The United States and Canada are two of the world’s largest countries, with vast lands and abundant resources. They occupy four-fifths of the continent of North America.
LOCATION The United States and Canada extend from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and from the Arctic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico (only the United States).

REGION The two countries are often referred to as Anglo America, because both were once British colonies and also share a common language—English.

MOVEMENT Both countries were settled by immigrants from all over the world, beginning with their first settlers who migrated from Asia after the last Ice Age.

For more information on the United States and Canada . . .
Today, the United States and Canada face the issues previewed here. As you read Chapters 5, 6, and 7, you will learn helpful background information. You will study the issues themselves in Chapter 8.

In a small group, answer the questions below. Then have a class discussion of your answers.

**Exploring the Issues**

1. **TERRORISM** Consider news stories that you have heard about terrorist groups in other countries. Make a list of the countries and the type of terrorist activity in each.

2. **URBAN SPRAWL** Why is the ever-expanding spread, or sprawl, of cities and suburbs a problem? What can be done to improve the quality of life in these areas?

3. **DIVERSE SOCIETIES** Search the Internet for information about diversity in the United States or Canada. What strategies or actions are being taken to help these many cultures unify?

**How can a country protect itself from terrorism?**

A surprise attack, such as the one on the World Trade Center in New York City, is just one way terrorists attempt to intimidate governments and civilian populations to further their objectives.
How can urban sprawl be controlled?
Urban communities, such as Las Vegas shown here, are trying to solve problems caused by urban areas spreading farther and farther out.

How can many cultures form a unified nation?
The diverse population of the United States is reflected in this group of California students. How to bring many cultures together as one nation is a continuing challenge for the United States, and for Canada, as well.
Use the Unit Atlas to add to your knowledge of the United States and Canada. As you look at the maps and charts, notice geographic patterns and specific details about the region.

After studying the illustrations, graphs, and physical map on these two pages, jot down answers to the following questions in your notebook.

**Making Comparisons**
1. Compare the world’s longest river, the Nile, to the Mississippi. How much difference is there in the lengths of the two rivers?
2. Compare the landmass and population of the United States to those of Canada. What statement can be made about the two countries?
3. Compare the mountain peaks of the United States to those of Canada. What statement can be made about the height of these mountains?
Patterns of Human Geography

Making Comparisons

1. What differences do you notice when you compare the map of 1600 with the map of the United States and Canada today?

2. Which names of native peoples are found as geographic names on the map on page 105?

3. Which country was more sparsely settled by native peoples in 1600?
These pages contain three thematic maps and an infographic. The infographic illustrates economic connections between the United States and Canada. The maps show economic activities, population density, and areas affected by natural hazards.

Study these two pages and then answer the questions below in your notebook.

**Making Comparisons**

1. Where are the areas of greatest population density found in each country? Do settlement patterns have any relationship to the threat of natural hazards?

2. Where are manufacturing and trade concentrated in the United States and Canada? Why might this be so?

**Canada-U.S. Connections**

This graphic shows that the geographic nearness of the United States and Canada has resulted in economic connections.

**Economic Activities of the U.S. and Canada**

- Manufacturing and trade
- Commercial farming
- Livestock raising
- Subsistence farming
- Nomadic herding
- Forestry
- Commercial fishing
- Hunting, fishing, and forestry
- Little or no economic activity
Study the charts on the United States and Canada and their political subdivisions—states, provinces, and territories. In your notebook, answer these questions.

Making Comparisons
1. Which state of the United States and which province or territory of Canada have the most people? Is each also the largest in total area in its country? Locate them on the map. What is significant about their locations?

2. Which state of the United States and which province or territory of Canada have the least people? Is each also the smallest in total area in its country? Locate them on the map.

(continued on page 110)
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Making Comparisons

(continued)

3. Which six states of the United States and which three provinces or territories of Canada have the highest per capita income? Locate them on the map. What factors might account for this?

4. Which are the six most highly urbanized states of the United States? In which three provinces or territories of Canada do at least 80 percent of the people live in urban areas? Are these states and provinces or territories the same as those that have the highest per capita incomes?

(continued on page 112)

Regional Data File

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Making Comparisons (continued)

5. Which seven states of the United States and which three provinces or territories of Canada have the highest infant mortality rate? the lowest? What relationship do these figures appear to have to the urban/rural population ratio?

6. Which U.S. territory has the largest population and largest area? Which has the smallest population and the smallest area? (continued on page 114)

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Making Comparisons (continued)

7. Which state and which province or territory is the most densely populated? Which state and which territory is the least densely populated? Are the most densely populated the smallest in area and the least populated the largest in area?

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Canada Ottawa, Ontario 33,487,208 (2009 est.) – 5.0 (2009 est.)

Sources:
- Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2008, online
- CIA World Factbook, 2010, online
- Encyclopedia Britannica, online
- Provincial Economic Accounts, 2007, Statistics Canada
- Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2010, online
- UNICEF 2006
- U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, online
- The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2010

Notes:
- a Personal income per capita in constant 2000 dollars. Because of differences in the way the two countries calculate income, Canadian and U.S. per capita income figures are not directly comparable. U.S. dollars are used for the U.S. figures, and Canadian dollars are used for the Canadian figures. The average annual exchange rate in 2001 was approximately 1.55Can$/US$.
- b Percentage of the population, 25 years old or older, with high school diploma or higher. Figures for Puerto Rico include attainment of some upper secondary education. Figures for Canada reflect the percentage of population, aged 25 to 29 who are high school graduates.
- c Includes land and water.
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*Doctors, Population Density, Urban/Rural Population, Per Capita Income, High School Graduates, Area Rank, Total Area
The 3,593-foot El Capitan is one of many cliffs that soar above the valley floor in California’s Yosemite National Park.

Essential Question
What are the key physical features of the United States and Canada?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will explore the physical geography of the United States and Canada.

SECTION 1
Landforms and Resources

SECTION 2
Climate and Vegetation

SECTION 3
Human–Environment Interaction

Use a graphic organizer like the one online to record information from the chapter about the physical geography of the United States and Canada.
Landforms and Resources

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  The beauty and abundance of the land was a source of wonder to early explorers of North America. One who traveled the Atlantic coast referred to the “amazing extent of uncultivated land, covered with forests, and intermixed with vast lakes and marshes.” A 17th–century French expedition described “a beautiful river, large, broad, and deep” (the Mississippi). Still others found “an unbounded prairie” (the Great Plains), “shining mountains” (the Rocky Mountains), and “an infinite number of fish” (along the Pacific coast). To the continent’s first settlers, the land was “strong and it was beautiful all around,” according to an old Native American song.

Landscape Influenced Development

The United States and Canada occupy the central and northern four-fifths of the continent of North America. Culturally, the region is known as Anglo America because both countries were colonies of Great Britain at one time and because most of the people speak English. (The southern one-fifth of the continent—Mexico—is part of Latin America.) The two countries are bound together not only by physical geography and cultural heritage, but also by strong economic and political ties.

VAST LANDS  The United States and Canada extend across North America from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Pacific on the west, and from the Arctic Ocean on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south (only the United States). In total area, each ranks among the largest countries of the world. Canada ranks second, behind Russia, and the United States is third. Together, they fill one-eighth of the land surface of the earth.

ABUNDANT RESOURCES  In addition to their huge landmass, the United States and Canada are rich in natural resources. They have fertile soils, ample supplies of water, vast forests, and large deposits of a variety of minerals. This geographic richness has for centuries attracted immigrants from around the world and has enabled both countries to develop into global economic powers.

Main Ideas
- The United States and Canada have vast lands and abundant resources.
- These two countries share many of the same landforms.

Places & Terms
Appalachian Mountains
Great Plains
Canadian Shield
Rocky Mountains
Continental Divide
Great Lakes
Mackenzie River

Connect to the Issues
Urban development in the United States is generally determined by the location of landforms and the abundance of natural resources.

Location  Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is located where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio River.
**Many and Varied Landforms**

All major types of landforms are found in the United States and Canada. If you look at the map on the opposite page, you will see that both countries share many of these landforms. The most prominent are eastern and western mountain chains and enormous interior plains.

**THE EASTERN LOWLANDS** A flat, coastal plain runs along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. One section, called the Atlantic Coastal Plain, begins as narrow lowland in the northeastern United States and widens as it extends southward into Florida. This area features many excellent harbors. A broader section of the plain—the Gulf Coastal Plain—stretches along the Gulf of Mexico from Florida into Texas. The Mississippi River empties into the Gulf from this region.

Between these plains and the nearby Appalachian (əˈpəl-ə-ˌpʌl-ən) Highlands is a low plateau called the Piedmont (ˈpiːd-mənt). This area of rolling hills contains many fast-flowing rivers and streams.

**THE APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS** West of the coastal plain are the Appalachian highlands. The gently sloping Appalachian Mountains are in this region. They are one of the two major mountain chains in the United States and Canada. Both chains run north to south. The Appalachian Mountains extend some 1,600 miles from Newfoundland in Canada to Alabama. There are several mountain ranges in the Appalachian system. Among them are the Green and the Catskill mountains in the north and the Blue Ridge and the Great Smoky mountains in the south.

Because the Appalachians are very old—more than 400 million years old—they have been eroded by the elements. Many peaks are only between 1,200 and 2,400 feet high. The Appalachian Trail, a scenic hiking path 2,160 miles long, spans almost the entire length of the chain.

**THE INTERIOR LOWLANDS** A huge expanse of mainly level land covers the interior of North America. It was flattened by huge glaciers thousands of years ago. The terrain includes lowlands, rolling hills, thousands of lakes and rivers, and some of the world’s most fertile soils.

The interior lowlands are divided into three subregions: the Interior Plains, the Great Plains, and the Canadian Shield. The Interior Plains spread out from the Appalachians to about 300 miles west of the Mississippi River. They gradually rise from a few hundred feet above sea level to about 2,000 feet. To the west are the Great Plains, a largely treeless area that continues the ascent to about 4,000 feet. The Canadian Shield lies farther north. This rocky, mainly flat area covers nearly 2 million square miles around Hudson Bay. It averages 1,500 feet above sea level but reaches over 5,000 feet in Labrador.

**THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS, PLATEAUS, AND BASINS**

West of the plains are the massive, rugged Rocky Mountains, the other major mountain system of the
United States and Canada. The Rockies are a series of ranges that extend about 3,000 miles from Alaska south to New Mexico. Because they are relatively young—about 80 million years old—the Rockies have not been eroded like the Appalachians. Many of their jagged, snow-covered peaks are more than 12,000 feet high. The Continental Divide is the line of highest points in the Rockies that marks the separation between rivers flowing eastward and westward.

Between the Rockies and the Pacific Ocean is an area of mixed landforms. A series of ranges, including the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Range, run parallel to the Pacific coastline from California to Alaska. North America’s highest peak—Mt. McKinley (also called by its Native American name, Denali)—is in Alaska, towering 20,320 feet above sea level. Major earthquakes occur near the Pacific ranges. Between these

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps**

1. **REGION** Where in the United States is petroleum found?
2. **PLACE** Which energy resource is more widespread in Canada than in the United States?
ranges and the Rockies are steep cliffs, deep canyons, and lowland desert areas called basins.

**THE ISLANDS** Canada’s northernmost lands are islands riding the icy seas near the Arctic Circle. Three of the islands—Ellesmere, Victoria, and Baffin—are huge. In North America, only Greenland is larger.

Two island chains created by volcanic activity are part of the westernmost United States. The rugged, treeless Aleutian Islands extend in an arc off the coast of Alaska. The lush, tropical Hawaiian Islands, though politically part of the United States, are not geographically part of North America. They lie in the central Pacific, about 2,400 miles to the southwest.

**Resources Shape Ways of Life**

The landforms of the United States and Canada hold a rich variety and abundance of natural resources. Both countries are leading agricultural and industrial nations because of this wealth of resources.

**OCEANS AND WATERWAYS** The United States and Canada possess ample water resources. They are bounded by three oceans—Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic. The United States is also bounded by the Gulf of Mexico. As a result, both countries have important shipping and fishing industries.

Inland, large rivers and lakes serve as sources of transportation, hydroelectric power, irrigation, fresh water, and fisheries. Eight of the world’s 15 largest lakes are found in this region. Among these are the **Great Lakes**—Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior. As you will see on page 129, these lakes and the **St. Lawrence River** form one of the world’s major shipping routes.

The continent’s longest and busiest river system is the Mississippi-Missouri-Ohio. The Mississippi River runs almost the north-south length of the United States, from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. (See map at right.) The Mississippi’s main tributaries, the Ohio and Missouri rivers, are major rivers in their own right. Canada’s longest river is the **Mackenzie River**, which is part of a river system that flows across the Northwest Territories to the Arctic Ocean.

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps**

1. **LOCATION** What states have the Mississippi River for at least part of their border?
2. **MOVEMENT** What rivers empty into the Mississippi?
The United States and Canada also have huge forests. About one-half of Canada is covered by woodlands, as is one-third of the United States. Canada’s forests cover more land than those of the United States, but the United States has more kinds of trees because of its more varied climate. Both countries are major producers of lumber and forest products.

