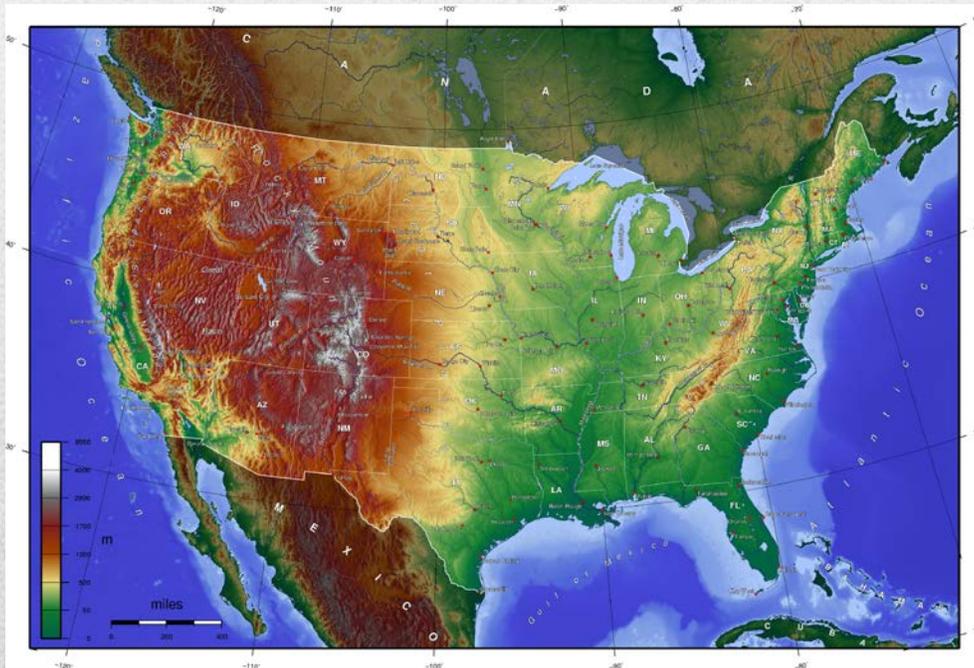


# Fourth Grade Social Studies



## Unit 2: The United States in Spatial Terms

Student Name:

---

# Big Picture Graphic

Overarching Question:

**How does the geography of the United States affect the way people live?**

Previous Unit:

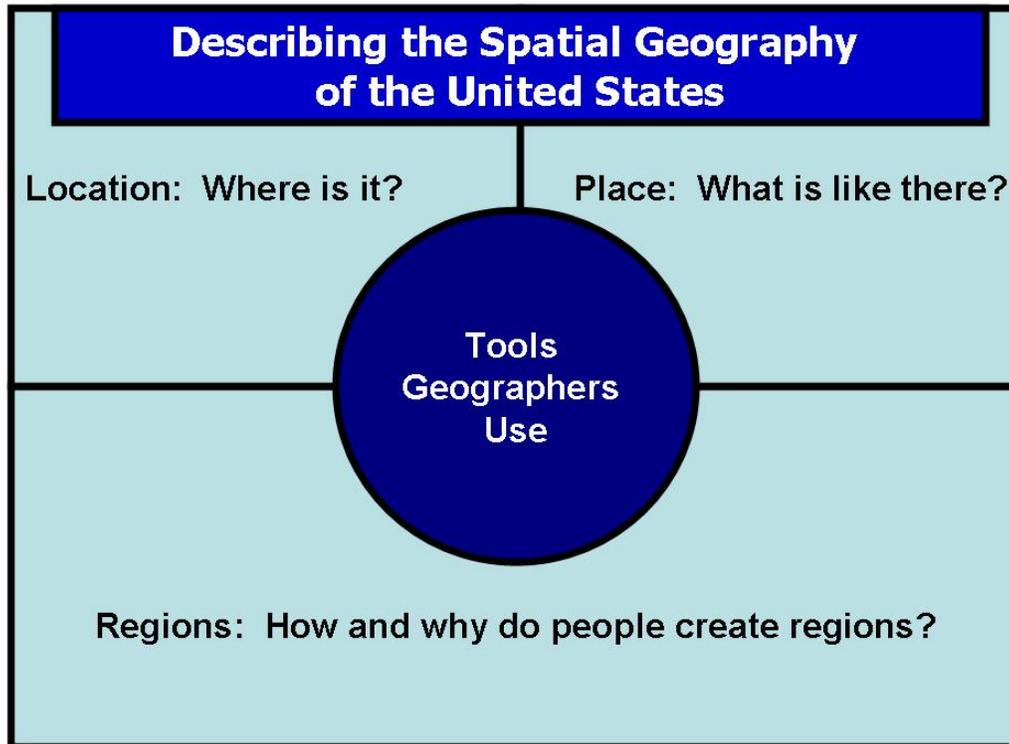
**Foundations in Social Studies**

This Unit:

**The United States in Spatial Terms**

Next Unit:

**Human Geography in the United States**



Questions To Focus Assessment and Instruction:

1. What questions would geographers ask in examining the United States?
2. What tools and technologies would geographers use to answer geographic questions?
3. How might the United States be described using the concepts of location, place, and regions?

Types of Thinking

Classifying/Grouping  
 Compare and Contrast  
 Evidentiary Argument  
 Research

# Questions for Students

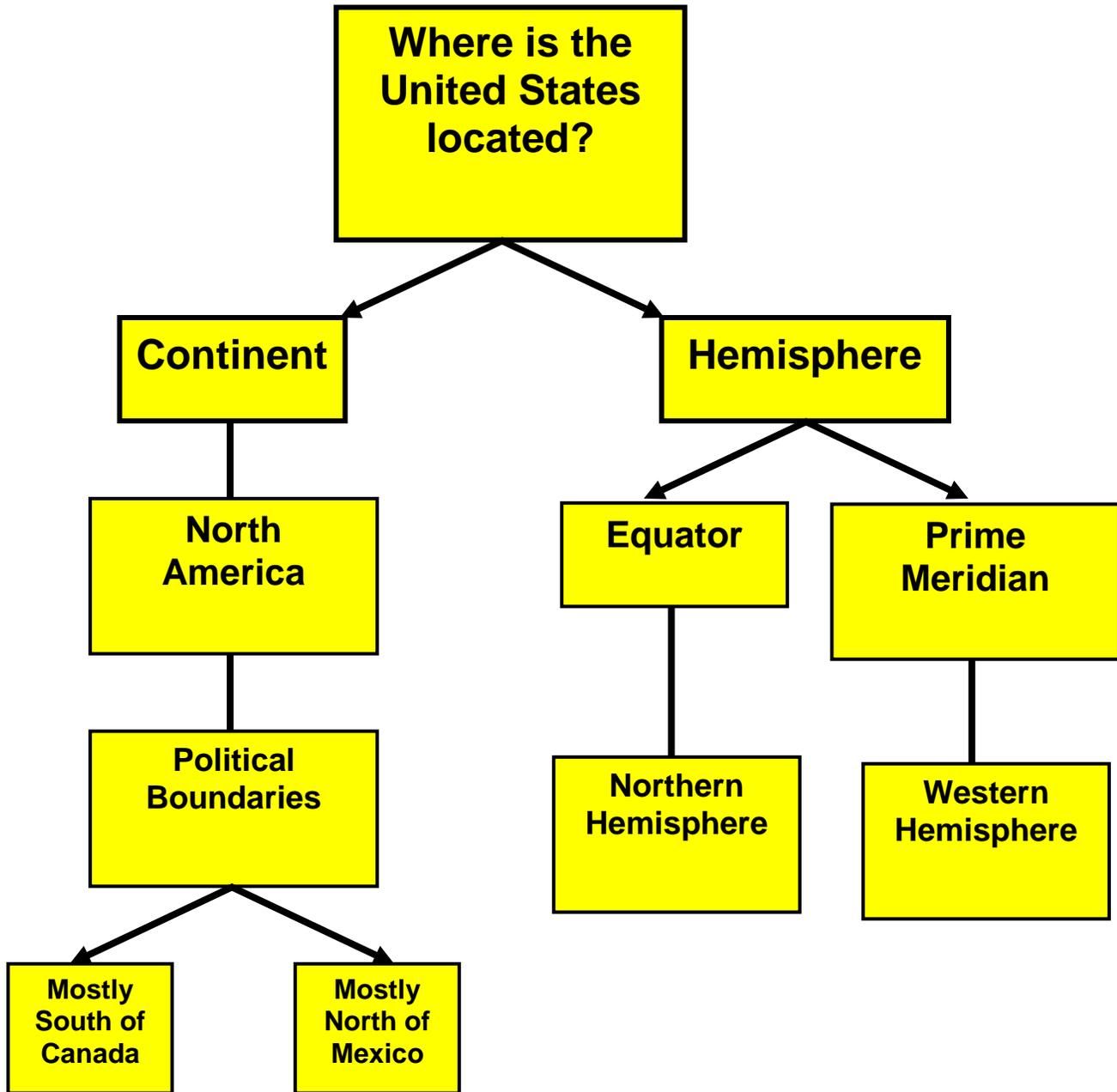
In this unit, we are going to be learning about the United States in spatial terms. Think about the focus questions:

1. What questions would geographers ask in examining the United States?
2. What tools and technologies would geographers use to answer geographic questions?
3. How might the United States be described using the concepts of location, place, and regions?

