.

A Period of Growth From 1800 to 1900, the United States grew from the 13 states along the Atlantic coast to include 45 states that reached to the Pacific Ocean. Settlers cleared forests, farmed, and often fought with Native Americans who were being pushed out of the way. Farmers grew corn in the Midwest and cotton in the South. Some people mined gold and silver in the Rocky Mountains and California.

In 1861, the nation experienced a crisis. Several Southern states seceded, or withdrew, from the national government over issues of slavery and states' rights. For four years, the North and the South fought a bitter civil war. In the end, the Southern states were brought back into the Union, and slavery was abolished. Afterward, the country began a period of great industrial and economic growth. Factories sprang up, especially in the Northeast and Midwest. Railroads reached out to bring faraway places into a national marketing system. This economic growth attracted another great wave of immigrants.

A World Leader During the early 1900s, the United States became one of the leading economies in the world. Automobiles rolled off assembly lines, electricity became common, and other technologies—the telephone and radio, for example—entered daily life.

The world plunged into two World Wars in the first half of the twentieth century. The United States took part in these wars. Our country's leaders urged the world's people to fight for freedom. American factories built tanks and airplanes, while American soldiers helped win the wars.

After World War II, the United States enjoyed great influence around the world. American companies shipped their products to all continents.

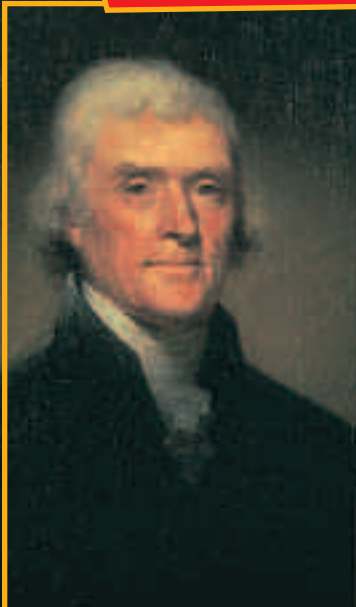
The Founders

With very few exceptions, the world knew only monarchies and absolute rulers when courageous leaders such as Thomas Jefferson (left), George Washington (center), and James Madison (right) risked their lives and fortunes to spearhead the drive for an independent United States. Jefferson was the chief author of the Declaration of Independence that the Continental Congress formally issued on July 4, 1776. Washington led the new nation's army in the Revolution, chaired the Constitutional Convention, and became the first president under the Constitution. Madison is considered the master builder of the Constitution and later served as president.

Beliefs Why do you think that the Founders were willing to risk their lives and fortunes to establish the United States?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

On Location



CONTENTS

American leaders worked to establish democracy and free enterprise in other countries. American culture spread around the globe.

At home, however, tensions existed among groups within American society. Many of the Americans who had fought in the two World Wars or had taken care of the home front were women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans. After World War II, these groups became more active in seeking equal rights. Many people, including such leaders as Martin Luther King, Jr., developed methods that led to civil change. The poems on page 526 describe two views of Americans struggling to be accepted.