MINERALS AND FOSSIL FUELS As you saw on the map on page 120, the United States and Canada have large quantities and varieties of minerals and fossil fuels. These resources gave both countries the means to industrialize rapidly.

Valuable deposits of iron ore, nickel, copper, gold, and uranium are found in the Canadian Shield. Scattered among the western mountains are gold, silver, copper, and uranium. Both countries also have substantial deposits of coal, natural gas, and oil, and well-developed networks for distributing these energy-producing fossil fuels. Important coal-producing areas are the Appalachian highlands and the northern Great Plains. Significant deposits of oil and natural gas are found in the Great Plains, Alaska, and along the Gulf of Mexico.

The United States is the world’s biggest consumer of energy resources. Its need for these fuels is so great that it is a major importer. In fact, most of Canada’s energy exports go to its neighbor to the south.

In the next section, you will read how some landforms of the United States and Canada have affected climate and vegetation patterns.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE A little gold and bitter cold—that is what thousands of prospectors found in Alaska and the Yukon Territory during the Klondike gold rushes of the 1890s. Most of these fortune hunters were unprepared for the harsh climate and inhospitable land of the far north. Winters were long and cold, the ground frozen. Ice fogs, blizzards, and avalanches were regular occurrences. You could lose fingers and toes—even your life—in the cold. But hardy souls stuck it out. Legend has it that one miner, Bishop Stringer, kept himself alive by boiling his sealskin and walrus-sole boots and then drinking the broth.

Shared Climates and Vegetation

The United States and Canada have more in common than just frigid winter temperatures where Alaska meets northwestern Canada. Other shared climate and vegetation zones are found along their joint border at the southern end of Canada and the northern end of the United States.

If you look at the map on page 125, you will see that the United States has more climate zones than Canada. This variety, ranging from tundra to tropical, occurs because the country extends over such a large area north to south. Most of the United States is located in the mid-latitudes, where the climates are moderate. Canada is colder because so much of it lies far north in the higher latitudes.

COLDER CLIMATES The Arctic coast of Alaska and Canada have tundra climate and vegetation. Winters are long and bitterly cold, while summers are brief and chilly. Even in July, temperatures are only around 40°F. The land is a huge, treeless plain. Much of the rest of Canada and Alaska have a subarctic climate, with very cold winters and short, mild summers. A vast forest of needle-leaved evergreens covers the area. In some places, there is permafrost, or permanently frozen ground.

The Rocky Mountains and the Pacific ranges have highland climate and vegetation. Temperature and vegetation vary with elevation and latitude. Generally, the temperature is colder and the vegetation is more sparse in the higher, more northerly mountains. The mountains also influence the temperature and precipitation of surrounding lower areas. For example, the

Main Ideas

• Almost every type of climate is found in the 50 United States because they extend over such a large area north to south.
• Canada’s cold climate is related to its location in the far northern latitudes.

Places & Terms

permafrost
prevailing westerlies

Connect to the Issues

Urban Sprawl The rapid spread of urban sprawl has led to the loss of much vegetation in both the United States and Canada.
coastal ranges protect the coast from cold Arctic air from the interior. In the United States, the western mountains trap Pacific moisture. This makes lands west of the mountains rainy and those east very dry.

**MODERATE CLIMATES** The north central and northeastern United States and southern Canada near the U.S. border have a humid continental climate. Winters are cold and summers warm. Climate and soil make this one of the world’s most productive agricultural areas, yielding an abundance of dairy products, grain, and livestock. In the northern part of this climate zone, summers are short. There are mixed forests of deciduous and needle-leafed evergreen trees. Most of the population of Canada is concentrated here. In the southern part of this zone, which is in the United States, summers are longer. For the most part, deciduous forests are found east of the Mississippi River and temperate grasslands are found to the west.

The Pacific coast from northern California to southern Alaska, which includes British Columbia, has a climate described as marine west coast. This climate is affected by Pacific Ocean currents, the coastal mountains, and the *prevailing westerlies*—winds that blow from west to east in the middle of the latitudes. The summers are moderately warm. The winters are long and mild, but rainy and foggy. Vegetation is mixed, including dense forests of broad-leafed deciduous trees, needle-leafed evergreens, and giant California redwoods. The Washington coast even has a cool, wet rain forest.

**Differences in Climate and Vegetation**

The milder, dry, and tropical climates of North America are found south of 40°N latitude. Much of the United States is located in these climate zones; little of Canada is.

**Milder Climates** Most southern states have a humid subtropical climate. This means that summers are hot and muggy, with temperatures ranging from about 75°F to 90°F. Winters are usually mild and cool. Moist air from the Gulf of Mexico brings rain during the winter. The combination of mild temperatures and adequate rainfall provides a long growing season for a variety of crops—from citrus fruits in Florida to peanuts in Georgia. Broad-leafed evergreen trees and needle-leafed evergreen trees are found in this region. The central and southern coasts of California have a Mediterranean climate. Summers are dry, sunny, and warm. Winters are mild and somewhat rainy. Temperatures range from 50°F to 80°F year-round. A long growing season and irrigation make this a rich farming area for fruits and vegetables.

**Dry Climates** The Great Plains and dry northern parts of the Great Basin have a semiarid climate. This means dry weather—only about 15 inches of rain annually—and vegetation that is mainly short grasses and shrubs. The southwestern states have a desert climate. In these states, the weather is usually hot and dry. Less than 10 inches of rain falls each year. Some cactus plants thrive, but much of the area is barren rock or sand. Large desert areas are the Mojave and the Sonoran.

**Tropical Climates** In the United States, only Hawaii and southern Florida have tropical climates. The islands of Hawaii have a tropical wet climate that supports lush rain forests. Temperatures vary only...
**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps**

1. **LOCATION**  Between approximately what degrees of longitude is the semiarid climate found?

2. **REGION**  Which type of vegetation covers most of Canada?
a few degrees in the 70s°F. Mount Waialeale (wy•AH•lay•AH•lay) on Kauai island receives about 460 inches of rain annually, and is one of the wettest spots on earth. Southern Florida has a tropical wet and dry climate. It is nearly always warm, but has wet and dry seasons. Vegetation is mainly tall grasses and scattered trees, like those in the Everglades, a huge swampland that covers some 4,000 square miles.

Effects of Extreme Weather

Weather in the United States and Canada can be harsh and sometimes deadly. You can see the areas affected by extreme weather and climate conditions by looking at the natural hazards map on page 107.

In both cold and mild climates, severe storms can trigger widespread devastation. Warm air from the Gulf of Mexico and cold Canadian air masses sometimes clash over the plains region to produce violent thunderstorms, tornadoes, and blizzards. As you read in Unit 1, tornadoes strike so often in an area of the Great Plains that it is called “Tornado Alley.” In summer and fall, hurricanes that sweep along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts can cause great damage. Winter snowstorms may bring normal life to a temporary halt in many cities, such as the one shown in the photo on this page.

Disasters can also result from too much precipitation in a short time or too little over a long period. Heavy rainfall can cause flooding. Lands along major rivers, such as the Mississippi, are especially at risk. Too little rain or too much heat may bring on droughts and dust storms or spark destructive forest fires.

In this section, you read about the varied climates and vegetation of the United States and Canada. In the next section, you will learn how physical geography has shaped life in these countries.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE The sun-baked American Southwest was a harsh environment for its early inhabitants, the ancestors of today’s Pueblo peoples. But these early settlers made good use of available resources. From the land, they took clay and stone building materials. They built multi-room, apartment-like dwellings in cliffs. This gave protection against daytime heat, nighttime cold, and human and animal enemies. From plants and animals, the early settlers got food and clothing. They survived because they adapted to their environment.

Settlement and Agriculture Alter the Land

Before humans came, North American landforms were changed only by natural forces, such as weathering and erosion. That changed when the first settlers—the ancestors of the native peoples of North America—arrived thousands of years ago.

SETTLEMENT The first inhabitants of the area of North America now known as the United States and Canada were nomads, people who move from place to place. Some archaeologists believe that they probably migrated from Asia over Beringia, a land bridge that once connected Siberia and Alaska. Alternative migration theories, such as a coastal migration, are also being investigated. These early migrants moved about the land. They hunted game, fished, and gathered edible wild plants. These first Americans made temporary settlements along coastlines and near rivers and streams. They adjusted to extremes of temperature and climate. They also adapted to the region’s many natural environments, including mountains, forests, plains, and deserts.

AGRICULTURE Many early settlements became permanent after agriculture replaced hunting and gathering as the primary method of food production about 3,000 years ago. When people began to cultivate crops, they changed the landscape to meet their needs. In wooded areas, early farmers cut down trees for lumber to build houses and to burn as fuel. To plant crops, they plowed the rich soil of river valleys and flood plains using hoes of wood, stone, and bone. They dug ditches for irrigation. Vegetables they first cultivated—corn, beans, and squash—are now staples around the world.

Agriculture remains an important economic activity in the region. In fact, both countries are leading exporters of agricultural products.
Building Cities

Where a city is built and how it grows depends a great deal on physical setting. As you read, living near water was crucial to early settlers, as it would be to those who followed. Other factors that can affect the suitability of a site are landscape, climate, weather, and the availability of natural resources. Some of these factors played a role in the development of two major cities of the region.

MONTREAL—ADAPTING TO THE WEATHER Montreal, Quebec, is Canada’s second largest city and a major port—even though its temperature is below freezing more than 100 days each year. Montreal’s location on a large island where the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers meet made it an appealing site to early French explorers. The French built a permanent settlement there in 1642. The community was founded at the base of Mount Royal and grew by spreading around the mountain. To make the city’s severe winters more endurable, people went inside and underground. In fact, large areas of Montreal have been developed underground, including a network of shops and restaurants.

LOS ANGELES—CREATING URBAN SPRAWL Unlike Montreal, Los Angeles, California, has a mild climate year-round. It also has a desirable location on the Pacific coast. Hundreds of thousands of people were pouring into this once small Spanish settlement by the early 1900s. As a result, the city expanded farther and farther into nearby valleys and desert-like foothills. During the 1980s, Los Angeles became the second most populous city in the United States. However, rapid population expansion brought problems. These included air pollution, inadequate water supplies, and construction on earthquake-threatened land. But such problems did not stop the city’s growth. Los Angeles itself now covers about 469 square miles. Its metropolitan area spreads over 5,700 square miles.

Building cities was just one way humans interacted with their environment. Another was in the construction of transportation systems to make movement from place to place less difficult.

Overcoming Distances

The native peoples and the Europeans who followed encountered many obstacles when they moved across the land. They faced huge distances,
large bodies of water, formidable landforms, and harsh climates. But they spanned the continent and changed the natural environment forever.

**TRAILS AND INLAND WATERWAYS** Some of the early peoples who came across the land bridge from Siberia blazed trails eastward. Others followed the Pacific coast south toward warmer climates. Still others remained in the northwest, in what are now Alaska and northern Canada. When Europeans from England and France crossed the Atlantic to North America, they set up colonies along the coast. Then, they moved inland. As they did, they carved overland trails, including the National and Wilderness roads and the Oregon and Santa Fe trails. They also used inland waterways, such as the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. To connect bodies of water, they built a network of canals. The Erie Canal across upstate New York opened in 1825 and made the first navigable water link between the Atlantic and the Great Lakes.

North America’s most important deepwater ship route—the St. Lawrence Seaway—was completed in the 1950s as a joint project of the United States and Canada. As you can see from the map on this page, the seaway connects the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean by way of the St. Lawrence River. Ships are raised and lowered some 600 feet by a series of locks, sections of a waterway with closed gates where water levels are raised or lowered. The seaway enables huge, oceangoing vessels to sail into the industrial and agricultural heartland of North America.

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Graphics**

1. **ANALYZING DATA** Where do ships have to make the greatest water-level adjustment?
2. **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** Why was it important to build the St. Lawrence Seaway?
TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROADS The marriage of the steam locomotive and the railroads made crossing the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific quicker and easier. Railroad building began in North America in the early 19th century. But many of the physical features shown on the map on page 103 presented natural barriers. To make way, railroad workers had to cut down forests, build bridges over streams, and blast tunnels through mountains.

The first transcontinental railroad was completed across the United States in 1869. A trans-Canada railroad, from Montreal to British Columbia, was completed in 1885. These railroads carried goods and passengers cross-country, promoting economic development and national unity as they went. Today, the United States has the world’s largest railway system, and Canada the third largest.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEMS Before the railroads came, there were roads that connected towns and cities and provided pathways to the interior. But it was the development of the automobile in the early 20th century that spurred roadbuilding. Today, both the United States and Canada have extensive roadway systems. The United States has about 4 million miles of roads, while Canada has about 560,000 miles.

As you read earlier, much of Canada’s population is concentrated in the south. So, Canadians built their major highways east to west in the southern part of the country, connecting principal cities. The Trans-Canada Highway, Canada’s primary roadway, stretches about 4,860 miles from St. John’s, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia. In the United States, the interstate highway system is a network of more than 46,000 miles of highways that crisscross the country. Begun in the 1950s, it connects the United States with Canada on the north and Mexico on the south, and also runs east-west across the country.