Use the chart below to write or draw about these questions.

Things I Know	Questions I Have

# Lesson 1 Graphic Organizer



## Big Ideas of Lesson 1, Unit 2

- Location is where a place is on the Earth's surface.
- Geographers investigate both the absolute and relative location of places.
- A variety of geographic representations including maps and globes can help answer the question: Where is the United States located?
- The United States is located on the continent of North America.
- The United States is located in the Western Hemisphere of the Earth. It is also located in the Northern Hemisphere of the Earth.
- The equator and the Prime Meridian are used to define the hemispheres of Earth.

## Word Cards

### 1 the five themes of geography



five big ideas that help people understand geography

**Example:** Location is one of the five themes of geography.

### 2 location



the geographic theme that answers the question "Where is it?"

**Example:** Maps can be used to find out the location of a place.

### 3 relative location

where a place is located in relation to other places

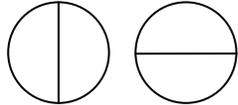
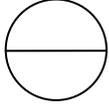
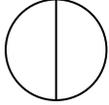
**Example:** The United States is located north of the country of Mexico.

### 4 continent

one of the seven large landmasses of the Earth



**Example:** The United States is part of the continent of North America.

<p><b>5</b> <b>political boundaries</b></p> <p>lines that define the border of a country or state</p> <p><b>Example:</b> There is a political boundary between the United States and Canada.</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>hemisphere</b></p>  <p>a region created when the Earth is divided in half</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The Earth can be divided into the Western Hemisphere and the Eastern Hemisphere. It can also be divided into the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.</p>
<p><b>7</b> <b>Equator</b></p>  <p>an imaginary line that divides the Earth into Northern and Southern hemispheres</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The United States is located north of the equator.</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Prime Meridian</b></p>  <p>an imaginary line that divides the Earth into Western and Eastern Hemispheres</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The United States is located west of the Prime Meridian.</p>
<p><b>9</b> <b>absolute location</b></p>  <p>the location of a point on the Earth by use of a grid system</p> <p><b>Example:</b> We can find the absolute location of a place by using a globe.</p>	

## Questions Geographers Ask

Theme	Questions
<p><b>Location</b></p> 	<p><b>Where is it?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is its absolute location?</li> <li>• What is its relative location?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Place</b></p> 	<p><b>What is it like there?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are its natural characteristics?</li> <li>• What are its human characteristics?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Human/Environment Interaction</b></p> 	<p><b>How do people interact with the environment?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How have people used the environment?</li> <li>• How have people adapted to the environment?</li> <li>• How have people modified or changed the environment?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Movement</b></p> 	<p><b>How is the place connected to other places?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How and why have people, goods, and ideas moved in and out of the place?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regions</b></p> 	<p><b>How might common geographic characteristics help us understand this place?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can the place be divided into regions?</li> <li>• To what regions does the place belong?</li> </ul>

# Outline Map of North America



Source: *Outline Map of North America*. About.com. 7 October 2008  
<<http://geography.about.com/library/blank/namerica.jpg>>.

# The Northern Hemisphere



Source: *The Northern Hemisphere*. Wikimedia Commons. 7 October 2008  
<[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Northern\\_Hemisphere\\_LamAz.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Northern_Hemisphere_LamAz.png)>.

## The Western Hemisphere

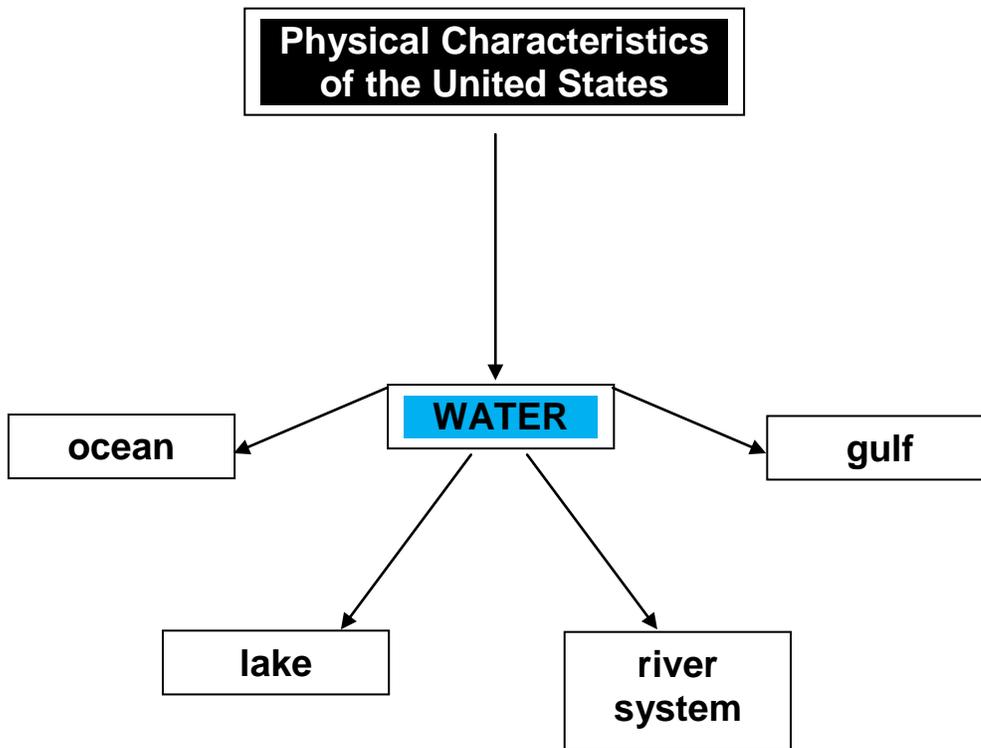
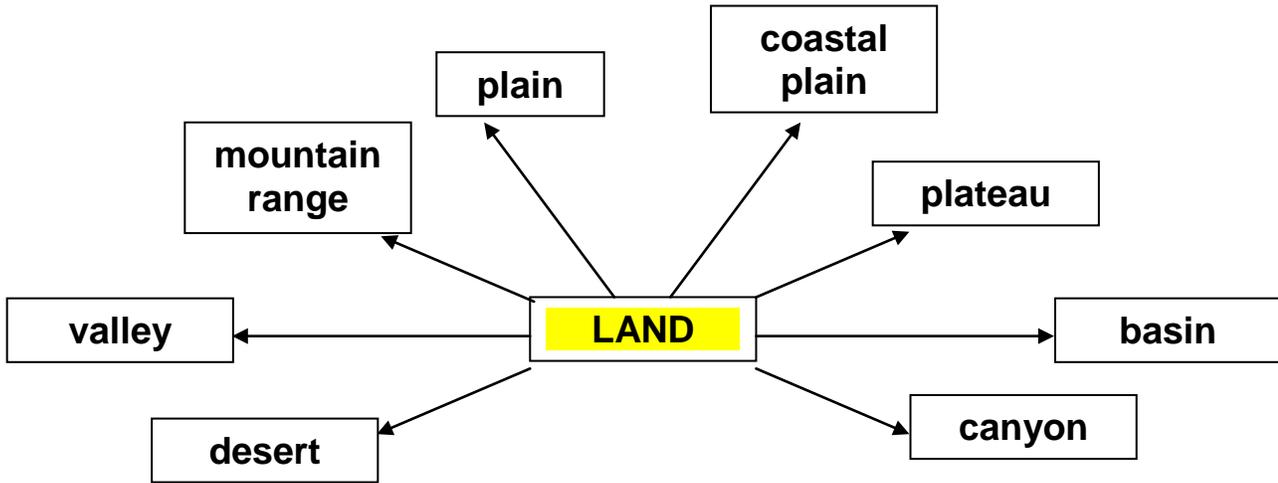


Source: *The Western Hemisphere*. Wikimedia Commons. 7 October 2008  
<[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Western\\_Hemisphere\\_LamAz.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Western_Hemisphere_LamAz.png)>.