 **Reading Check** How did a strong economy in the U.S. help spread American culture?

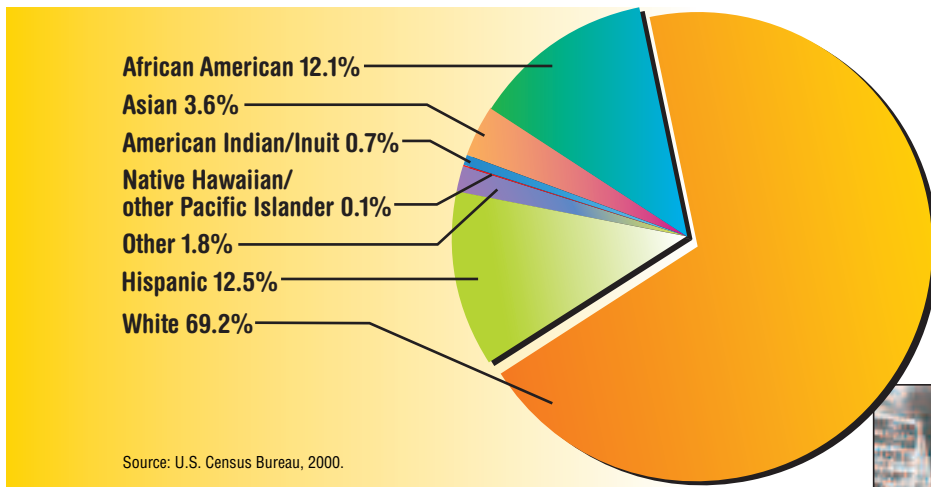
One Out of Many

About 285 million people live in the United States, making it the third most populous country in the world after China and India. Compared with people in most other countries, Americans enjoy a

The United States: Population Density



U.S. Population by Ethnic Groups



Analyzing the Graph

There are six main ethnic groups in the United States.

Culture What percentage of the population is made up of Asians?



▲ The African American ethnic group has struggled to achieve equality with other Americans.

very high standard of living. Americans, on the average, can expect to live about 76 years. Medical advances help people live longer than their grandparents could expect to live.

Almost three-fourths of the people in our country are descended from European ethnic groups. An **ethnic group** is a group of people who share a culture, language, or history. African American ethnic groups form about 12 percent of the population. Hispanics, who trace their heritages to the countries of Latin America and Spain, are the fastest-growing ethnic group. Today, many immigrants to the United States come from China, India, other Asian countries, and the Pacific Islands. The smallest ethnic groups have lived in the country the longest—Native Americans who live in Alaska.

Language The main language of the United States is English, but you can hear many different languages spoken on American streets. One of the concerns about language has centered around how to teach children who come to school not knowing English. Schools play an important role in developing good citizens. Learning a common language, sharing in national holidays, and being taught together with children from different countries help to create a feeling of patriotism and belonging. People who are against teaching immigrant children in their native languages believe that bilingual education discourages that sense of being an American. Other people think that it is just as important to preserve the culture and language of the immigrants, and that it is better for the students to learn in their own language, at least for some period of time. This debate has not been settled to most people's satisfaction one way or the other. It is likely that the debate will continue for years to come.

Religion Religion has always been an important influence on American life. One of the first laws passed by the new country stated that "Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of



Rights and Responsibilities

The Constitution of the United States protects certain rights of citizens. Many of those rights, such as freedom of religion and speech, are listed in the Bill of Rights. Along with our rights as citizens, however, we also have responsibilities. Attending school so that we will be informed and effective citizens is one of our responsibilities. Obeying school rules and local state laws is one of our most important responsibilities.

religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . . .” In other words, this law said that the government could not say which religion people should follow. It also said that public or taxpayer money should not be used to support the goals of specific religions. The judicial branch of government has drawn a very sharp line between government and religion.

This does not mean that religion is not popular in the United States. About 80 percent of Americans consider themselves religious, and almost 50 percent attend some religious service on a regular basis. This rate is higher than in most other industrialized countries. Most Americans follow some form of Christianity. Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism are also important religions in our country.

Mobility Americans have always been a mobile people, moving from place to place. At one time, our nation was made up entirely of **rural**, or countryside, areas. Now we are a nation of **urban**, or city, dwellers. To find more room to live, Americans move from cities to the **suburbs**, or smaller communities surrounding a larger city. They also move from one region to another to seek a better climate or better jobs. Since the 1970s, the fastest-growing areas in the country have been in the South and Southwest—often called the Sunbelt.

Security Americans normally feel safe in their own country. After the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001, this feeling of security was endangered. President Bush responded by creating the Office of Homeland Security on October 8, 2001. This office set up a national strategy to fight terrorism. In late October, Congress also passed a new antiterrorism law to help police track down terrorists.

Then, on November 25, 2002, the president signed the Homeland Security Act into law. The act established a new cabinet department—the **Department of Homeland Security**—to coordinate government agencies charged with protecting the nation from terrorist attacks.