In this chapter, you read about the physical geography of the United States and Canada. In the next chapter, you will learn about the human geography of one of these countries—the United States.
Reading a Highway Map

San Antonio, Texas, is a part of a metropolitan area of more than one million people, located in south central Texas. It has been a crossroads for much of its history—for its earliest Native American settlers, the Spanish who came later, and finally, the Texans who won independence from Mexico not long after the battle of the Alamo. Looking at the map below, you can see that the city remains a meeting point, crisscrossed by interstate, U.S., state, and county highways.

**The Language of Maps** The primary purpose of a highway map is to show the location of roadways in an area and the distance between places. But highway maps usually include much other information. For example, they may identify important sites, such as airports, parks, and universities.

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**Map and Graph Skills Assessment**

1. **Seeing Patterns**
   Which interstate highways pass through the center of San Antonio?

2. **Making Decisions**
   Which interstate highway and U.S. highway would you take to the Alamo when coming from the southeast?

3. **Analyzing Data**
   By the most direct route, how far is Live Oak from Leon Valley by highway?
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.
1. Appalachian Mountains
2. Rocky Mountains
3. Great Plains
4. Canadian Shield
5. Great Lakes
6. Mackenzie River
7. prevailing westerlies
8. Everglades
9. lock
10. St. Lawrence Seaway

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.
11. Which of the places listed above are found both in the United States and Canada?
12. Which of the mountain chains form a boundary with the Canadian Shield?
13. The Great Plains are bounded on one side by which landform listed above?
14. The Hudson Bay is found in which place listed above?
15. Which two waterways are linked?
16. Which place above is a huge swampland?
17. Which of the places are subregions of the Interior Lowlands?
18. What climate region in North America is influenced by the prevailing westerlies?
19. Why are the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway important?
20. Why are locks needed on the St. Lawrence Seaway?

Main Ideas

Landforms and Resources (pp. 117-122)
1. How do the Eastern Lowlands differ from the Interior Lowlands?
2. What is the Continental Divide?
3. Why are the United States and Canada leading food producers?
4. What are the most abundant natural resources in the United States and Canada?

Climate and Vegetation (pp. 123-126)
5. In what type of climate would you expect to find permafrost?
6. Which climates are found in the United States and not in Canada?
7. What type of vegetation covers most of Canada?

Human-Environment Interaction (pp. 127-131)
8. How did the earliest inhabitants of the United States and Canada, those who arrived before the Europeans, alter the land?
9. What problems arose in Los Angeles with rapid expansion?
10. How did the settlers of the United States and Canada overcome the distances across the continent?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landforms</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. How is the location of cities related to landforms and to climate?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. How is Canada’s economy affected by its climate and vegetation?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Geographic Themes
a. MOVEMENT Write a sentence describing the movement of people and goods across the United States and Canada over the last 200 years.

b. PLACE How have the Great Lakes contributed to the development of both the United States and Canada?

3. Identifying Themes
In developing their city, how did the people of Montreal solve the problems of a severe climate? Which of the five themes apply to this situation?

4. Making Inferences
What aspects of physical geography have contributed to the economic success of the United States and Canada?

5. Seeing Patterns
How did the presence of north-to-south flowing rivers in the United States affect its development?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Maps

Physical Profile of the United States
Use the map below to answer the following questions.

1. REGION What might be said about the land between the Appalachians and the Mississippi?

2. PLACE What is the difference in altitude between the Coastal ranges and the Sierra Nevada?

3. REGION What happens to the land as you move west of the Mississippi?

Create a three-dimensional model of the cross section on this page. Use colors to indicate elevations and label the physical features you show. Create a legend for your model.

MULTIMEDIA ACTIVITY
Use the links at hmhsocialstudies.com to conduct research on the landforms of the United States and Canada. Focus on finding pictures of major and well-known landforms and waterways.

Creating a Multimedia Presentation From your research, select a series of pictures to include in a presentation on the theme “A Land of Contrasts.” List the Web sites you used in preparing your report.
Chapter 6
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
OF THE UNITED STATES
Shaping an Abundant Land

Essential Question
What factors shaped the development of the United States?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will learn about factors that shaped the human geography of the United States.

SECTION 1
History and Government of the United States

SECTION 2
Economy and Culture of the United States

SECTION 3
Subregions of the United States

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes about the history, economy, culture, and modern life of the United States and its subregions.

134
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  Women were North America’s first farmers. In all early cultures except the hunter-gatherer culture of the Southwest, women cultivated the land. They discovered which wild plants could be used as food for the family. They planted the seeds, tended the garden, harvested the crops, and prepared food for meals. Corn, beans, and squash were the first of these foods. Women also learned which leaves, bark, roots, stems, and berries could be used for medicines. Their efforts helped to ensure the survival of human settlement in North America—and the part of the land that became the United States.

Creating a Nation

The United States occupies nearly two-fifths of North America. It is the world’s third largest country in both land area and population. It is rich in natural resources and is also fortunate to have a moderate climate, fertile soil, and plentiful water supplies. For thousands of years, this bounty has attracted waves of immigrants who came to find a better life. This continuing immigration is a recurring theme in the country’s history; so is the constant migration, or movement, of peoples within the United States.

MANY PEOPLES SETTLE THE LAND  As you read in Chapter 5, the first inhabitants of North America were believed to be nomads who came from Asia at least 13,000 or more years ago. These people settled the continent, spreading south along the Pacific coast and east to the Atlantic. Over the centuries, they developed separate cultures, as the map on page 104 shows. These native peoples occupied the land undisturbed until the 15th century, when Europeans began to explore what they called the “New World.” The Spanish arrived first. They searched the present-day Southeast and Southwest for gold and other treasure. In 1565, they founded St. Augustine, Florida, the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States.

The French and English came later. France was interested in fisheries and the fur trade. In the early 1600s, the French settled along the northern Atlantic Coast and the St. Lawrence River in what is now Canada. The English arrived at about the same time. During the 1600s and 1700s,
they settled to the south—on rivers and bays along the Atlantic coast from present-day Maine to Georgia. The English made their first permanent settlement in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

European colonies often displaced Native Americans. In 1617, the Europeans brought Africans to America to work as slave laborers on cotton and tobacco plantations in the South. The coming of the Europeans also began what historians call the **Columbian Exchange**. The infographic above shows how the arrival of Europeans in the Western Hemisphere affected the lives of both Europeans and the native peoples.

**MOVEMENT** This infographic shows how plants, animals, and diseases were transferred between the Eastern and Western hemispheres as trade followed the voyages of Christopher Columbus to the Americas.

**ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING THE UNION** The French and the English eventually fought in North America over trade and territory. In 1763, Great Britain gained control of all of North America east of the Mississippi River. But its control was short-lived. Britain’s 13 American colonies soon began to resent the policies forced on them by a government thousands of miles away across the Atlantic. Their protests led to the American Revolution (1775–1783) and the founding of the United States of America. The new nation grew rapidly, and settlers pushed westward to the Mississippi. In 1803, the United States nearly doubled in size when the government purchased the vast plains region between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains from France. This territory became known as the **Louisiana Purchase**.

In the early 1800s, immigrants from Western Europe arrived in great numbers. They settled in cities in the Northeast, where industrialization was beginning. One such city was Lowell, Massachusetts, which had become a booming textile center by the 1840s. The newcomers also moved to rich farmlands in what is now the Midwest.

Meanwhile, sectionalism was growing. People were placing loyalty to their region, or section, above loyalty to the nation. The result was rising political and economic tensions between an agricultural South dependent on slave labor and the more industrialized North. These tensions led to the Civil War (1861–1865). It took four years of bloody fighting and many more years of political conflict to reunite the country.

**BACKGROUND**

About 600,000 Africans were brought to the United States to work as slave laborers from 1617 until the importation of slaves was banned in 1808.

**The Columbian Exchange**

This infographic shows how plants, animals, and diseases were transferred between the Eastern and Western hemispheres as trade followed the voyages of Christopher Columbus to the Americas.
An Industrial and Urban Society

In the second half of the 19th century, millions of Americans were on the move. They settled on newly opened lands west of the Mississippi and in the rapidly industrializing cities of the North and Midwest.

WESTWARD MOVEMENT From departure points such as Independence, Missouri, hundreds of thousands of pioneers left in covered wagons bound for the West. They blazed trails that crossed prairie, plains, desert, and mountains, moving toward the Pacific. A wagon train on the Oregon Trail might have taken up to six months to reach its destination 2,000 miles away.

To make way for white settlers, the U.S. government removed Native Americans from their lands by treaty, or by force. In Chapter 5, you read that the first transcontinental railroad across the United States was completed in 1869. Railroads brought people to the West, and western cattle and products to markets in the East. By 1890, about 17 million people lived between the Mississippi and the Pacific. The free, open land that had been available and suitable for settlement—the frontier—was now fully settled.

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBANIZATION As the West was being settled, immigrants—mainly from Western and Eastern Europe—poured into the United States. About 14 million came from 1860 to 1900.

Some joined the movement to the West. Others settled in urban areas undergoing industrialization. Cities such as New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, and Chicago expanded rapidly. Both recent immigrants and large numbers of Americans from rural areas came to cities such as these to work in textile, steel, oil, food processing, and other industries. The United States was being transformed from a rural, agricultural nation to an urban, industrialized one.

World Power and Domestic Change

As the 20th century began, the United States was the dominant economic and political power in the Western Hemisphere. By the century’s end, it would be the world’s sole superpower.

LOOKING BEYOND ITS BORDERS The United States had tried to avoid involvement in foreign affairs during its decades of growth. Because of its ample natural and human resources, it had been almost self-sufficient from its founding. Its farms grew the food necessary for survival, and the nation’s factories produced the manufactured goods it needed. It was also protected...
from foreign conflicts by two vast oceans—the Atlantic and the Pacific. But a global economic depression and two world wars brought significant changes. When World War II ended in 1945, the United States was the only major nation that had escaped physical damage and had a healthy economy.

**LIVING IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY** Meanwhile, American political influence spread throughout the world after the Second World War. The United States became the leader of the world’s non-Communist nations. Their goal was to stop the spread of communism, spearheaded by the Soviet Union (now Russia). A competition for world influence called the Cold War (roughly 1945–1991) followed. When communism in Europe collapsed in 1991, the United States emerged as the world’s sole superpower. As such, it has used its diplomatic and military power to try to keep the peace and to further American interests in the international community.

**A CHANGING ECONOMY** The last half of the 20th century was a time of rapid social change. Large numbers of people began migrating from cities to surrounding suburbs, the communities outside of a city. Some Americans moved to the South and West. Also, immigrants continued to arrive by the hundreds of thousands. But now they came mainly from the countries of Latin America and Asia.

These years saw much social unrest, especially during the 1960s and 1970s. The civil rights movement fought to gain equal rights for African Americans. The feminist movement sought equality for women. Also, many students and others protested U.S. involvement in a war between Communist and non-Communist forces in Vietnam (1955–75).

During this period, the U.S. economy boomed, despite some periods of economic downturn, or recession. The economy, too, was being transformed. Changes in technology altered the way goods were produced. The use of computers and the Internet revolutionized the workplace and the marketplace. Providing services and information surpassed industrial production in importance. This economic shift led to changes in the way people worked. Telecommuting and outsourcing became increasingly common corporate practices.

In 2008, the U.S. housing market collapsed, triggering a recession, the effects of which echoed around the globe. The U.S. financial crisis affected the economies of many nations, and more than 8 million Americans lost their jobs in fewer than 3 years. The national unemployment rate more than doubled in 10 years, rising from around 4 percent in 2000 to 10 percent by the end of 2009.
Governing the People

One of the strengths of the United States is the political system created by the U.S. Constitution, drawn up in 1787. The United States is a representative democracy, where the people rule through elected representatives. It is also a federal republic, where powers are divided among the federal, or national, government and various state governments.

As you can see on the chart above, there are three separate and equal branches of the federal government. The executive branch, headed by the president, carries out the laws. The president also approves or vetoes proposed laws. The legislative branch makes the laws, and the judicial branch interprets the laws by reviewing decisions of lower courts. The 50 states also have executive, legislative, and judicial branches. They exercise powers not specifically granted to the federal government by the Constitution.

In this section, you read about the history and government of the United States. In the next, you will learn about its economy and culture.
Economy and Culture of the United States

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  The average American worker in 1790 was a self-employed farmer. The farmer spent each work day, sunrise to sunset, in backbreaking labor in the field. Most of the crops and livestock raised were consumed by the farm family. In the 1890s, the average American worker labored in a manufacturing or service industry, for long hours and low wages, often under unsafe conditions. Laborers in factories, for example, worked 60 hours a week for a total wage of $12; some were as young as 12 years of age.

At the start of the 21st century, the average worker was spending most of the workday in an office in front of a computer, processing information or providing services. The standard workweek was 40 hours; the government regulated workplace safety; and salaries generally covered living expenses, leisure-time activities, and perhaps, even savings.

The World’s Greatest Economic Power

The United States has about 7 percent of the world’s land area and about 5 percent of the world’s population. But it has the world’s largest economy—the most powerful, diverse, and technologically advanced in the world. The United States is a world leader in agricultural products, manufactured goods, and global trade. In fact, it accounts for more than 10 percent of the world’s exports, which are goods sold to another country.