**Describing the Relative Location of the United States**

<b>By continent</b>	
<b>Using political boundaries</b>	
<b>By hemisphere</b>	
<b>Using the equator</b>	
<b>Using the Prime Meridian</b>	
<b>Think of one more way to describe the relative location of the U.S.</b>	

## Lesson 2 Graphic Organizer



**Big Ideas of Lesson 2, Unit 2**

- Place is an important theme in geography.
- Geographers investigate both the physical and human characteristics of a place.
- Physical characteristics include landforms, bodies of water, climate, and vegetation.
- The United States has a wide variety of physical characteristics.

**Word Cards**

**Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:**

- Fundamental Themes of Geography – Word Card #1 from Lesson 1

<p><b>10 place</b></p>  <p>the geographic theme that answers the question “What is it like there?”</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Geographers use the theme of place to describe what an area is like.</p>	<p><b>11 physical characteristics</b></p>  <p>geographic features that were not made by humans</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Lakes, rivers, and mountains are physical characteristics of a place.</p>
<p><b>12 landforms</b></p>  <p>different kinds of land on the Earth</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Mountains, hills, and islands are different landforms.</p>	<p><b>13 mountain range</b></p>  <p>a row of connected mountains</p> <p><b>Example:</b> The Rockies and the Appalachian are two major mountain ranges in the United States.</p>

**14  
plain**

low-lying stretch of flat or gently rolling land



**Example:** The Interior Plains are located in the central part of the United States.

**15  
coastal plain**

low land that lies along an ocean



**Example:** A coastal plain is found along the Atlantic ocean in the eastern part of the United States.

**16  
plateau**

flat land with higher elevation than a plain



**Example:** The Ozark Plateau is an example of a plateau located in the United States.

**17  
basin**

low area surrounded by higher land



**Example:** The Great Basin is located in the western part of the United States.

**18  
valley**

a low piece of land between two hills or mountain ranges



**Example:** A large valley is located between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the coastal mountains in California.

**19  
canyon**

a deep, narrow valley with step sides



**Example:** The Grand Canyon is an important landform located in the United States.

## 20 desert

a dry region that receives very little rain



**Example:** The Mohave Desert and the Sonoran Desert are located in the United States.

## 21 vegetation

the plants of an area



**Example:** The vegetation of a desert is very different from that of a coastal plain.

## 22 gulf

part of a sea or ocean that cuts into a mass of land



**Example:** The United States borders the Gulf of Mexico.

## 23 river system

a river and its tributaries



**Example:** The Mississippi River system includes other rivers such as the Missouri River.

## 24 tributary

a stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river



**Example:** The Missouri River is a tributary of the Mississippi River.

## **THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND**

*Words and music by Woody Guthrie*

This land is your land, this land is my  
land

From California, to the New York Island

From the redwood forest, to the gulf  
stream waters

This land was made for you and me

As I was walking a ribbon of highway

I saw above me an endless skyway

I saw below me a golden valley

This land was made for you and me

I've roamed and rambled and I've  
followed my footsteps

To the sparkling sands of her diamond  
deserts

And all around me a voice was  
sounding

This land was made for you and me

The sun comes shining as I was  
strolling

The wheat fields waving and the dust  
clouds rolling

The fog was lifting a voice come  
chanting

This land was made for you and me

## **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL**

*Words by Katharine Lee Bates*

O beautiful for spacious skies,

For amber waves of grain,

For purple mountain majesties

Above the fruited plain!

America! America!

God shed his grace on thee

And crown thy good with brotherhood

From sea to shining sea!

## Physical Characteristics of the United States

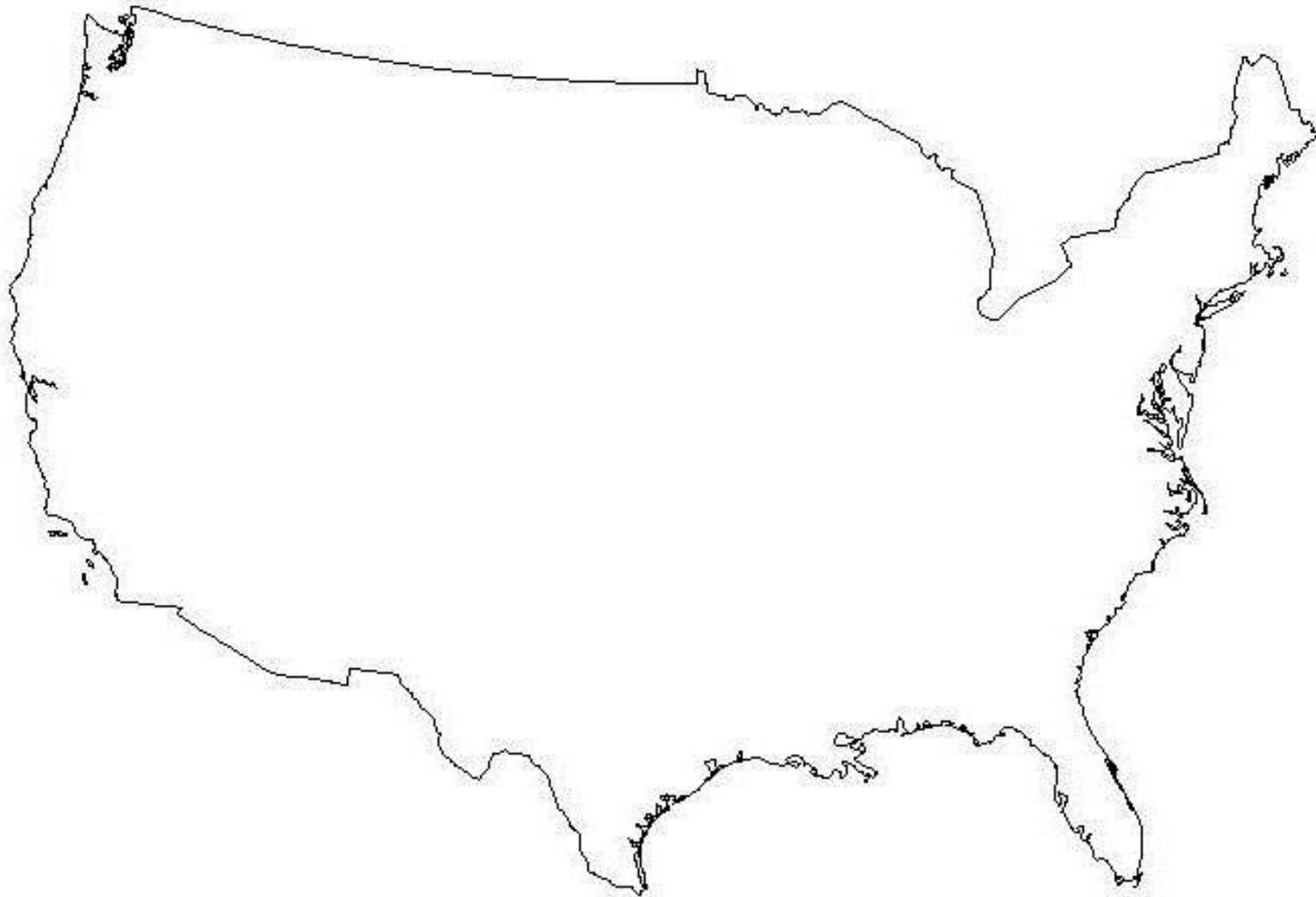
Physical Characteristic	Definition	United States Examples
mountain range	a row of connected mountains	
plain	low-lying stretch of flat or gently rolling land	
coastal plain	low land that lies along an ocean	
plateau	flat land with higher elevation than a plain	
basin	low area surrounded by higher land	
valley	a low piece of land between two hills or mountains	
canyon	a deep, narrow valley with steep sides	
river system	a river and its tributaries	
gulf	part of a sea or ocean that cuts into a mass of land	
desert	a dry region that gets very little rain	