Many Americans also feared that terrorists or hostile governments would use *bioterrorism*. Bioterrorism is the use of living organisms, such as bacteria or viruses, as weapons. To deal with bioterrorism, the government created the **Office of Public Health Preparedness** and collected medicine in case of an attack.

 **Reading Check** What ethnic group is the fastest growing?

American Culture

American artists and writers have developed distinctly American styles. The earliest American artists used materials from their environments to create works of art. Native Americans carved wooden masks or made beautiful designs on pottery from clay found in their areas. Later artists were attracted to the beauty of the American land. Winslow Homer painted the stormy waters of the North Atlantic. Georgia O’Keeffe painted the colorful cliffs and deserts of the Southwest. Thomas Eakins painted scenes of city life.

Two themes are common to American literature. One theme focuses on the rich diversity of the people in the United States. The



poetry of Langston Hughes and the novels of Toni Morrison portray the triumphs and sorrows of African Americans. The novels of Amy Tan examine the lives of Chinese Americans. Oscar Hijuelos and Sandra Cisneros write about the country's Hispanics.

A second theme focuses on the landscape and history of particular regions. Mark Twain's books tell about life along the Mississippi River in the mid-1800s. Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote about the people of New England. Willa Cather and Laura Ingalls Wilder portrayed the struggles people faced in settling the Great Plains. William Faulkner examined life in the South.

Sports and Recreation Many Americans spend their leisure time at home, watching television, playing video games, or using a computer. Many also pursue active lives outdoors. They bike and hike, ski and skate, shoot baskets and kick soccer balls. Many enjoy spectator sports such as baseball and football. Stock-car races and rodeos also attract large crowds. Millions each year travel to national parks, or areas set aside to protect wilderness and wildlife and to offer recreation.

Reading Check What are two common themes in American literature?

Our World Today Online

Web Activity Visit the **Our World Today: People, Places, and Issues** Web site at tx.owt.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 19—Student Web Activities** to learn more about the national park system in the United States.



TX TAKS Practice



Assessment

Defining Terms

1. **Define** representative democracy, federal republic, amend, ethnic group, rural, urban, suburb.

Recalling Facts

2. **History** When was the war to free the colonies fought?
3. **History** Give two reasons people from other countries are attracted to the United States.
4. **Culture** What theme do the works of Langston Hughes and Toni Morrison share?

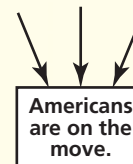
Critical Thinking

5. **Drawing Conclusions** Because the United States is a nation of immigrants, bilingual education is an issue. How would you resolve the issue of educating non-English-speaking students? Would you help these students preserve their native language and culture, or would you immerse these students in English-language education? Explain your reasoning.

6. **Drawing Conclusions** Why did the United States take part in two World Wars during the first half of the twentieth century?

Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like the one below. At the tops of the three arrows, complete the diagram by listing three reasons that Americans today are moving more frequently than ever.



Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** According to the population density map on page 522, what are the two largest cities in the northwest United States?



Making Connections

CULTURE

GOVERNMENT

PEOPLE

TECHNOLOGY

Americans All

Native Americans and African Americans endured many years of injustice. Even so, the pride and determination of these Americans remained strong. Read the poems by Native American poet Simon J. Ortiz and African American poet Langston Hughes to see how they express these feelings.



▲ Picking cotton near Dallas, Texas, 1907

Survival This Way

by Simon J. Ortiz (1941–)

Survival, I know how this way.
This way, I know.
It rains.
Mountains and canyons and plants
grow.
We travelled this way,
gauged our distance by stories
and loved our children.
We taught them
to love their births.
We told ourselves over and over
again, “We shall survive
this way.”

“Survival This Way” by Simon J. Ortiz. Reprinted by permission of the author.



▲ Native Americans on the Great Plains, 1891

I, Too

by Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

I, too, sing America.
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.
Tomorrow,
I’ll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody’ll dare
Say to me,
“Eat in the kitchen,”
Then.
Besides,
They’ll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—
I, too, am America.