Three factors have contributed to the overall success of the American economy—available natural resources, a skilled labor force, and a stable political system that has allowed the economy to develop. The economy is run largely on free enterprise. In this economic system, private individuals own most of the resources, technology, and businesses, and can operate them for profit with little control from the government.

Main Ideas

- The United States has the world’s largest and most diversified economy.
- American products and popular culture are recognized around the world.

Places & Terms

export
free enterprise
service industry
postindustrial economy
multinational

Connect to the Issues

Urban sprawl

Urbanization has helped economic growth, but it has also caused a variety of problems.

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Graphs

1. **ANALYZING DATA** What were the dominant sectors of the economy in 1900, 1950, and 2000?
2. **MAKING GENERALIZATIONS** What might account for these changes in the economy?
AN AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL GIANT The United States not only feeds itself but also helps to feed the world. American farms and ranches supply about 40 percent of the world’s production of corn, 12 percent of its cotton, about 9 percent of its wheat, and close to 19 percent of its cattle. Fertile soil, a favorable climate, and the early mechanization of the country’s farms are mainly responsible for this bounty. Different areas of the country produce different products, as you can see from the map on this page. The Midwest and South, for example, specialize in crop farming, while livestock ranching is concentrated in the West.

The industrial output of the United States is larger than that of any other country. Advances in technology, especially in electronics and computers, revolutionized industry and led to the creation of new products and methods of production. Leading industries are petroleum, steel, transportation equipment, chemicals, electronics, food processing, telecommunications, consumer goods, lumber, and mining.

Major industrial centers have long been located along the Atlantic Coast and around the Great Lakes. In recent decades, a variety of industries have also started up in urban areas in the South and along the Pacific coast. Over time, some areas have become associated with certain products, such as Detroit (automobiles), Seattle (aircraft), and northern California, in an area called Silicon Valley (computers).

A POSTINDUSTRIAL ECONOMY The graphs on page 140 show the rich farming and manufacturing traditions of the United States. But
they also indicate that the American economy today is driven by service industries. A service industry is any kind of economic activity that produces a service rather than a product. Nearly three out of four Americans now work in service-related jobs, such as information processing, finance, medicine, transportation, and education. This economic phase is called a postindustrial economy, one where manufacturing no longer plays a dominant role.

The United States is the world’s major trading nation, leading the world in the value of its imports. It exports raw materials, agricultural products, and manufactured goods. Automobiles, electronic equipment, machinery, and apparel are some of its principal imports. Its North American neighbors, Canada and Mexico, are two of its most important trading partners. Many American corporations engage in business worldwide and are called multinationals.

A Diverse Society

Because the United States is a nation of immigrants, it is a nation of different races and ethnic traditions. The majority of Americans, about 65 percent, trace their ancestry to Europe. Hispanic Americans, mainly
from Central and South America, make up about 15 percent of the population; African Americans, about 13 percent; Asian Americans, 5 percent; and Native Americans, 1 percent. The largest ethnic groups are English, German, Irish, African, French, Italian, Scottish, Polish, and Mexican.

**LANGUAGES AND RELIGION** English has been the dominant language of the United States since its founding. Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language. Typically, immigrants have spoken their native language until they learned English.

Religious freedom has been a cornerstone of American society. Today, more than 1,000 different religious groups practice their faiths in the United States. The majority of the American people—75 percent—are Christians. About 50 percent are Protestants and 24 percent Roman Catholics. Jews and Muslims account for about 2 percent of the religious population. About 15 percent of Americans report they do not identify with any religion.

**THE ARTS AND POPULAR CULTURE** The United States has a rich artistic heritage, the product of its diverse population. Its first artists were Native Americans, who made pottery, weavings, and carvings. Early European settlers brought with them the artistic traditions of their homelands. Truly American styles developed in painting, music, literature, and architecture in the 19th century. Artists depicted the country’s expansive landscape and scenes of American life both on the western frontier and in the cities. One 19th-century American creation, the skyscraper, changed urban architecture all over the world.

Today, motion pictures and popular music are two influential American art forms. Hollywood, California, is the center of the movie industry in the United States. American films provide entertainment for the world. Many ethnic groups contributed to the musical heritage of the United States. For example, jazz, blues, gospel, and rock 'n' roll have African-American origins. Country and bluegrass music developed among Southern whites whose ancestors came from the British Isles.

**American Life Today**

More than 307 million people live in the United States. The majority enjoy a high standard of living. Despite coming from many ethnic and racial groups, they generally live and work together. They are pursuing what attracted their ancestors to the New World and came to be called “the American dream,” a better life for themselves and their children.

**WHERE AMERICANS LIVE** About 80 percent of Americans live in cities or surrounding suburbs. Americans moved first from rural areas to cities and then from cities to suburbs. The shift to the suburbs was made possible by the widespread ownership of automobiles. There is one auto
for every 1.3 Americans. A highly developed transportation network that includes highways, expressways, railroads, and airlines aids mobility.

**HOW AMERICANS LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY** Nearly 60 percent of American adults of working age are employed. Almost half of them are women. Approximately three-fourths of all Americans in the workforce hold service industry jobs. Many are highly skilled positions, which require advanced education. Americans have always valued education, seeing it as a means to provide equality and opportunity. As a result, all children from the ages of 6 or 7 to age 16 are required to attend school. Nine out of ten students are in the public school system, where education is free through secondary school. The United States also has more than 2,600 four-year public and private colleges and universities.

Americans have a wide range of choices for leisure-time activities. As either spectators or players, they take part in sports such as baseball, basketball, football, golf, soccer, tennis, and skiing. Most major cities have professional sports teams. Americans of all ages also use their free time to engage in hobbies, visit museums and libraries, and watch television and movies. Another favorite activity is spending time on the computer, surfing the Internet or playing video games.

Unfortunately, not all Americans live well. More than one in eight lives in poverty. It is a continuing challenge for government and society to try to bring these people into the mainstream of American life. In the next section, you will learn about life in the country’s subregions.

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**EXPLORING LOCAL GEOGRAPHY** Study the maps on page 142. Find your state. Create a sketch map of your state and show the location of major ethnic groups that live in your state.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE America’s back roads were the beat of reporter and author Charles Kuralt for more than 20 years. Beginning in the 1960s, he traveled by van through every region of the country. In his “On the Road” series for television, he reported on the uniqueness of the lives of ordinary Americans. He said that he wanted to make these trips off the beaten path because most people traveled across the country on interstate highways without seeing the “real” America. Whether he visited Minnesota’s lake country or a small New England town, Kuralt spotlighted America’s regional diversity. In fact, one of the key strengths of the United States is the variety of life in its subregions—the Northeast, the Midwest, the South, and the West.

The Northeast

As you can see on the map on page 134, the Northeast covers only 5 percent of the nation’s land area. But about 20 percent of the population lives there. The six northern states of the subregion—Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut—are called New England. The other three—Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey—are sometimes referred to as Middle Atlantic states. (Maryland and Delaware, which are included in the South in this book, are sometimes included in the Middle Atlantic states.)

AMERICA’S GATEWAY Because of its location along the Atlantic coast, the Northeast contains many of the areas first settled by Europeans. The region served as the “gateway” to America for millions of immigrants from all over the world. Many people still engage in fishing and farming,
as the Northeast’s early settlers did. But the region’s coastal and inland waters turned it into the heart of trade, commerce, and industry for the nation. In fact, the Northeast is one of the most heavily industrialized and urbanized areas in the world. The Atlantic seaboard cities of Philadelphia, Boston, and New York City serve as international trade centers.

Coal, iron ore, and oil—found mainly in Pennsylvania—fueled the industrialization of the region. Traditional industries, such as iron and steel, petroleum, and lumber, still play a role in the region’s economy. But most Northeasterners are now employed in such manufacturing and service industries as electronics, communications, chemicals, medical research, finance, and tourism. Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey have rich farmlands, but much of New England is too hilly or rocky to grow crops easily.

Parts of the Middle Atlantic states are often referred to as the “rust belt” because of their declining and abandoned traditional industries. They share this term with some of the states of the Midwest. In recent times, many “rust belt” industries have moved to the warmer climates of the “sunbelt” in the South and West.

**GROWTH OF THE MEGALOPOLIS** The nation’s first megalopolis developed in the Northeast. A megalopolis is a region in which several large cities and surrounding areas grow together. You can see the extent of the “BosWash” megalopolis, as it is called, in the illustration on page 145.
It stretches through 500 miles of highly urbanized areas from Boston in the north to Washington, D.C., the national capital, in the south. It contains one-sixth of the U.S. population. New York City, the country’s cultural and financial center, is located here. Rapid road, rail, and air links have been vital to its economic development and expansion into the South. You will read more about urban growth in Chapter 8.

The Midwest

The subregion that contains the 12 states of the north-central United States is called the Midwest. Because of its central location, the Midwest is called the American heartland. It occupies about one-fifth of the nation’s land and almost one-fourth of its people live there. Since the Revolutionary War, immigrants from all over the world have made it their destination. Many early settlers came from Britain, Germany, and Scandinavia. Vast, largely flat plains are a distinctive feature of the region. So are numerous waterways, including the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and its many tributaries.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND The Midwest is the nation’s “breadbasket.” Fertile soil, adequate rainfall, and a favorable climate enable Midwesterners to produce more food and feed more people than farmers in any comparable area in the world. Among the main products are corn, wheat, soybeans, meat, and dairy goods. Agriculture also is the foundation for many of the region’s industries, including meatpacking, food processing, farm equipment, and grain milling. Other traditional industries are steel and automaking.

Its central location and excellent waterways make the Midwest a trade, transportation, and distribution center. Chicago, Illinois, which is located near the southwestern shores of Lake Michigan, is the cultural, financial, and transportation hub of the Midwest. Most of the region’s major cities developed near large bodies of water, which were essential for early transportation. Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, and Milwaukee grew near the Great Lakes, and Cincinnati, St. Louis, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Kansas City, and Omaha developed along rivers.

CHANGING FACE OF THE MIDWEST Like other regions, the Midwest is changing. The number of farms is declining. More Midwesterners are now employed in providing services than in traditional industries. The region’s metropolitan areas are expanding as urban dwellers and businesses leave the central cities for the suburbs. People and industries are also moving to the warmer South and West.
The South

The South is a subregion that covers about one-fourth of the land area of the United States and contains more than one-third of its population. Among its 16 states are 11 that made up the Confederacy during the Civil War. One of these states—Texas—is sometimes included in an area of the West called the Southwest. The South’s warm climate, fertile soils, and many natural resources have shaped its development.

THE OLD SOUTH Like the Northeast, the South was also the site of early European settlement. In fact, Virginia was England’s first American colony. The South has a mix of cultures that reflects the diversity of its early settlers. In addition to people of British heritage, there are the descendants of Africans brought as slave laborers and Hispanics whose families first migrated from Mexico to Texas. Cajuns of French-Canadian origin and Creoles of French, Spanish, and African descent are found in Louisiana, while Florida is home to many Hispanics who came from Cuba.

Once a rural agricultural area, the South is rapidly changing and its cities growing. Along with the Southwest, it is often referred to as the “sunbelt” because of its climate.

THE NEW SOUTH Agriculture was the South’s first economic activity, and cotton, tobacco, fruits, peanuts, and rice are still grown there. Also, livestock production is important in states such as Texas and Arkansas. The South’s humid subtropical climate at first hindered industrialization. But the widespread use of air conditioning beginning in the 1950s and the region’s vast stores of energy resources—oil, coal, natural gas, and water—gave a boost to industry.

In recent times, the South has attracted many manufacturing and service industries fleeing the harsh weather of the “rust belt.” Major industries include petroleum, steel, chemicals, food processing, textiles, and electronics. The South’s climate draws millions of tourists and retirees, too. Atlanta, Georgia—a financial, trade, and transportation center—is the hub of the New South. Miami, Tampa-St. Petersburg, New Orleans, Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, and San Antonio are other rapidly growing metropolitan areas—large cities and nearby suburbs and towns.

The West

Look on the map on page 134, and you will see that the West is a far-flung subregion consisting of 13 states. It stretches from the Great Plains to the Pacific Ocean and includes Alaska to the north and Hawaii in the Pacific. The West covers about one-half of the land area of the United States but has only about one-fifth of the population. It is a region of dramatic and varied landscapes.

People settle in the West today as they did during its frontier days: wherever landforms and climate are favorable. Some areas, such as its many deserts, are sparsely settled. Nonetheless, California is the
country’s most populous state because of excellent farmland, good harbors, and a mild climate. The West is the most rapidly growing region in the United States. Los Angeles, the country’s second largest city, is the West’s cultural and commercial center.

**DEVELOPING THE WEST** The West’s growth in the 20th century was helped by air conditioning and by irrigation. The map on this page, for example, shows how water from the Colorado River in Arizona has been diverted to serve many areas. Water supply aided development of inland cities such as Las Vegas, Tucson, and Phoenix.

The economic activities of the West are as varied as its climate and landscape. Among them are farming, ranching, food processing, logging, fishing, mining, oil refining, tourism, filmmaking, and the production of computers. Many cities with good harbors, including Seattle, Los Angeles, and Long Beach, make foreign trade—especially with Asia—important.