## Digital Relief Map of the United States

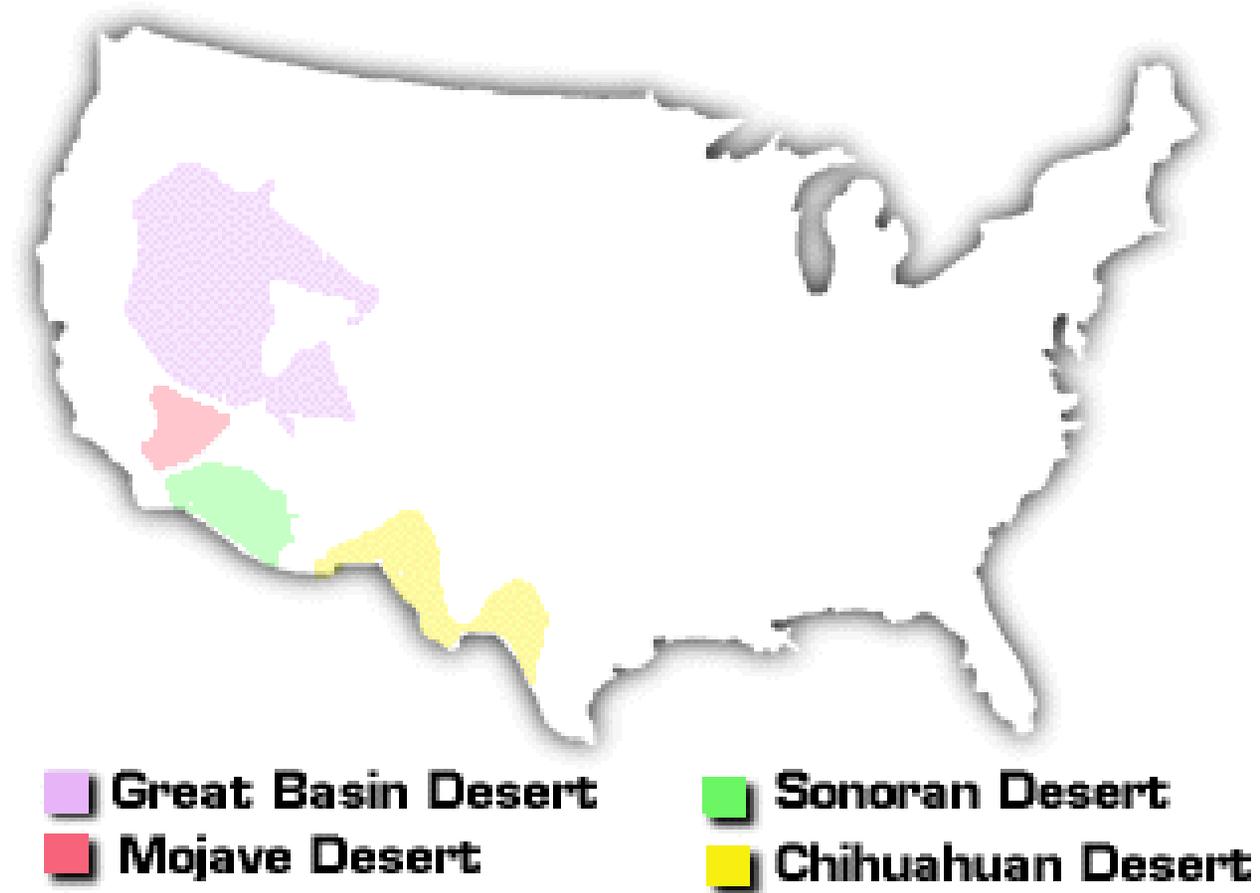


Source: *Landforms of the United States - A Digital Shaded-Relief Portrayal.*  
[http://pubs.usgs.gov/imap/i2206/usa\\_shade.pdf](http://pubs.usgs.gov/imap/i2206/usa_shade.pdf)

## Landforms of the United States

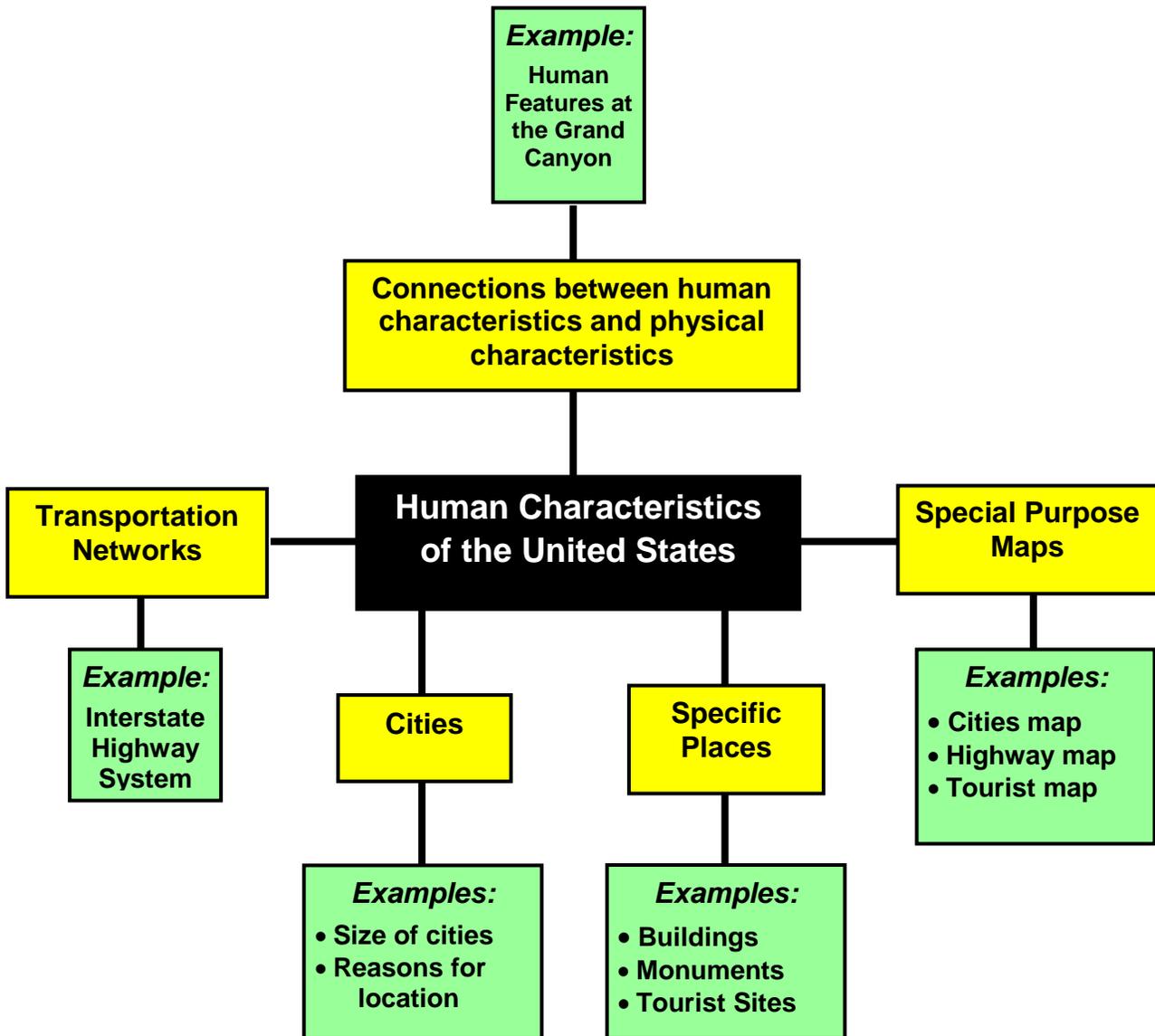


## Deserts Map



Source: *Deserts in the United States*. DesertUSA . 17 Sept. 2008 <<http://desertusa.net/glossary.html>>.

### Lesson 3 Graphic Organizer



## Big Ideas of Lesson 3, Unit 2

- Geographers use physical and human characteristics to describe what a place is like.
- Human characteristics of a place are man-made features.
- Human characteristics of a place can include cities, highways, bridges, and buildings.
- Human characteristics are often closely connected to physical characteristics. For example, cities are often located near bodies of water and farms are often located in prairies.

## Word Cards

**Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:**

- Fundamental Themes of Geography – Word Card #1 from Lesson 1
- Place – Word Card #10 from Lesson 2