“I, Too” from *Collected Poems* by Langston Hughes. Copyright © 1994 by the Estate of Langston Hughes. Reprinted by permission of Alfred A. Knopf, a Division of Random House, Inc.

Making the Connection

1. How does the poem “Survival This Way” tell how Native Americans feel about their children?
2. What does Langston Hughes mean by the phrase “I, too, sing America”?
3. **Making Comparisons** In what way do both poems convey a message of hope?



Section 1

A Vast, Scenic Land

Terms to Know

contiguous
megalopolis
coral reef

Main Idea

The United States has a great variety of landforms and climates.

- ✓ **Region** The United States has five main physical regions: the Coastal Plains, the Appalachian Mountains, the Interior Plains, the Mountains and Basins region, and the Pacific Coast. Alaska and Hawaii make up two additional regions.
- ✓ **History** Forty-eight of the United States are contiguous, joined together inside a common boundary between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- ✓ **Economics** The Central Lowlands area is well suited to agriculture, as are western coastal valleys.
- ✓ **Place** The high Rocky Mountains have a ridge called the Continental Divide, which separates rivers that flow east from rivers that flow west.

Section 2

An Economic Leader

Terms to Know

free enterprise
system
fossil fuel
landfill
recycling
free trade

Main Idea

The powerful United States economy runs on abundant resources and the hard work of Americans.

- ✓ **Economics** Because of many natural resources and a hardworking labor force, the United States has the world's most productive economy.
- ✓ **Economics** Service industries contribute the most to the American economy, followed by manufacturing, agriculture, and mining.
- ✓ **Economics** The economy of the United States faces many challenges in the twenty-first century. Some of those challenges include cleaning up pollution and trash.
- ✓ **Economics** Creativity and hard work are needed to continue to develop new technologies and help the American economy grow.

Section 3

The Americans

Terms to Know

representative
democracy
federal republic
amend
ethnic group
rural
urban
suburb

Main Idea

The United States has attracted people from all over the world who have created a land of many cultures.

- ✓ **Culture** The American people are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants who came from all over the world.
- ✓ **Government** The United States is a republic. A republic is a type of representative democracy.
- ✓ **Culture** Ethnic groups in America are descendants of five main peoples: Europeans, Africans, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans.
- ✓ **Culture** American arts celebrate the country's ethnic and regional diversity.

Assessment and Activities



Using Key Terms

Match the terms in Part A with their definitions in Part B.

A.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. contiguous | 6. amend |
| 2. megalopolis | 7. recycling |
| 3. free enterprise system | 8. free trade |
| 4. fossil fuel | 9. ethnic group |
| 5. suburb | 10. representative democracy |

B.

- oil, natural gas, and coal
- smaller community surrounding a city
- areas joined inside a common boundary
- reusing materials
- limited government control over the economy
- group of people who share a common culture, language, and history
- huge urban area
- peaceful way to change laws
- goods flow freely between countries
- voters choose government leaders



Reviewing the Main Ideas

Section 1 A Vast, Scenic Land

- Region** How does the climate of the United States compare to those of Mexico and Canada?
- Region** What are the five main physical regions of the U.S.?
- Place** What cities make up the huge urban area along the East Coast of the United States?

Section 2 An Economic Leader

- History** What countries are part of the free trade agreement that took effect in 1994? What is the agreement called?
- Economics** What type of economic system does the United States have?
- Human/Environment Interaction** What is happening to America's landfills?

Section 3 The Americans

- Government** What is the most important reason for the success of the Constitution?
- Culture** Which ethnic group is growing the fastest in the United States?
- Place** Which parts of the United States have the fastest-growing populations?