You read about the subregions of the United States in this section. In the next chapter, you will learn about the human geography of Canada.
The Dust Bowl

Years of unrelenting drought, misuse of the land, and the miles-high dust storms that resulted (shown here) devastated the Great Plains in the 1930s. Rivers dried up, and heat scorched the earth. As livestock died and crops withered, farms were abandoned. Thousands of families—more than two million people—fled to the West, leaving behind their farms and their former lives. Most of these “Okies,” as they were called (referring to Oklahoma, the native state of many), made their way over hundreds of miles to California. There they tried to find work as migrant farm laborers and restart their lives. The drought lasted nearly a decade, and it took years for this productive agricultural region to recover.

The worst of the devastation was centered in parts of five states—Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

Dust from the Great Plains was reported by ships to have blown as far east as 500 miles out into the Atlantic Ocean in 1934.

The most terrible dust storm came on April 14, 1935. A blinding black cloud of swirling dust rolled across the southern plains, blotting out the sun, suffocating animals, and burying machinery.
Thousands of farms like this one in Cimarron County, Oklahoma, were turned into dust-covered wastelands by the drought and dust storms of the 1930s.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS
Use the Internet to find personal accounts of Dust Bowl families. Then create a documentary proposal about one of them.
• Begin with a brief overview of how the drought affected the family.
• Add a sketch map showing where they lived and copies of any photos available, with captions for each.
• Present your proposal to a panel of student producers.

CAUSES
• Years of poor agricultural practices, such as overplowing and overgrazing, stripped away about 96 million acres of grasslands in the southern plains.
• Seven years of drought, or dry weather, turned the soil to dust.

EFFECTS
• Hundreds of millions of tons of soil were blown away.
• Crops withered and livestock died.
• More than 2 million plains people abandoned their farms.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES
Experts in crop production and soil management proposed the use of scientific farming methods, including
• contour plowing, or plowing across a hill rather than up and down, to stop wind and water erosion
• terracing, or planting crops in stair-stepped rows, to prevent soil erosion
• planting trees to hold the soil in place and to slow the force of the wind

Migrants from the Dust Bowl were forced to live any way they could while trying to find jobs picking vegetables or fruit. This mother and her seven children lived in a tent in a California migrant camp, eating vegetables found on the ground and birds they killed.
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.
1. migration
2. Columbian Exchange
3. suburb
4. representative democracy
5. free enterprise
6. service industry
7. postindustrial economy
8. multinational
9. megalopolis
10. metropolitan area

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.
11. What role did migration play in populating the United States?
12. What are some examples of items in the Columbian Exchange?
13. Which of the above terms are associated with urban geography?
14. What type of government does the United States have?
15. What is an advantage of free enterprise?
16. How are the service industry and postindustrial economy related?
17. What is an example of a service industry?
18. What makes a business a multinational corporation?
19. In which region is an example of a megalopolis found?
20. How are the terms suburb and metropolitan area related?

Main Ideas

History and Government of the United States (pp. 135-139)
1. Why is the United States called a “nation of immigrants?”
2. How did the Louisiana Purchase change the United States?
3. What factors led the United States to become a superpower?

Economy and Culture of the United States (pp. 140-144)
4. Why is the United States a leader in agricultural production?
5. What are some examples of the cultural diversity of the United States?
6. In what industry do most Americans work?

Subregions of the United States (pp. 145-151)
7. What changes have taken place in the industrial base of the Northeast?
8. What role did water play in the development of the Midwest?
9. What industries are found in the South today?
10. How did California become the nation’s most populous state?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

   - What resources have been important in the development of the United States?
   - Which subregions make up the “rust belt” and which the “sunbelt”? How are they related?

2. Geographic Themes
   - **REGION** How has the economy of the South changed?
   - **MOVEMENT** How has U.S. population shifted since the country began?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Maps

U.S. Population and Geographic Centers
Use the map at right to answer the following questions.

1. **MOVEMENT** In which year did the population center cross the Mississippi River?
2. **MOVEMENT** How would you describe the difference between changes in the geographic center and changes in the population center?
3. **REGION** In which region was the population center from 1790 through 1850?

GeoActivity

Create a series of four maps showing movement of the population center of the United States in 50-year periods. Use the map on this page to help you. Start with the period from 1790 to 1840.

Writing About Geography
Write a report about your findings. Include a map showing the territory acquired to help present the information. List the Web sites that were your sources.
The American Revolution led to the formation of the United States of America in 1776. Beginning in the 1760s, tensions grew between American colonists and their British rulers when Britain started passing a series of new laws and taxes for the colonies. With no representation in the British government, however, colonists had no say in these laws, which led to growing discontent. After fighting broke out in 1775, colonial leaders met to decide what to do. They approved the Declaration of Independence, announcing that the American colonies were free from British rule. In reality, however, freedom would not come until after years of fighting.

Explore some of the people and events of the American Revolution online. You can find a wealth of information, video clips, primary sources, activities, and more at hmhsocialstudies.com.
“I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”

Patrick Henry

“Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death”
Read an excerpt from Patrick Henry’s famous speech, which urged the colonists to fight against the British.

Seeds of Revolution
Watch the video to learn about colonial discontent in the years before the Revolutionary War.

Independence!
Watch the video to learn about the origins of the Declaration of Independence.

Victory!
Watch the video to learn how the American colonists won the Revolutionary War.
Around A.D. 980, a Viking named Erik the Red sailed to Greenland. Soon after, about 3,000 Vikings colonized the region. About A.D. 1000, Erik’s son Leif led an expedition that landed off the Atlantic coast of North America on what is now Newfoundland. Leif called the area Vinland, after the wild grapes that grew there. The Vikings built a settlement but later abandoned it. Five centuries would pass before another European, an Italian navigator named Giovanni Caboto, would come to North America. In 1497, exploring for the English, Caboto (John Cabot in English) landed in Newfoundland and claimed the region for England. European exploration and colonization followed.

The First Settlers and Colonial Rivalry

Canada’s vast size and its cold climate significantly affected its development. So did the early migrations of people across its land, the bitter territorial rivalry between the two European nations that colonized it—England and France—and their conflict with the First Nations peoples.

As you read in Chapter 5, one of the greatest migrations in history took place thousands of years ago, after the last Ice Age. Migrants from Asia began moving into North America across an Arctic land bridge that connected the two continents. Some early peoples remained in what are now the Canadian Arctic and Alaska. These were the ancestors of the Inuit (or Eskimos). Others, the ancestors of the North American Indians, migrated southward and spread throughout the continent. The first Europeans arrived in the late 15th century, leading to a series of conflicts between them and the indigenous peoples.

Main Ideas

- French and British settlement greatly influenced Canada’s political development.
- Canada’s size and climate affected economic growth and population distribution.

Places & Terms

- province
- Dominion of Canada
- confederation
- parliamentary government
- parliament
- prime minister

Connect to the Issues

diverse societies
Conflict between Canadians of French and English ancestry has been a factor throughout much of Canada’s history.

LOCATION

Quebec City, located on high ground above the St. Lawrence River, was the site of the first permanent French settlement in Canada. Why was this a desirable location?
American Indian peoples, gradually moved south, into present-day British Columbia and beyond. When the ice melted, they moved throughout Canada. They settled where they could grow crops.

**COLONIZATION BY FRANCE AND BRITAIN** During the 16th and 17th centuries, French explorers claimed much of Canada. Their settlements were known as New France. The British, too, were colonizing North America along the Atlantic coast. To both countries, the coastal fisheries and the inland fur trade were important. Soon, the French and British challenged each other’s territorial claims. Britain defeated France in the French and Indian War (1754–1763), forcing France to surrender its territory. But French settlers remained.

**Steps Toward Unity**

By the end of the 18th century, Canada had become a land of two distinct cultures—Roman Catholic French and Protestant English. Conflicts erupted between the two groups, and in 1791, the British government split Canada into two provinces, or political units. Upper Canada (later, Ontario), located near the Great Lakes, had an English-speaking majority, while Lower Canada (Quebec), located along the St. Lawrence River, had a French-speaking population. The land to the northwest, called Rupert’s Land, was owned by a British fur-trading company.

**ESTABLISHING THE DOMINION OF CANADA** Over the next few decades, Quebec City, Montreal, and Toronto developed as major cities in Canada. Population soared as large numbers of immigrants came from Great Britain. Railways and canals were built, and explorers moved across western lands seeking better fur-trading areas.

The conflicts between English-speaking and French-speaking settlers had not ended, however. By the late 1830s, there were serious political and ethnic disputes in both Upper and Lower Canada. The British government decided that major reform was needed. In 1867, it passed the British North America Act creating the Dominion of Canada. The Dominion was to be a loose confederation, or political union, of Ontario (Upper Canada), Quebec (Lower Canada), and two British colonies on the Atlantic coast—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Dominion...
Territorial Growth of Canada

1600s

1867

Today

Canada had self-government but remained part of the British Empire. Ottawa, in Ontario, became the capital.

As the map above shows, the Dominion grew rapidly. It gained control of Rupert’s Land in 1869. By 1871, Canada stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific, as Manitoba, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island were added. Soon the Yukon Territory, Alberta, and Saskatchewan followed. Only Newfoundland remained outside the union, not joining until the mid-20th century.

Continental Expansion and Development

With so much area to settle, Canada set about making its land accessible to pioneers. Successful settlement of the west would depend on good transportation routes: roads, canals, and railroads.

FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC In 1872, the government began construction of a transcontinental railroad. In 1885, the main line of the railway, from Montreal to Vancouver, was completed. The coasts were now linked by rail. A little more than a decade later, gold was discovered in the Yukon. Fortune-hunters from around the world headed to Canada. Not long after, copper, zinc, and silver deposits also were found in Canada, prompting the building of new railroads and towns. At the same time, immigrants from other parts of Europe besides Britain were coming to Canada’s vast open lands. The Dominion was taking on a new character.
URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH For much of the time after settlement, Canadians lived in rural areas and engaged in farming. But as the population grew and natural resources were developed, Canada became more urban and industrial. Cities and towns first sprang up wherever farming was possible. Later, these same areas became manufacturing and service industry centers, drawing more people to them. Nearly all of this growth took place within 100 miles of the U.S. border. There, the climate was warmer, the land more productive, and transportation linking east and west more widely available. Like its neighbor to the south, Canada developed into a major economic power in the 20th century.

Governing Canada

Canada was recognized as an independent nation by Britain in 1931. Like Great Britain, Canada has a parliamentary government, a system in which legislative and executive functions are combined in a legislature called a parliament. A central federal government and smaller provincial and territorial governments govern Canada. Although Canada is independent, its symbolic head of state remains the British monarch. Parliament handles all legislative matters. The Parliament consists of an appointed Senate and an elected House of Commons. The majority party’s leader in Parliament becomes prime minister, or head of the government. Each of Canada’s ten provinces has its own legislature and premier (prime minister). The federal government administers the territories.

In this section, you read about the history and government of Canada. In the next section, you will learn about life in Canada today.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE The fur trade was a major economic activity in early Canada. It began in the 16th century, when Canada’s Native American peoples, now known as the First Nations, started trading with European fishermen along the northern Atlantic coast. A brisk trade soon developed, and trappers and traders poured into Canada. They came first from France and later, from England. As the trade expanded westward, it depended heavily on daring French-Canadian boatmen called voyageurs. They moved animal pelts from the wilderness to trading posts, often paddling 16 hours a day. According to one trader, these hardy souls often endured “privation and hardship, not only without complaining, but even with cheerfulness.”

An Increasingly Diverse Economy

Canada is one of the world’s richest countries. It is highly industrialized and urbanized. As you just read, Canada’s early economy was based largely on the trade of its many natural resources. Today, the manufacturing and service industries fuel the nation’s economic engines.

CANADA’S PRIMARY INDUSTRIES Farming, logging, mining, and fishing are important Canadian industries. Although only about 5 percent of Canada’s land is suitable for farming, Canada produces large amounts of food for domestic use and for export. Canada also is a leader in the production of newsprint—paper made from wood pulp.

Mining, too, is a major industry because of Canada’s extensive mineral deposits. Uranium, zinc, gold, and silver are just a few of the minerals Canada exports to the world. Canada is also a leading exporter of oil.

Three ocean coastlines—Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic—have given Canadians access to ample fish supplies. Traditionally, Canada has been a major exporter of fish. In recent years, however, overfishing has caused supplies to decline. As a result, some fishers have begun raising salmon and other fish on fish farms.

THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR About 13 percent of Canadians earn their living from manufacturing. Their efforts account for about one-eighth of the nation’s GDP. Automobiles, steel, household appliances, electronics, and high-tech and mining equipment are just some of the products Canada manufactures.

Main Ideas

• Canada is highly industrialized and urbanized, with one of the world’s most developed economies.
• Canadians are a diverse people.

Places & Terms

First Nations
métis
reserve

Connect to the Issues
DIVERSE SOCIETIES
Canada is a land of immigrants with many diverse cultures.

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Graphs

1. ANALYZING DATA Which sector showed the greatest increase in growth from 1951 to 2006? the greatest decrease in growth?