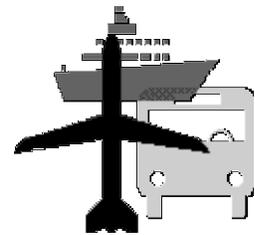
### 25 human characteristics



geographic features that were made by people

**Example:** Roads, bridges, and cities are human characteristics.

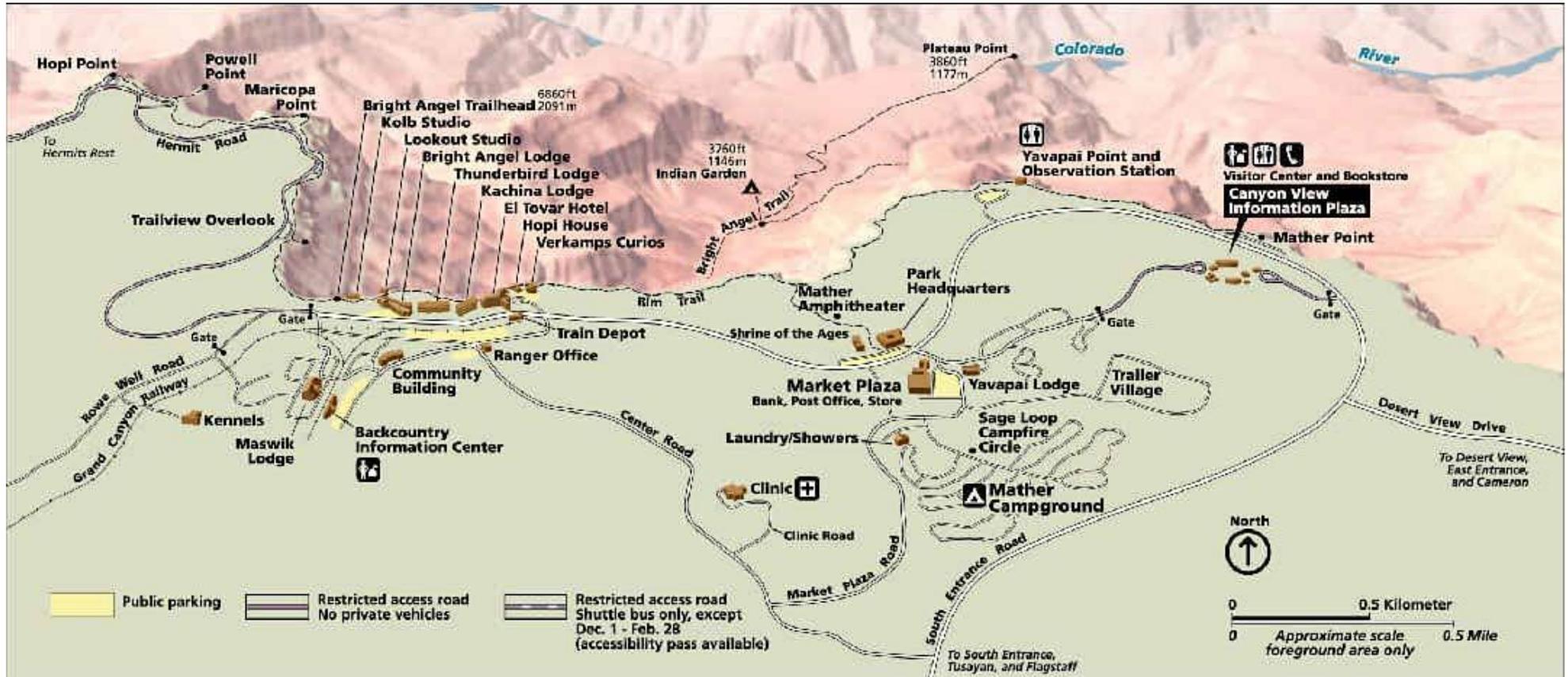
### 26 transportation network



a system of roads, rail lines, ferry service, and other methods of connecting places

**Example:** The Interstate Highway system is part of the transportation network in the United States.

# The Grand Canyon



Source: *Grand Canyon South Rim village Map*. 7 October 2008  
[http://gocalifornia.about.com/library/weekly/n\\_az\\_gc\\_map\\_vlg.htm](http://gocalifornia.about.com/library/weekly/n_az_gc_map_vlg.htm).

## Connecting Physical and Human Characteristics

<b>Physical Characteristic</b>	<b>Related Human Characteristic</b>
<b>Mountain range</b>	
<b>Plain</b>	
<b>Coastal plain</b>	
<b>River</b>	
<b>Valley</b>	
<b>Ocean</b>	

## City Search

**Directions:** Use the map at the following website to help you answer these questions:

<http://www.mrnussbaum.com/usaflash3.htm>

1. According to the map how many U.S. cities have over 1,000,000 people?
2. What are these cities?
3. What are four states that have no major cities according to this map?
4. Why do you think this is true?
5. **Directions:** Click on a variety of cities and find 4 examples of a physical characteristic that influenced the location and/or growth of the city.

City	Physical characteristic

### United States Interstate Highways Map



Source: *United States Interstate Highways Map*. 7 October 2008 <<http://www.onlineatlas.us/interstate-highways.htm>>.

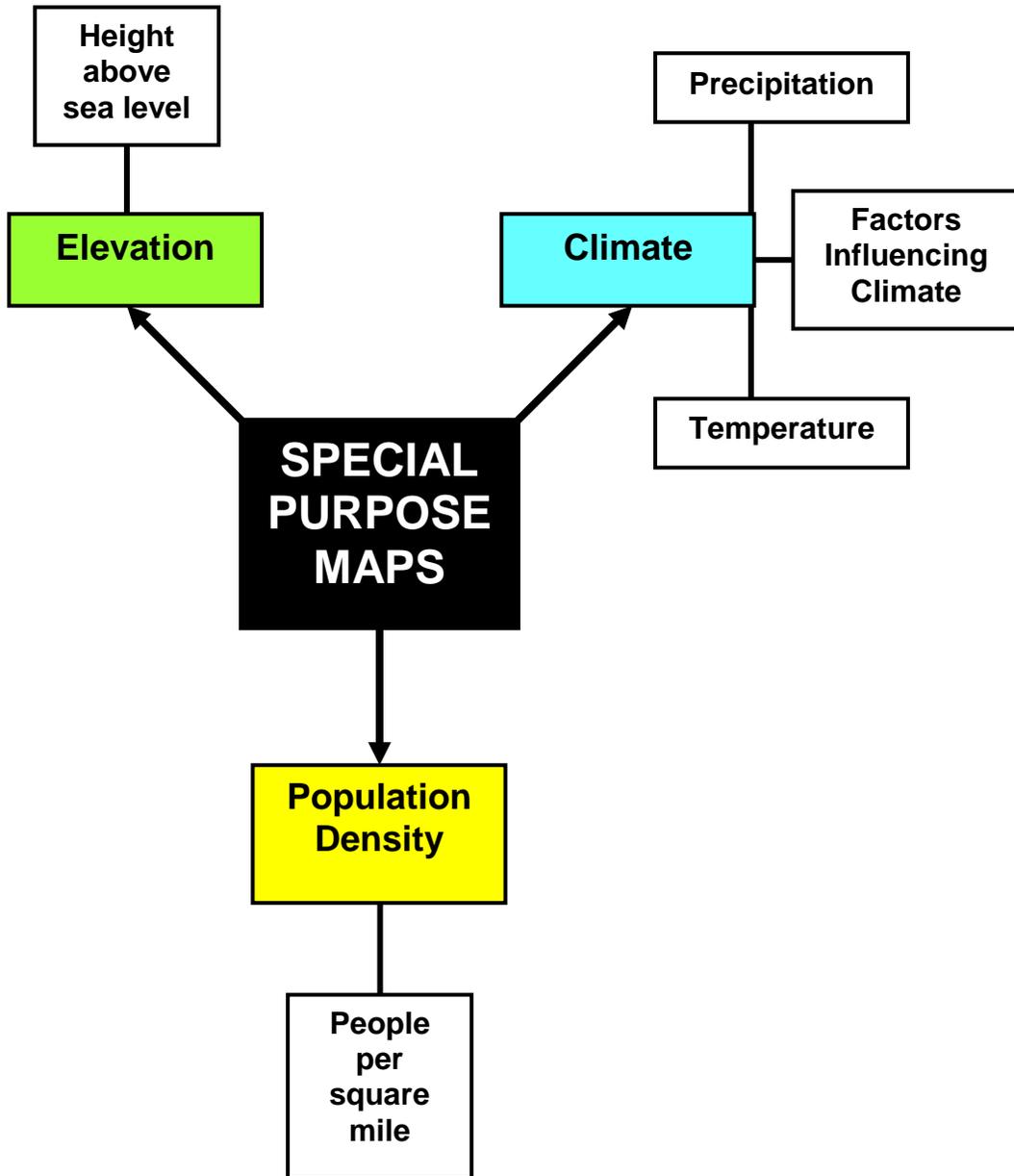
**Human Characteristics of the United States**

<b>Mt. Rushmore</b>	<b>Gateway Arch</b>
<b>Disney World</b>	<b>Statue of Liberty</b>
<b>Golden Gate Bridge</b>	<b>Washington Monument</b>
<b>The White House</b>	<b>Crazy Horse Memorial</b>
<b>Vietnam Veteran's Memorial</b>	<b>Sears Tower</b>
<b>Empire State Building</b>	<b>Hoover Dam</b>
<b>Washington National Cathedral</b>	<b>New Orleans</b>
<b>Trans Alaska Pipeline</b>	<b>The Alamo</b>
<b>John F. Kennedy International Airport</b>	<b>Black Thunder Mine</b>
<b>Detroit-Windsor Tunnel</b>	<b>Mesa Verde National Park</b>
<b>California Highway One</b>	<b>Aspen Ski Resort</b>
<b>Seattle Space Needle</b>	<b>Yankee Stadium</b>
<b>Lombard Street, San Francisco</b>	<b>Arlington National Cemetery</b>
<b>The Mall of America</b>	<b>Kitt Peak National Observatory</b>
<b>Grand Central Station, New York City</b>	

## Research Chart

<b>Human Characteristic</b>	
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Date Constructed</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	
<b>Other Information</b>	
<b>Illustration</b>	

## Lesson 4 Graphic Organizer



### Big Ideas of Lesson 4, Unit 2

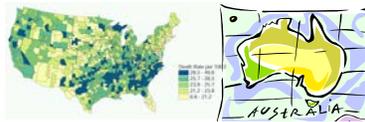
- Special purpose maps show characteristics of an area such as elevation, climate, and population density.
- Elevation is the how high a place is above sea level.
- Climate is weather over a long period of time.
- The climate of an area is influenced by many factors including how close the area is to a large body of water, how far it is from the equator, and the elevation of the area.
- Population density is the number of people living in a certain area.
- Elevation, climate, and population density vary a great deal in the United States.