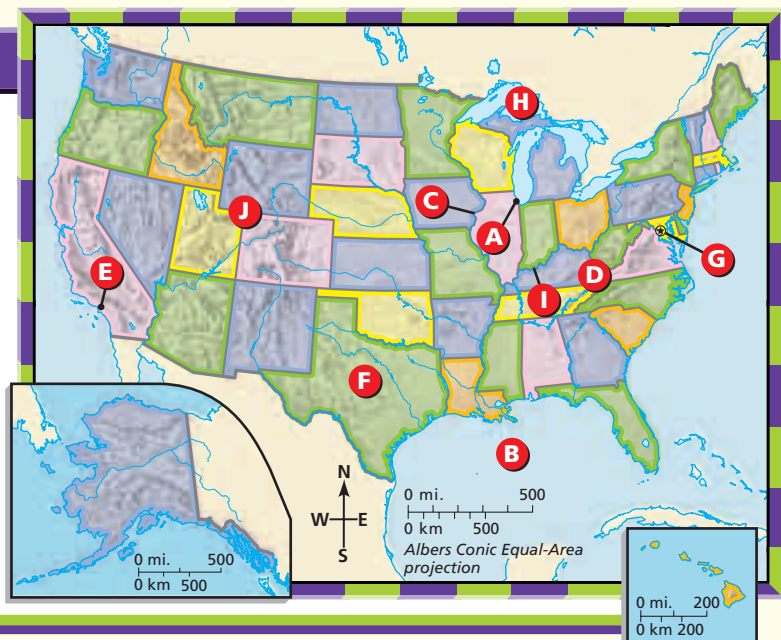


The United States

Place Location Activity

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with the numbered places listed below.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Rocky Mountains | 5. Chicago |
| 2. Mississippi River | 6. Lake Superior |
| 3. Appalachian Mountains | 7. Ohio River |
| 4. Washington, D.C. | 8. Gulf of Mexico |
| | 9. Texas |
| | 10. Los Angeles |

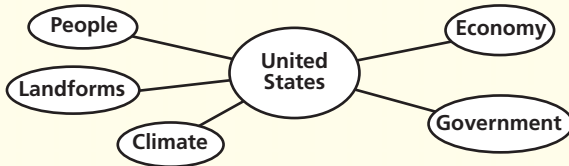


Our World Today Online

Self-Check Quiz Visit the *Our World Today: People, Places, and Issues* Web site at tx.owt.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 19—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the Chapter Test.

Critical Thinking

- 20. Understanding Cause and Effect** What physical features of the Interior Plains have affected the economy of that region?
- 21. Categorizing Information** Create a diagram like the one below. In the outer ovals, write two facts about the United States under each heading.



Current Events Journal

- 22. Writing a Paragraph** Write a paragraph describing the recycling efforts of your school and community. Explain how you can help with these efforts.

Mental Mapping Activity

- 23. Focusing on the Region** Create a simple outline map of the United States. Refer to the map on page 503, and then label the following:
- Appalachian Mountains
 - Great Lakes
 - Alaska
 - Rocky Mountains
 - Hawaii
 - Mississippi River
 - Pacific Ocean
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - Gulf of Mexico
 - Great Plains

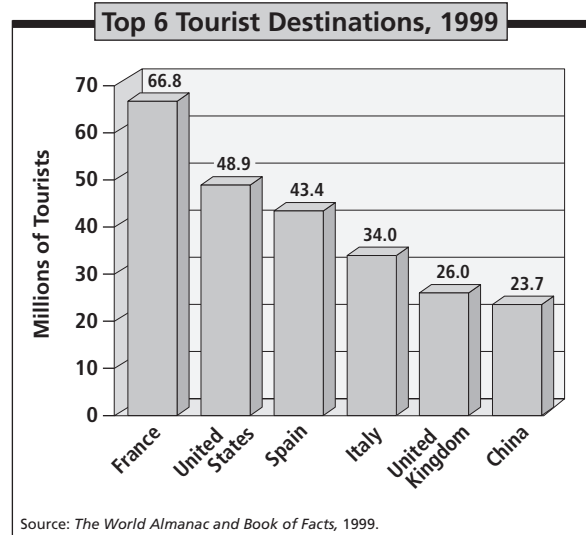
Technology Skills Activity

- 24. Using the Internet** Search the Internet to find out where different ethnic groups have settled in your state. Create a state map and label where the groups are located.



TAKS Test Practice

Directions: Study the graph, and then answer the following questions.