2. MAKING GENERALIZATIONS What might account for these changes in the economy?
Most of the manufacturing is done in the Canadian heartland, which reaches from Quebec City, Quebec, to Windsor, Ontario.

**SERVICE INDUSTRIES DRIVE THE ECONOMY** Canada’s service industries are the country’s real economic powerhouse. In fact, more than 70 percent of the GDP comes from service industries. Those industries employ more Canadians than all other industries combined. Service industries include finance, utilities, trade, transportation, tourism, communications, insurance, and real estate. Canada’s spectacular natural beauty has made tourism one of the fastest growing of the service industries. At the beginning of the 21st century, the Canadian tourism industry employed a higher percentage of workers—about 4 percent—than those who were engaged in agriculture.

Historically, Canada’s economy has always relied on trade. The fur trade between Canada’s native peoples and European fishermen was just the start of what would become a key Canadian industry. The United States is Canada’s chief trading partner. This is largely because the two nations share the longest open border in the world and the same language—English. In 1994, Canada and the United States, along with Mexico, signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This pact made trade between them even easier than before. At the turn of the 21st century, about 78 percent of Canada’s exports went to the United States, and about 52 percent of Canada’s imports came from its neighbor to the south.
A Land of Many Cultures

From its earliest settlement, Canada has been a land of diverse cultures. The first settlers were the Inuit and the First Nations peoples who came after the last Ice Age. Many thousands of years later, the English and French arrived, bringing their languages and traditions with them. Interaction between the French and native peoples gave rise to another culture, the métis (may-TEES), people of mixed French and native heritage.

More recent immigrants from Europe and Asia also have made their contributions to the cultural mix. As in the United States, Canada’s cultural richness has come from all corners of the world.

LANGUAGES AND RELIGION Canada is officially a bilingual country. It has an English-speaking majority and a French-speaking minority. (Only in Quebec are French speakers in the majority.) In addition, the languages of First Nation peoples still survive, and the native languages of immigrants can be heard on many city streets.

As the English and the French settled Canada, their different cultures became a source of conflict. The English were largely Protestant, and the French were Roman Catholics. Religious and cultural conflicts between the two groups have continued over the years. Today, these two religions continue to dominate Canadian society, though Muslims, Jews, and other religious groups are represented in ever-increasing numbers. In addition, about 16 percent of Canadians report no religious affiliation.

CANADA’S POPULATION Settlement patterns in Canada have always been influenced by the country’s harsh environment and the accessibility of transportation routes. Canada’s port cities—especially Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver—and its rich farmlands make up the country’s most densely settled areas. In fact, more than 80 percent of all Canadians live on just 10 percent of the land. This region is mostly along a 100-mile-wide strip of land just north of the U.S. border.
These boys are playing ice hockey on an outdoor rink in Fergus, Ontario. Hockey is Canada’s national pastime. Children learn to play this Canadian-invented sport at an early age. Many boys dream of playing professional hockey in the National Hockey League. On any given day, young people and adults can be found playing or watching a game at neighborhood ice rinks.

If you lived in Canada, you would pass these milestones:

- You could attend a private preschool at age 3 or 4.
- You would begin elementary school at age 5 or 6 and would be required to attend until age 16.
- You would choose to get a job or attend a college or university after high school graduation at age 18.
- You could drive at age 16.
- You could vote at age 18.
- You could get married at age 18 without written consent.

Canada’s population has become increasingly urban. At the beginning of the 20th century, about one-third of the people lived in urban areas. By 2008, nearly four-fifths were city dwellers. Some Canadian population groups are clustered in certain areas. For example, about 75 percent of all French Canadians reside in Quebec. Many of Canada’s native peoples are found on the country’s 2,300 reserves, public land set aside for them by the government. The territories in the remote Arctic north are home to most of the Inuit. Large numbers of Canadians of Asian ancestry live on the West Coast.

Life in Canada Today

Most Canadians live active personal and professional lives and enjoy a relatively high standard of living. In 1998, Canada’s labor force was nearly evenly split between men and women. Men made up about 52 percent of the work force and women, about 48 percent. As the chart on page 159 shows, Canada’s service industries employ more than 75 percent of the work force. Manufacturing is a distant second, accounting for approximately 13 percent of Canadian workers. Canada’s population is well educated. The oldest university, Laval, was established in Quebec during the period of French settlement. The first English-speaking universities were founded in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the 1780s. Today, Canada boasts a 99 percent literacy rate.

SPORTS AND RECREATION Canadians value their leisure time and use it to engage in many recreational activities. Sports such as skating, ice hockey, fishing, skiing, golf, and hunting are popular. Canadians also enjoy their professional sports teams. Canada has its own football...
league and its professional ice hockey, baseball, and basketball teams compete in U.S. leagues. The Canadian love of sport goes back to its native peoples, who developed the game we know as lacrosse, and to its early European settlers, who developed ice hockey. Two annual events that are favorites nationwide are the Quebec Winter Carnival, held in Quebec City, and the Calgary Stampede, pictured on page 99.

**THE ARTS** Not surprisingly, Canada’s long history and cultural diversity have given the nation a rich artistic heritage. The earliest Canadian literature was born in the oral traditions of the First Nations peoples. Later, the writings of settlers, missionaries, and explorers lent French and English influences to the literature.

The early visual arts included the realistic carvings of the Inuit and the elaborately decorated totem poles of the First Nations peoples of the West Coast. The artistry of the Inuit carvings has been evident since prehistoric times. Inuit carvers used ivory, whalebone, and soapstone to carve figurines of animals and people in scenes from everyday life. A uniquely Canadian style of painting developed among a group of Toronto-based artists called the Group of Seven early in the 20th century. The performing arts—music, dance, and theater—enjoyed spectacular growth during the last half of the century. The Stratford Festival in Ontario, honoring William Shakespeare, is known worldwide.

In this section, you read about life in Canada today. In the next section, you will learn more about Canada’s subregions.
Transportation

As you have read, one of the five themes of geography is movement—how people move themselves and their goods across the Earth’s surface. The earliest humans moved by foot from place to place. Later, they used animals, both to ride and as pack animals. Needing to cross streams, ancient people built primitive boats from available materials, such as wood and reeds. Over the centuries, advances in technology from wheeled vehicles to the steam engine to the construction of lighter-than-air craft has enabled people in different regions to meet the challenges posed by their environments.

In North African countries like Algeria, camels are often called “ships of the desert” because they can carry freight and people across long distances. The Arabian, or one-humped, camel shown here in the Sahara Desert can cover 40 miles a day for four days carrying 400 pounds.

Flat, smooth roadways crisscrossing Vietnam make it easy for these workers to transport hundreds of fish traps from workshops to customers on the coast by bicycle.
In the northernmost reaches of Canada, roads are scarce. So, vast distances between places are more easily covered by small planes that can touch down on land or water, like this one flying into Cochrane, Ontario.

This crescent-shaped boat on Lake Titicaca in Peru is made from a reedlike plant. Native peoples of the region have made these boats for centuries.

**LAND TRANSPORTATION**
- In the United States, there is one car for every two persons; in Somalia, one for every 500.
- One of the world’s longest single rail systems, Russia’s Trans-Siberian Railway, covers a distance of 5,867 miles from Moscow to the port of Nakhodka.
- Snowmobiles have replaced dogsleds as transport in remote, cold climates of North America.
- China has more bicycles—about 540,000,000—than any other country.
- Animals, including dogs, horses, donkeys, mules, camels, and elephants, still provide transport for many people around the world.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION**
- In 2009, airlines flew more than 149 million passengers on 1.3 million international flights.

**WATER TRANSPORTATION**
- Some modern cruise ships and ocean liners are more than 900 feet long and can carry upwards of 2,000 passengers on a voyage.

**RESEARCHING TRANSPORTATION**
Working with a partner, use the Internet to research transportation around the world. Then prepare a report that shows the design of a Web page highlighting some aspect of world transportation.
- Create text to present the information you have found.
- Select suitable images.
- Locate appropriate links for visitors to your Web site.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE The Grand Banks, a shallow section of the North Atlantic off the coast of Newfoundland, make up one of the earth’s richest fishing grounds. In fact, it was the abundance of fish—including cod, haddock, herring, and mackerel—that first attracted Europeans to the region centuries ago. Today, thousands of hardy Canadians make their living fishing in these coastal waters. One, Alex Saunders of Labrador, remarked that “fishing is a disease. Once you start, you keep at it, do whatever’s necessary. I jeopardize my home, all my possessions just to keep this boat going and keep fishing.” The Grand Banks are part of the Atlantic Provinces, one of Canada’s four subregions.

The Atlantic Provinces

Canada is divided into ten provinces and three territories. Each has a unique population, economy, and resources. Eastern Canada is the location of the four Atlantic Provinces—Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland.

HARSH LANDS AND SMALL POPULATIONS As you can see on the chart below, the Atlantic Provinces are home to just 8 percent of Canada’s population. Of these people, most live in coastal cities, such as Halifax, Nova Scotia, and St. John, New Brunswick. The small population is due largely to the provinces’ rugged terrain and severe weather.

Comparing the Subregions of Canada

**Main Ideas**
- Canada is divided into four subregions—the Atlantic, Core, and Prairie Provinces, and the Pacific Province and the Territories.
- Each subregion possesses unique natural resources, landforms, economic activities, and cultural life.

**Places & Terms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subregions</th>
<th>Atlantic Provinces</th>
<th>Prairie Provinces</th>
<th>Quebec</th>
<th>British Columbia</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Nunavut</th>
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<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>62%</td>
<td></td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production*</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Total farm receipts, mineral output, and manufacturing

SOURCE: Statistics Canada 1998

**Connect to the Issues**

**URBAN SPRAWL** Much of Canada’s population is in urban areas within 100 miles of the U.S.-Canadian border.

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Graphs**

1. **ANALYZING DATA** Which subregion has the highest production?
2. **MAKING COMPARISONS** How do the Pacific Province and the Territories compare overall to the other three subregions?
For example, about 85 percent of the land in Nova Scotia cannot be farmed because of rocky hills and poor soil. In New Brunswick, forests cover 90 percent of the land. Newfoundland—made up of the island of Newfoundland, Labrador, and nearby islands—is visited by fierce storms that roar up the Atlantic seaboard.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES** Despite the sometimes harsh conditions, the people of the Atlantic Provinces have learned to use what the land and the sea offer them. For example, New Brunswick’s dense forests provide the province with its largest industry—logging. This industry produces lumber, wood pulp, and paper products. The Gulf of St. Lawrence and coastal waters supply plentiful stocks of seafood for export. Also, there is mining for zinc, copper, lead, and silver.

Logging and fishing are mainstays of the economy of Nova Scotia, too. This province boasts one of the largest fish-processing plants in North America. In addition, shipbuilding and trade through the port of Halifax provide more employment and revenue. Until the 20th century, fishing was the principal industry in Newfoundland. Today, the province also has healthy mining and logging industries. Moreover, its hydroelectric-power resources are part of a system supplying power to Quebec and parts of the northeastern United States.

**The Core Provinces—Quebec and Ontario**

In 1608, Samuel de Champlain, a French explorer, built a fort, the first European structure in what is now Canada, at present-day Quebec City. Four centuries later, the lands he colonized are part of the country’s most dynamic region—**Quebec** and **Ontario**, Canada’s Core Provinces.

**THE HEARTLAND OF CANADA** Quebec and Ontario are often referred to as Canada’s heartland, and with good reason. Three out of five Canadians live there. Ontario is the largest province in terms of population, Quebec in land area. Most of the settlement in these inland provinces is found along the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Each province is the core of one of Canada’s two major cultures. A large number of Canada’s English-speaking majority live in Ontario. For most French-speaking Canadians, Quebec is home.

**CANADA’S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CENTER** Ontario and Quebec are at the center of Canada’s political and economic life. Ottawa is the capital of the federal government. It is located in southeastern Ontario, right next to the border of Quebec province. Quebec has its own political importance as the heart of French Canadian life.

Ontario and Quebec also power Canada’s economy. Together, they account for more than 35 percent of Canadian agricultural production, 41 percent of its mineral output, and 70 percent of its manufacturing. As
the map on page 160 shows, they supply a wide variety of products. Toronto, located on the shores of Lake Ontario, is not only the country’s most populous city but also its banking and financial hub. Montreal, located on the St. Lawrence River, is Canada’s second largest city. It is the center of economic and political activity in Quebec province.

**The Prairie Provinces**

To the west of the hustle and bustle of Ontario and Quebec lie the Prairie Provinces—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

**CANADA’S BREADBASKET** Canada’s Prairie Provinces are part of the Great Plains of North America. These three provinces are the center of the nation’s agricultural yield. They account for 50 percent of Canada’s agricultural production. The land of the Prairie Provinces, however, consists of more than just fertile soil. A significant amount of Canada’s mineral output comes from this region of the country. Alberta itself has the nation’s largest known deposits of coal and oil and produces 76 percent of Canada’s natural gas.