### Word Cards

#### Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

- Physical Characteristics – Word Card #11 From Lesson 2
- Human Characteristics – Word Card #25 from Lesson 3

#### 27 special purpose maps



maps that show characteristics of an area such as land use, population density, or natural resources

**Example:** Studying special purpose maps can help you better understand a region.

#### 28 elevation

the height of an area above sea level



**Example:** The elevation of an area affects climate and vegetation.

## 29 climate



weather over a long period of time

**Example:** The United States has many different climate regions.

## 30 precipitation



water that falls to the ground as rain, sleet, hail or snow

**Example:** Many areas of the United States get a lot of snow as the main form of precipitation.

## 31 temperature



how hot or cold the air is

**Example:** In some areas of the United States the temperatures are very cold.

## 32 population



the number of people

**Example:** The population of United States is much larger than the population of Canada.

## 33 population density



the number of people living in a certain area

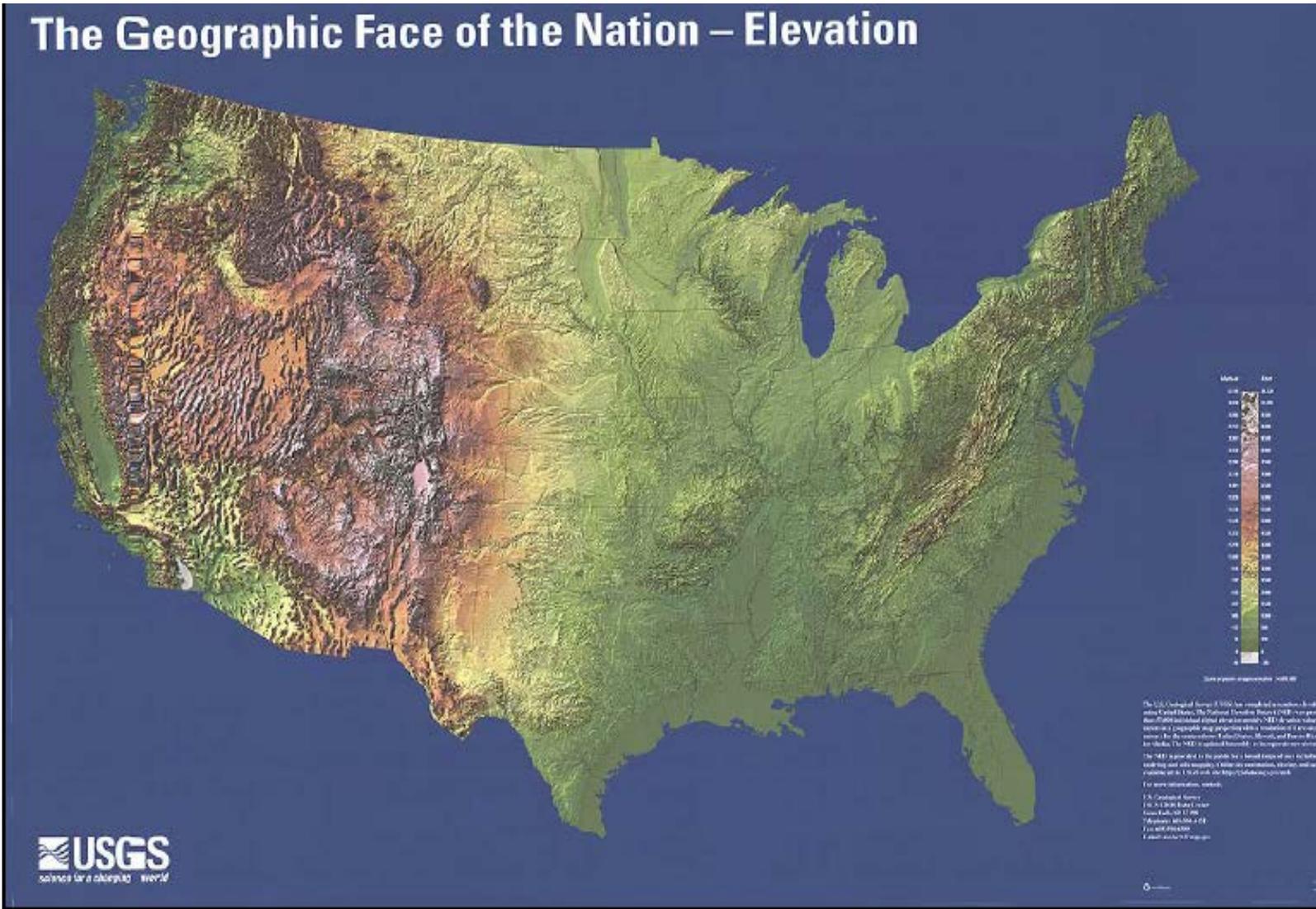
**Example:** The population density is greater in urban than rural areas.

## 34 metropolitan area



a large city and the surrounding areas including towns, other cities, and suburbs

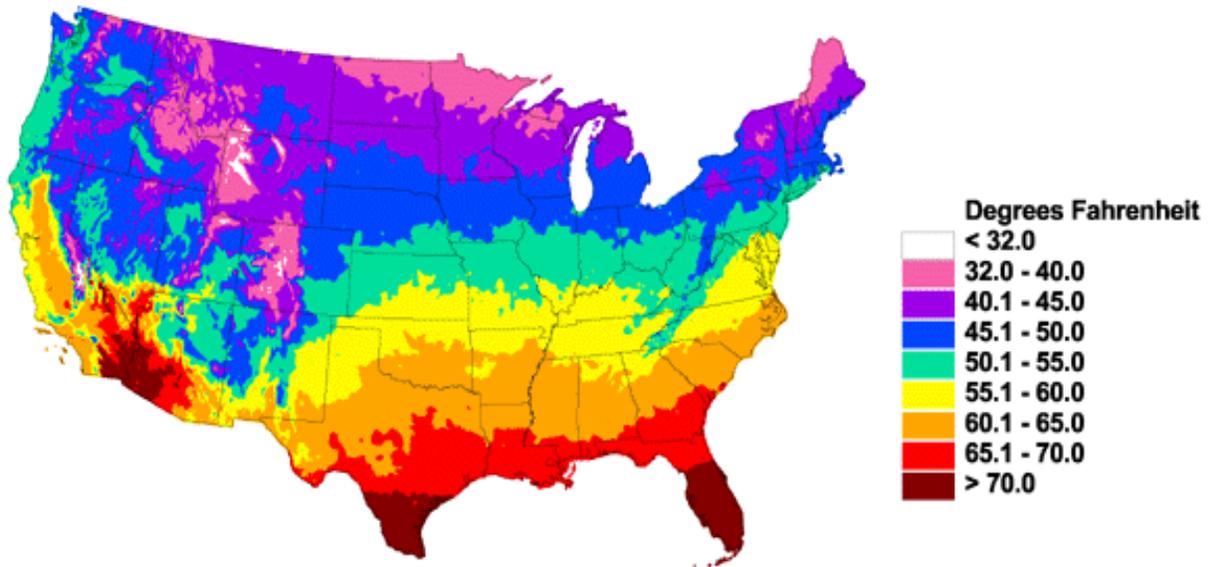
**Example:** There are many metropolitan areas in the United States.