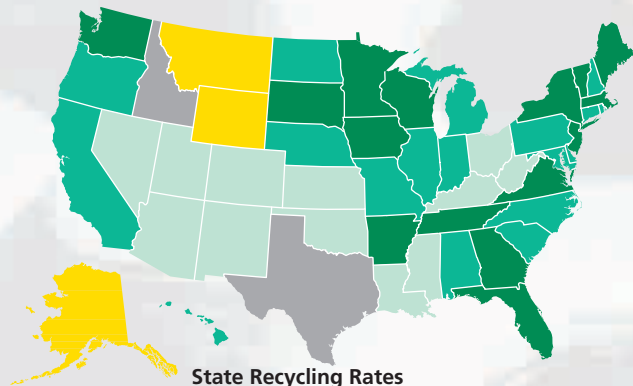
- 1. According to the graph, about how many tourists visited the United States in 1999?**
- A 48.9
 B 66.8
 C 48,900
 D 48,900,000
- 2. Which country on the graph had the least number of tourists?**
- F France
 G China
 H Spain
 J Italy

Test-Taking Tip: A common error when reading graphs is to overlook the information on the bottom and the side of the graph. Check these areas of the graph to see what the numbers mean.

TOO MUCH Trash

Tons of Trash If you are an average American, you throw away about 4 pounds (2 kg) of trash each day. Not much, right? Think again. That is 1,460 pounds (663 kg) a year. By age 13, you have produced almost 10 tons (9 t) of trash!

Americans create more than one-third of the world's trash—200 million tons (181 million t) each year. That is enough to fill a line of garbage trucks that would circle the earth eight times!



State Recycling Rates

- 30% or greater
- 20–29%
- 10–19%
- Less than 10%
- Unavailable

Source: U.S. EPA Municipal Solid Waste Handbook—Internet Version.

What happens to trash?

- ♻️ Most ends up in landfills.
- ♻️ Some is burned in incinerators.
- ♻️ Some is dumped into lakes, rivers, and oceans.

All of these disposal methods create pollution and harm living things. When landfills fill up, new ones must be created. However, sites for new landfills are getting hard to find. Would you want to live near one?

The Three R's Surprisingly, the solution to too much trash is simple. We need to produce less waste. How? By following the three R's—**reduce**, **reuse**, and **recycle**.

- ♻️ **REDUCE** the amount of trash you throw away each day.
- ♻️ **REUSE** products and containers.
- ♻️ **RECYCLE** some of your trash. About 80 percent of household trash can be recycled.

If we reduce, reuse, and recycle, we can win the war against trash.



Trash piles up at a landfill in New Jersey.



Making a Difference

Dig It! You are at the ball game. You toss part of your hot dog into a trash can. Eventually, the hot dog goes to a landfill. How long will it take the hot dog to decay in a landfill?

In 1973 archaeologist William Rathje began the Garbage Project. He wanted to “dig up” facts about the trash Americans throw away. Rathje and his University of Arizona students spent years studying garbage from landfills across the United States. His research results are full of surprises. In some landfills, team members found foods such as steaks and hot dogs that were 15 to 20 years old! Lack of air, light, and moisture prevents wastes from breaking down. Another surprise: About a third of the trash in landfills is paper. Yard waste, food scraps, plastics, construction materials, and furniture are some of the other items we throw away.



William Rathje



Recycling to the Max Linda Munn and her husband, Frank Schiavo, are teachers in California. They have not set out a curbside garbage can in more than 20 years. That is because they recycle or compost almost everything they use. They produce only about two handfuls of trash a week—and that goes to a recycling center, too.



A student recycles aluminum cans.

What Can You Do?

Make Toys From Trash

Create toys from discarded clean paper, cardboard, or plastic. Have a class contest and award prizes to students who reuse trash in the most creative ways.

Campaign Against Waste

Investigate products used every day. Which ones have too much packaging—layers of plastic or paper thrown away once the product is used? Can you think of ways to eliminate the excess? Identify companies that make these products and send them a letter or an e-mail outlining your packaging changes.