**A CULTURAL MIX** The people of the Prairie Provinces are a diverse group. Manitoba has large numbers of Scots-Irish, Germans, Scandinavians, Ukrainians, and Poles. The town of St. Boniface boasts the largest French-Canadian population outside Quebec. The population of Saskatchewan also includes immigrants from South and East Asia and is home to the métis. Alberta is perhaps the most diverse of all. In addition to European immigrants, this province also has significant Indian, Japanese, Lebanese, and Vietnamese populations.

**The Pacific Province and the Territories**

The province of British Columbia along with the three territories—Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut—make up Canada’s western and northern lands.
**BRITISH COLUMBIA** Canada’s westernmost province is **British Columbia**. Nearly all of it lies within the Rocky Mountain range. As a result, three-fourths of the province is 3,000 feet or more above sea level. More than half of the land is densely forested, and nearly one-third is frozen tundra, snowfields, and glaciers. Most of the population is found in the southwest. This is the location of British Columbia’s two largest cities, Victoria and Vancouver. The economy is built on logging, mining, and hydroelectric-power production. Vancouver is Canada’s largest port and has a prosperous shipping trade.

**THE TERRITORIES** Canada’s three territories make up 41 percent of the country’s land mass. Yet, they are too sparsely populated to be provinces. The Yukon Territory, with a population around 35,000, lies north of British Columbia and is largely an unspoiled wilderness. Directly east is the Northwest Territories, an area that extends into the Arctic. It has a population of nearly 43,000 people.

**Nunavut** was carved out of the eastern half of the Northwest Territories in 1999. It is home to many of Canada’s Inuit. (See “Geography Today” on this page.) Even though the land is rugged and climatic conditions are severe, economic activities take place in the territories. Mining, fishing, and some logging are the principal industries, and these widely scattered activities explain why the settlements are so dispersed.

In this chapter and the last, you read about the human geography of the United States and Canada. In the next chapter, you will learn about some of the issues that are facing those countries today.
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.

1. New France
2. Dominion of Canada
3. province
4. prime minister
5. First Nations
6. Atlantic Provinces
7. Quebec
8. Ontario
9. Prairie Provinces
10. British Columbia

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.

11. Who were the original settlers of Canada?
12. Where was New France located?
13. How is Canada divided politically?
14. What is the title of the leader of Canada?
15. Which provinces made up the original part of the Dominion of Canada?
16. Which provinces make up Canada’s core?
17. Which provinces are known as Canada’s “breadbasket”?
18. Which province has the majority of Canada’s French speakers?
19. Which is Canada’s westernmost province?
20. Which provinces are the smallest and least populated?

Main Ideas

History and Government of Canada (pp. 155-158)

1. Why were the French and the British interested in colonizing the area of North America that became the United States and Canada?
2. How did the French and Indian War change the history of Canada?
3. In what ways is the expansion and development of Canada similar to that of the United States?
4. How is Canada’s government different from that of the United States?

Economy and Culture of Canada (pp. 159-165)

5. What is Canada’s largest export product?
6. Which two languages and religions dominate Canadian culture?
7. Where do most Canadians live?

Subregions of Canada (pp. 166-169)

8. In which provinces would you expect to find a large fishing industry?
9. Which provinces power Canada’s economy?
10. Why are the Prairie Provinces so important to the Canadian economy?
**Critical Thinking**

1. **Using Your Notes**
   Use your completed chart to answer these questions.
   - Which of the subregions has the least developed resources and why?
   - What types of service industry drive the Canadian economy?

2. **Geographic Themes**
   - **REGION** How has climate affected the distribution of population in Canada?
   - **PLACE** How are the Pacific Province and the Territories different from the rest of the subregions?

**Geographic Skills: Interpreting Maps**

**Major Languages of Canada**
Use the map to answer the questions.

1. **LOCATION** What is the relative location of the French speakers?
2. **MOVEMENT** Which native language is spoken over the widest area?
3. **REGION** What is the predominant language spoken in most areas near the U.S. border?

**GeoActivity**
Choose one of the Native American languages shown on the map. Do some research to find out about the people who speak that language. Write a brief report of your findings and include a sketch map of the location of that language.

**Creating an Oral Presentation**
Put together the pictures you have copied and the information about the art for an oral presentation. Be sure to show how geography influenced the art of Canada.
New York City firefighters raise the American flag amid the rubble of the World Trade Center after the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

Essential Question
How can the people of the United States and Canada solve the problems that face them?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will learn about challenges facing the United States and Canada today.

SECTION 1
The Fight Against Terrorism

SECTION 2
Urban Sprawl

CASE STUDY
Diverse Societies Face Change

For more on the issues in the United States and Canada...

hmhsocialstudies.com
CURRENT EVENTS

hmhsocialstudies.com
TAKING NOTES
Use the online graphic organizer to structure your notes about some causes and effects of terrorism, urban sprawl, and diverse societies.
The Fight Against Terrorism

How can a country protect itself from terrorism?

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE For Karl Co, a 15-year-old sophomore at Stuyvesant High School in New York City, September 11, 2001, began as “such a normal day.” From his classroom, Karl had a clear view of the World Trade Center, just four blocks away. On a normal day, about 50,000 people worked in and 70,000 visited the twin towers. When the north tower burst into flames and smoke, Karl first thought, “It’s a bomb. I’m going to die.” Then the south tower erupted, and, shortly after, both collapsed. The students soon learned terrorists had crashed airliners into the towers, and the school was evacuated.

The September 11 Attacks

The students at Stuyvesant High had witnessed an act of terrorism. Terrorism is the unlawful use of, or threatened use of, force or violence against individuals or property for the purpose of intimidating or causing fear for political or social ends. Like many countries, the United States had been subjected to terrorism, both at home and abroad. But the September 11, 2001, attacks were the most destructive acts of terrorism ever committed on American soil.

On that morning, 19 Arab terrorists hijacked four airliners. They crashed two planes into the World Trade Center towers and one into the Pentagon, the U.S. military headquarters near Washington, D.C. The fourth plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania without striking its intended target, after some passengers overwhelmed the hijackers.

THE DESTRUCTION The hijacked planes were loaded with fuel. They became destructive missiles as they crashed into their targets. Thousands of workers escaped before the damaged skyscrapers collapsed. Fire and raining debris caused nearby buildings to collapse as well. At the Pentagon, the plane tore a 75-foot hole in the building’s west side.

About 3,000 people died in the attacks. The dead included 265 plane passengers and 343 New York City firefighters who had entered the towers to rescue those trapped inside. Nine buildings in the city’s financial district were completely destroyed or partly collapsed, and six others suffered major damage. The disaster area covered 16 acres.

THE TERRORISTS Immediately after the attacks, investigators worked to identify both the hijackers and those who directed the attacks. The evidence pointed to a global network, or worldwide interconnected group, of extremist Islamic terrorists led by Osama bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian millionaire. The group, known as al-Qaeda, was formed to fight the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. Al-Qaeda later began to oppose

Main Ideas

- Terrorism threatens the safety and security of society.
- The United States launched a war against international terrorism after being attacked on September 11, 2001.

Places & Terms

terrorism
global network
cohalition
biological weapon

BACKGROUND

Osama bin Laden offered to help the Saudi Arabian government when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 and threatened Saudi Arabia. He was angered when the Saudis turned to the United States for military help instead.
American influence in Muslim lands. It started to target Americans and U.S. allies after the Persian Gulf War in 1991. Since its founding, al-Qaeda has carried out numerous terrorist attacks.

The September 11 attacks shocked and distressed not only Americans but people around the world. President George W. Bush called on other nations to join the United States in a war on terrorism.

**MILITARY ACTION** The United States organized a coalition, or an alliance, to prevent future terrorist attacks. The coalition supported military action in Afghanistan, where al Qaeda was based. The United States began bombing targets in Afghanistan in October 2001. By March 2002, Afghanistan’s extremist Taliban regime had been removed from power and the al Qaeda network weakened. Yet, Taliban guerrillas continued to stage attacks throughout the country.

In March 2003, the United States launched military action against Iraq. President Bush claimed that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein posed a threat to national security. Hussein was overthrown, tried, and executed, but rebel attacks and religious conflicts still disrupted the country.

In 2009, President Barack Obama began to increase the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan to secure the defeat of al Qaeda forces in the region. Corruption within the Afghan government is a lingering problem, though, and violence continues. President Obama set a goal that U.S. troops would begin leaving Afghanistan by July 2011 and that all U.S. troops be removed from Iraq by the end of 2011.
ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS CONFLICT Terrorist attacks persist in several other countries. For example, in Mumbai, India, in November 2008, terrorist bombing and shooting attacks killed nearly 200 people. The attackers were linked to a Pakistani Muslim extremist group that reportedly aims to create an Islamic state in South Asia.

On March 29, 2010, terrorists in Russia attacked the Moscow subway system. A Chechen separatist leader later claimed responsibility for ordering the suicide bombings that killed 39 people and wounded 60 others. Russia and Chechnya, a Russian republic, have a long history of conflict.

Facing Terrorist Threats

Terrorism is a critical threat to national and global security. It is not limited to outside threats. In the past few decades both domestic and international terrorist acts have increased in violence.

TERRORIST WEAPONS AND OPERATIONS Terrorists use other weapons besides bombs and fuel-laden planes, including biological and chemical weapons. Biological weapons refer to bacteria and viruses that can be used to harm or kill people, animals, or plants. The United States went on an anthrax alert after traces of the anthrax bacteria were found in letters sent through the mail after the September 2001 attacks.

RECENT THREATS On December 25, 2009, a Nigerian man was arrested for trying to blow up a plane from Amsterdam bound for Detroit, Michigan. The United States and other countries have further stepped up airport security measures in response to this failed terrorist attack.

Some domestic groups also pose threats to national security. An example is the Hutaree, a group that planned to kill law enforcement officers. Violent attacks by some U.S. militia or “patriot” groups that oppose the U.S. government increased in 2009 and 2010. These radical groups sometimes resort to violence to voice their opposition.
Urban Sprawl

How can urban sprawl be controlled?

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE Richard Baron is a real estate developer who tried to address the related problems of urban sprawl and inadequate low-income housing. In 1996, he began building Murphy Park, an affordable and attractive housing complex in mid-town St. Louis, Missouri. The development has more than 400 units and contains both apartments and townhouses. It has plenty of green space, art and day-care centers, and an elementary school. More than half of Murphy Park’s units are reserved for people with low income. Baron’s solution—to bring the attractive features of suburban living to the city—is one of many that are being applied to the problem of urban sprawl.

Growth Without a Plan

Those Americans and Canadians who can afford it often choose to work in a city but live in its suburbs. They are usually attracted by new, upscale housing, better public services, and open space. As suburbs become more numerous, metropolitan areas become larger and more difficult to manage. (See chart to the right.)

URBAN SPRAWL Poorly planned development that spreads a city’s population over a wider and wider geographical area is called urban sprawl. As outlying areas become more populated, the land between them and the city fills in as well. In the United States and Canada, urban sprawl is becoming a matter of increasing concern. From 1970 to 2000, people who worked in U.S. cities moved farther and farther from urban centers. The population density of cities in the United States decreased by more than 20 percent as people in cities moved to suburbs and outlying areas. About 30,000 square miles of rural lands were gobbled up by housing developments. For example, the population of the city of Chicago decreased during this period from 3.4 million people to 2.8 million. But the Chicago metropolitan area grew from about 7.0 million persons to 7.3 million.

Canada is less populated than the United States but faces similar problems. In the 1990s, more than 75 percent of all Canadians lived in urban areas.

SkillBuilder: Interpreting Graphs

1. **ANALYZING DATA** During what time period did the largest increase in metropolitan growth occur?
2. **MAKING GENERALIZATIONS** What has happened to metropolitan growth since 1980?
CAUSES OF URBAN SPRAWL Sprawl occurs in metropolitan areas that allow unrestricted growth or that have no plans to contain it. Other factors include the widespread use of automobiles and the building of expressways. Autos and relatively cheap gasoline enable Americans to drive many miles to and from their jobs. Despite clogged highways and long commutes, Americans prefer their cars to mass transit. Expressways provide the means for continued reliance on the automobile.

Yet, despite sprawl, there are many reasons why Americans have moved to suburbs. Some people want open spaces or better schools and housing. Still others want to try to recapture the sense of community they experienced while growing up. They want their children to know their neighbors and have a backyard in which to play. Only recently have urban planners started to design big-city neighborhoods to give a sense of community, hoping to slow the flight to the suburbs.

Urban Sprawl’s Negative Impact

Urban sprawl has a negative impact on the quality of life in many ways. As suburbs grow, more commuter traffic strains the infrastructure. Infrastructure consists of the basic facilities, services, and machinery needed for a community to function. For example, roads and bridges need maintenance. More cars on the road for more time adds to air pollution, too. Also, sources of water, such as rivers or underground aquifers (layers of water-holding rock or soil), become depleted.

Urban sprawl also has other costs. The cost of providing streets, utilities, and other public facilities to suburban communities is often at least 25 per cent higher than for high-density residences in a city. Urban sprawl also separates classes of people. When those in upper-income brackets choose to live in outlying areas, lower-income residents often become isolated in inner-city areas.
Solutions to Sprawl

More and more cities are developing plans for smart growth, which is the efficient use and conservation of land and other resources. Most often this involves encouraging development close to or inside the limits of existing cities. Good public transportation systems help to make smart growth possible by cutting down on auto traffic.