*Geographic Face of the Nation: Elevation.* 23 Sept. 2008

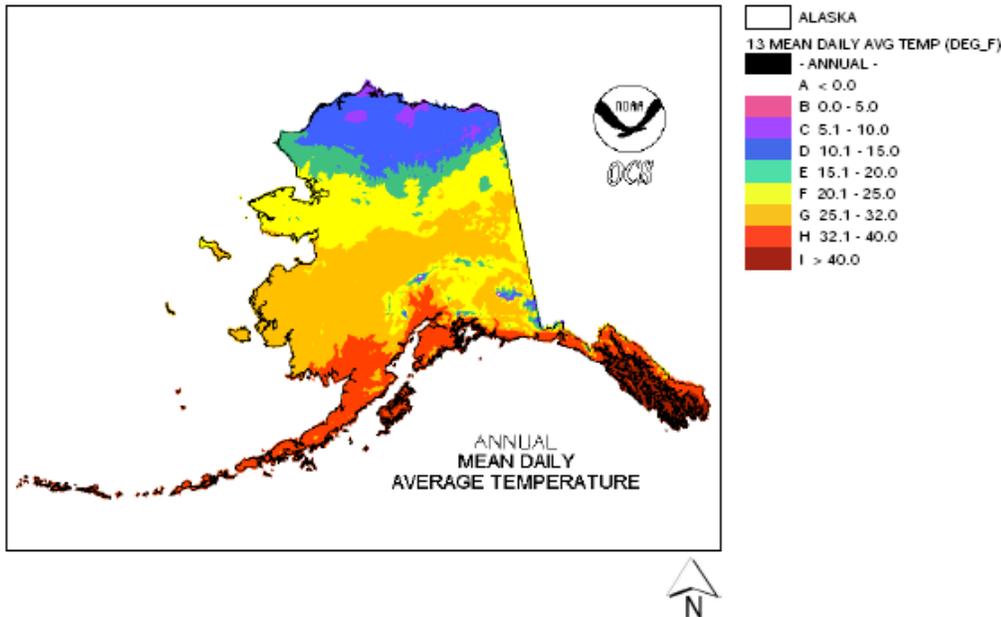
<[http://education.usgs.gov/common/resources/mapcatalog/images/topography/Elevation\\_11x14.pdf](http://education.usgs.gov/common/resources/mapcatalog/images/topography/Elevation_11x14.pdf)>.

# Annual Mean Daily Average Temperature

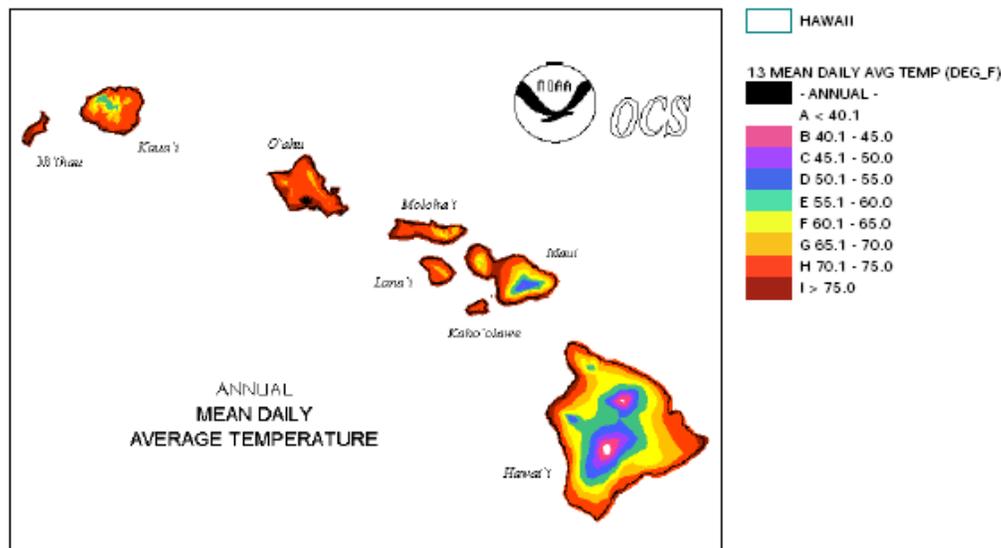


Source: *Annual Mean Daily Average Temperature Map*. 22 Sept. 2008  
<<http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/img/about/cdrom/climatls1/info/temp.gif>>.

## Alaska and Hawaii Annual Mean Daily Temperature Maps

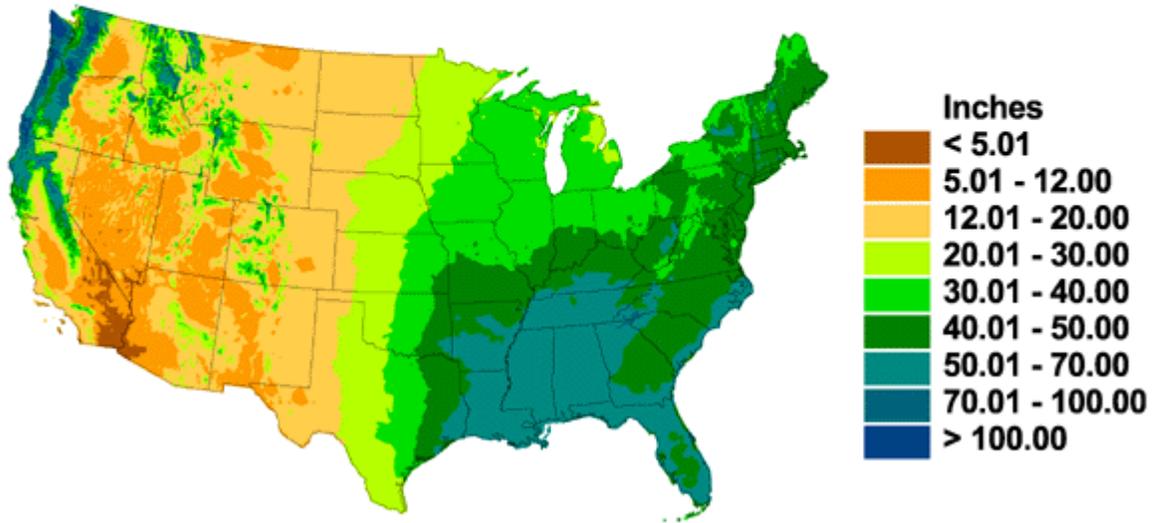


Source: *Annual Mean Daily Average Temperature Map for Alaska*. 22 Sept. 2008  
<http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/climaps/akt0313.pdf>.



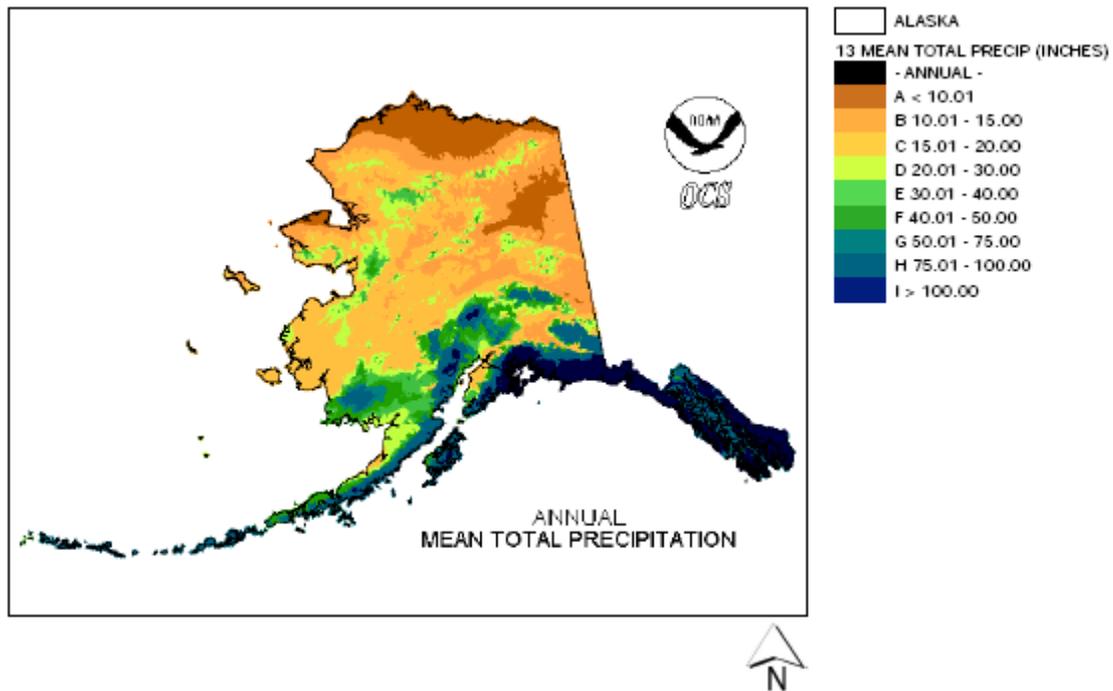
Source: *Annual Mean Daily Average Temperature Map for Hawaii*. 22 Sept. 2008  
<http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/climaps/hitmp0313.pdf>.