PORTLAND’S GROWTH BOUNDARY In 1979, the city of Portland, Oregon, drew a line around itself to create an urban growth boundary. Building was allowed inside the boundary. The surrounding green space was off limits to developers. This decision caused controversy but has paid off. Portland has contained urban sprawl.

VANCOUVER’S PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES The population of metropolitan Vancouver, British Columbia, is two-and-a-half times what it was in 1961. The growth of outlying suburbs often took place at the expense of forests, farms, and flood plains. In 1995, the Greater Vancouver Regional Board adopted a plan to manage growth. It involved turning suburbs into sustainable communities, that is, communities where residents could live and work. The same solution was applied to Vancouver’s downtown area, where about 40 percent of its residents now walk to work. This has cut down on commuting.

GRASSROOTS OPPOSITION In some metropolitan areas, citizens have banded together to offer their own solutions to urban sprawl. For example, citizens in Durham, North Carolina, opposed additional commercial development along a congested area of a nearby interstate highway. They formed CAUSE—Citizens Against Urban Sprawl Everywhere. The organization worked against sprawl through education and political activism.

In this section, you read about the challenge of urban sprawl. In the Case Study that follows, you will learn about challenges increasingly diverse societies bring to the United States and Canada.

Places & Terms
Identify and explain the following places and terms.
• urban sprawl
• infrastructure
• smart growth
• sustainable community

Taking Notes
HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION Review the notes you took for this section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue 2: Urban Sprawl</th>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What are some of the causes of urban sprawl?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What are some of the effects of urban sprawl?</td>
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Main Ideas
a. What happens when metropolitan areas spread farther and farther out?
b. What are some of the ways cities are dealing with urban sprawl?
c. What are some of the ways citizens are dealing with urban sprawl?

Geographic Thinking
Making Comparisons
How were the urban growth actions of Portland and Vancouver similar?

GeocActivity
EXPLORING LOCAL GEOGRAPHY Pair with another student and choose a metropolitan area in the United States or Canada to research. Then prepare a report on the condition of urban sprawl in that area and present your report to the class. Discuss the effects of urban sprawl and what steps, if any, are being taken to control the sprawl.
Urban Growth in Baltimore and Washington

Like most early settlements, Baltimore and Washington were founded near essential geographic features. What were they?

During which time period did the greatest expansion take place for the Washington metropolitan area?

At what physical location do the two metropolitan areas seem to have merged?
As you read earlier in this unit, the first immigrants to North America are believed to have come from Asia. They are thought to have crossed a land bridge that existed in what is now the Bering Strait thousands of years ago. Since that time, millions of people from countries all over the world have immigrated to the United States and Canada. They have come in search of a new life in a new homeland. The challenge for citizens and governments of both the United States and Canada is to make sure that these diverse peoples continue to remain unified.

“Mosaic” or “Melting Pot”

After centuries of immigration, the United States and Canada are culturally diverse. They contain large populations of the world’s cultures. Ethnic neighborhoods with populations of Asians, Eastern Europeans, and Latin Americans are found in most large cities of both countries. In New York City alone, immigrant schoolchildren speak more than 100 different languages. The arrival of so many peoples over the years left the United States and Canada with the difficult task of forming a unified society. Each country approached the task of unifying its many cultures differently.

Canada’s Cultural “Mosaic” Canada’s earliest settlers were its native peoples. Its first European settlers came, as you have learned, from two distinct cultural groups—French and English. All of these groups kept their separate identities as the nation developed. Also, Canada encouraged immigration from all over the world. It wanted to fill its vast lands and expand its workforce and its domestic markets. These immigrants also were encouraged to retain their cultural heritage.

As a result, many Canadians have strong ethnic ties. In fact, as you read in Chapter 7, the ethnic identity of French-speaking citizens in Quebec has been so strong that at times they have even considered separating themselves from the Canadian confederation.

The Canadian government has officially recognized the multicultural nature of Canada. In 1988, it enacted the Canadian Multiculturalism Act to protect and promote diversity. Many Canadians believe that this policy ensures equality for people of all origins and enriches their nation. But not all agree. Some Canadians feel that diversity has promoted difference at the expense of “Canadianness.”
**AMERICA’S “MELTING POT”**
For many years, people in the United States believed that assimilation was the key. It was thought to be the best way to build one nation from many different peoples. Assimilation occurs when people from a minority culture assume the language, customs, and lifestyles of people from the dominant culture. Native Americans were an example. In the late 19th century, they were encouraged and even forced to learn English, adopt Western dress, and become Christians to assimilate into the dominant white culture.

People expected immigrants to assimilate, too. Those who did not could face prejudice because of their cultural differences. Immigrants soon learned that life would be easier if they adopted the ways of their new country—if they underwent “Americanization.” Most of these immigrants had come from Europe. Many wanted to assimilate. They wanted to adopt a common language and culture—to become Americans.

**New Immigrants Challenge Old Ways**
The immigrants who came to the United States in the late 20th century brought different attitudes. They came mainly from Latin America and Asia. They were culturally or racially unlike earlier immigrant groups, who had come mainly from Europe. These later immigrants were less willing to give up their traditions and beliefs in order to assimilate.

**DIVIDED OPINION**
Some Americans felt that the new immigrants did not understand what made the United States unique. According to this point of view, America’s strength has come from blending its diverse cultures to create something new—an American. They also believed that encouraging different languages and customs would promote separation, not unity. In response, they wanted immigration limited and English made the official language.

Other Americans, including many educators, held different views. They thought that American society would benefit by stressing multiculturalism, as the Canadians do.

As you can see, bringing many cultures together is a continuing challenge both in the United States and in Canada. So, how can cultural diversity be preserved and national unity forged? The Case Study Project and primary sources that follow will help you explore this question.

**U.S. Population by Race and Ethnicity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race and Ethnicity</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2050*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic (may be of any race)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* projected

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Graphs**

1. **ANALYZING DATA** What groups made up about the same proportion of the population in 2000?
2. **MAKING GENERALIZATIONS** What changes are expected to take place in the composition of the U.S. population during 2000–2050?
Talk Show Discussion

Suggested Steps

1. With a group totaling five students, prepare a talk show discussion on the topic, “Can Many Cultures Form a Unified Nation?” One member should act as the discussion leader. Each of the other members should select one of the following positions: for assimilation or against assimilation.

2. Think about the following questions as you prepare for your role. “Must a unified nation have a single culture?” “What are the advantages and disadvantages of assimilation, or the advantages and disadvantages of multiculturalism, in unifying a nation?”

3. Use online and print resources to research your topic.

4. Write an opening statement of your position. Prepare visuals, such as charts or graphs, if you need them to support your position.

5. Present your position as a part of the talk show. Discuss with the leader and other group members the focus question given above.

Materials and Supplies
- posterboard
- colored markers
- reference books, newspapers, and magazines
- Internet access

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**PRIMARY SOURCE A**

**Newspaper Article** In 1998, the Washington Post published a series of articles titled The Myth of the Melting Pot. Staff writer William Booth offered the following comments about immigration and cultural identity in his piece, “One Nation, Indivisible: Is It History?”

The immigrants of today come not from Europe but overwhelmingly from the still developing world of Asia and Latin America. They are driving a demographic shift so rapid that within the lifetimes of today’s teenagers, no one ethnic group—including whites of European descent—will comprise a majority of the nation’s population.

Many historians argue that there was a greater consensus in the past on what it meant to be an American, a yearning for a common language and culture, and a desire—encouraged, if not coerced [forced] by members of the dominant white Protestant culture—to assimilate. Today, they say, there is more emphasis on preserving one’s ethnic identity, of finding ways to highlight and defend one’s cultural roots.

**PRIMARY SOURCE B**

**Social Commentary** Michelle Young is a writer and editor. Much of her work has focused on issues of multiculturalism. In the following excerpt from a 1996 article in the online publication Career Magazine, Young contrasts assimilation with multiculturalism.

The melting pot concept spoke of all Americans being part of the enormous “cultural stew” we call America. Many people saw the United States of America as a place where historical hurts from their homelands could be erased.

But America was not the nation they’d been promised, where the streets were paved with gold. Many newcomers knew that from experience because “they” were doing the paving! As a result, people began to realize that the concept of the melting pot just wasn’t realistic.

In contrast to the melting pot, multiculturalism encourages us to take pride in our own roots first, in our ingredients we’ve added to what has become America’s multicultural stew. The nation’s promise lies in that multicultural stew, and by appreciating our own cultures, we develop an eagerness to learn about others’ origins.
Political Commentary  Patrick Buchanan is a politician who was the presidential candidate of the Reform Party in 2000. Buchanan was a strong supporter of immigration reform and assimilation, as is evident in these words posted on his Web site on August 6, 2000.

If America is to survive as “one nation,” we must take an immigration “time out” to mend the melting pot. As President, I will: Halt illegal immigration by securing our borders. Stand with the three-in-four Americans who agree that mass legal immigration must be reduced by restoring the 20th century average of 250,000 to 300,000 immigrants per year. Support a national campaign of assimilation to teach newly adopted Americans our culture, history, traditions, and English language.

Government Law  The Canadian Multiculturalism Act was passed by the Canadian parliament in 1988. Its purpose was to make the preservation and enhancement of multiculturalism in Canada the law of the land.

“...It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Government of Canada to . . . (b) recognize and promote the understanding that multiculturalism is a fundamental characteristic of the Canadian heritage and identity and that it provides an invaluable resource in the shaping of Canada’s future; . . . (c) promote the full and equitable participation of individuals and communities of all origins in the continuing evolution and shaping of all aspects of Canadian society and assist them in the elimination of any barrier to that participation; . . . (f) encourage and assist the social, cultural, economic, and political institutions of Canada to be both respectful and inclusive of Canada’s multicultural character; . . . (g) promote the understanding and creativity that arise from the interaction between individuals and communities of different origins.”

Government Document  The 2000 census form contained detailed racial and ethnic classifications, showing the diverse peoples that make up the population of the United States.

Person

What is this person’s name? Mark one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

- White
- Black, African Am., or Negro
- American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe
- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian – Print race
- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander – Print race
- Some other race – Print race
- Other race

What is this person’s sex? Mark ONE box.

- Male
- Female

Have I . . .

✓ fully researched my topic?
✓ taken into account both sides of an issue?
✓ created informative visuals that make my presentation clear and interesting?
✓ practiced the delivery of my presentation?
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.
1. terrorism
2. global network
3. coalition
4. biological weapon
5. urban sprawl
6. infrastructure
7. smart growth
8. sustainable community

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.
9. What is the objective of terrorism?
10. What are the characteristics of a global network?
11. What is the name for an alliance of nations?
12. Which of the terms above might be used to refer to anthrax?
13. How does urban sprawl contribute to air pollution?
14. What are some of the elements that make up infrastructure?
15. Which term involves encouraging development close to or inside city limits?
16. What did Vancouver try to turn into sustainable communities?
17. What is the relationship between the terms terrorism and global network?
18. What is the objective of employing a biological weapon?
19. How does urban sprawl cause housing costs to rise?
20. What system is an important component of smart growth?

Main Ideas

The Fight Against Terrorism (pp. 173–175)
1. What are some of the actions governments can take when faced with terrorism?
2. What are some of the weapons used by terrorists to further their objectives?
3. In what ways have terrorist acts changed over the past few decades?

Urban Sprawl (pp. 176–179)
4. What are some of the causes of urban sprawl?
5. What are some of the negative effects of urban sprawl?
6. How are governments and concerned citizens trying to find solutions to urban sprawl?

Case Study: Diverse Societies Face Change (pp. 180–183)
7. Why have the United States and Canada become diverse societies?
8. How have Americans reacted to diversity?
9. How have Canadians reacted to diversity?
10. What are some ways suggested for Americans to meet the challenges of the new immigrants?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Terrorism</td>
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<tr>
<td>2: Urban Sprawl</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

a. How might a negative effect of urban sprawl be halted?
b. What are some of the positive effects of diverse societies?

2. Geographic Themes
a. REGION What are the aims of recent U.S. military action in Afghanistan?
b. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION How has the spread of urban sprawl affected the environment?

3. Identifying Themes
If you were a government official, how would you promote smart growth? Which of the five themes are reflected in your answer? Explain.

4. Determining Cause and Effect
What actions has the United States taken to prevent terrorism?

5. Making Comparisons
How do the Canadian and American approaches to a diverse society differ?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Graphs

Region of Last Residence of Legal Immigrants to the United States, 1901–1998
Use the graph to answer the following questions.

1. ANALYZING DATA What was the percentage of immigrants from Europe during 1901–1910? during 1991–1998?
2. MAKING COMPARISONS Which two regions supplied the largest percentage of immigrants to the United States during the last century?
3. DRAWING CONCLUSIONS What significant change took place in the pattern of immigration during the 20th century?

Do research to create a chart showing the total number of immigrants from each region during the 20th century. Display the figures for each region on an outline map of the world.

Writing About Geography
Write a report on your findings. Combine with a chart listing the regions and the percentages.

For Additional Test Practice
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