# Annual Mean Total Precipitation

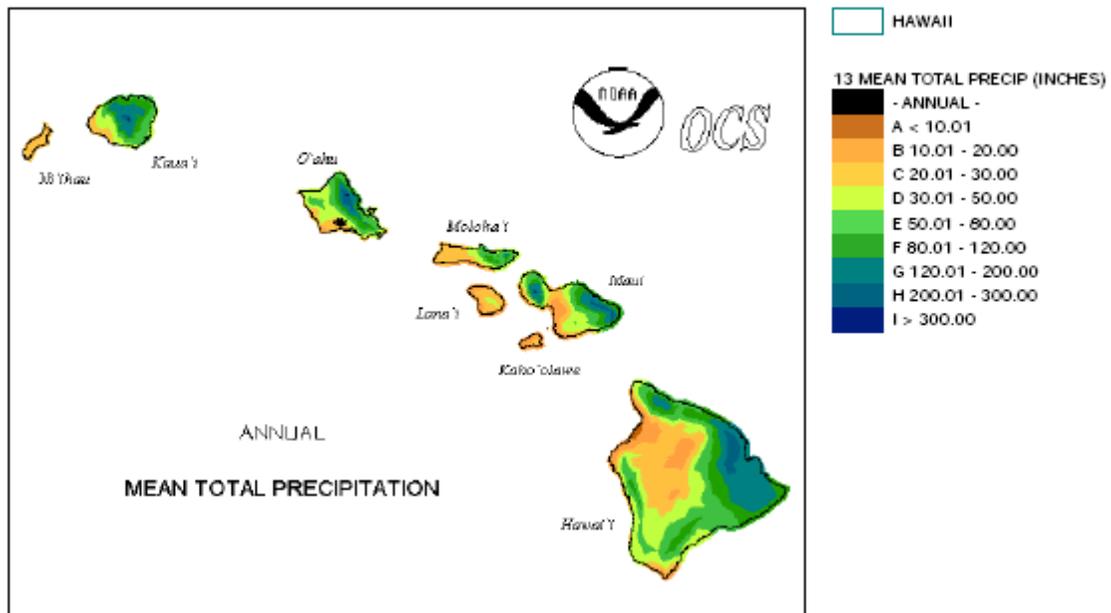


Source: *Annual Mean Total Precipitation Map*. 22 Sept. 2008  
<<http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/img/about/cdrom/climatls1/info/prec.gif>>.

## Annual Mean Total Precipitation for Alaska and Hawaii



Source: *Annual Mean Total Precipitation for Alaska*. 22 Sept. 2008 <<http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/climaps/akp0113.pdf>>.



Source: *Annual Mean Total Precipitation for Hawaii*. 22 Sept. 2008 <<http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/climaps/hip0113.pdf>>

### Climate Data for Selected Cities

City	Average monthly temperature (°F) <sup>1</sup>				Precipitation		Snowfall <sup>2</sup>
	Jan.	April	July	Oct.	Average annual		Average annual (in.)
					(in.) <sup>1</sup>	(days)	
Albuquerque, N.M.	36	56	79	57	9	60	11
Anchorage, Alaska	16	36	58	34	16	115	71
Atlanta, Ga.	43	62	80	63	50	115	2
Boston, Mass.	29	48	74	54	43	127	43
Cheyenne, Wyo.	26	42	68	45	15	100	56
Chicago, Ill.	22	48	73	52	36	125	38
Denver, Colo.	29	48	73	51	16	89	60
Detroit, Mich.	25	48	74	52	33	135	41
Duluth, Minn.	8	39	66	44	31	134	81
Fargo, N.D.	7	44	71	45	21	101	41
Helena, Mont.	20	44	68	45	11	95	47
Honolulu, Hawaii	73	76	81	80	18	96	0
Houston, Texas	52	69	84	70	48	105	trace
Jackson, Miss.	45	63	81	64	56	110	1
Las Vegas, Nev.	47	66	91	68	4	26	1
Los Angeles, Calif.	57	61	69	67	13	35	trace
Miami, Fla.	68	76	84	79	59	131	trace
New Orleans, La.	53	68	83	70	64	114	trace
New York, N.Y.	32	53	77	57	50	121	29
Phoenix, Ariz.	54	70	93	75	8	36	trace
Portland, Maine	22	44	69	48	46	129	70
Salt Lake City, Utah	29	50	77	53	17	91	59
Seattle-Tacoma, Wash.	41	50	65	53	37	155	11
Sioux Falls, S.D.	14	46	73	48	25	98	41
Tulsa, Okla.	36	61	84	63	42	91	10
Vero Beach, Fla.	63	72	82	76	52	126	trace
Washington, D.C.	35	56	79	59	39	113	17
Wichita, Kan.	30	55	81	59	30	85	16
Wilmington, Del.	32	52	77	56	43	117	21

*(Data rounded to nearest whole number)*

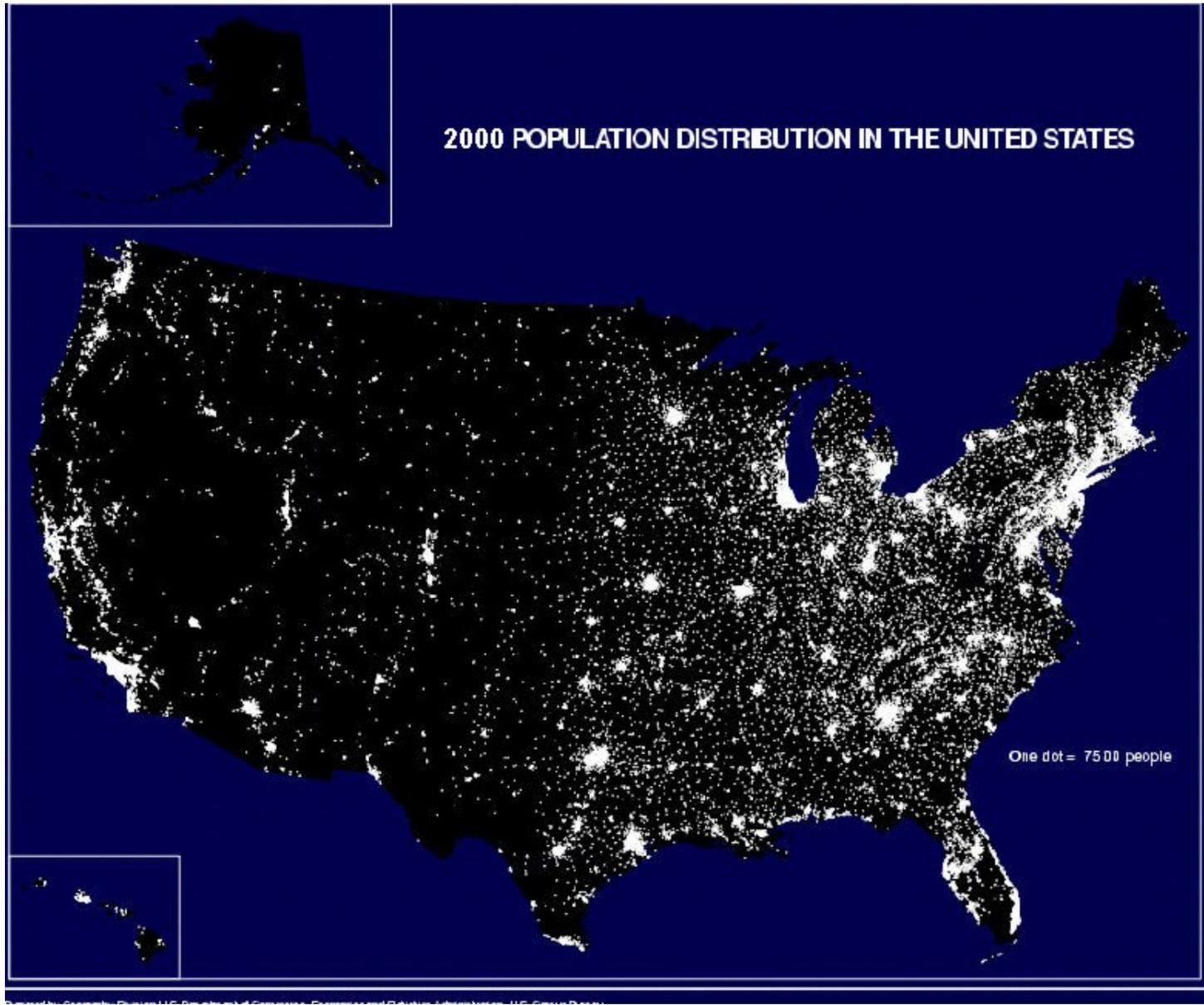
<sup>1</sup> Based on 30-year period 1971–2000.

<sup>2</sup> Includes ice pellets and sleet; data since April 1988 also includes hail.

Source: *Climate Data For Selected Cities*. 22 Sept. 2008

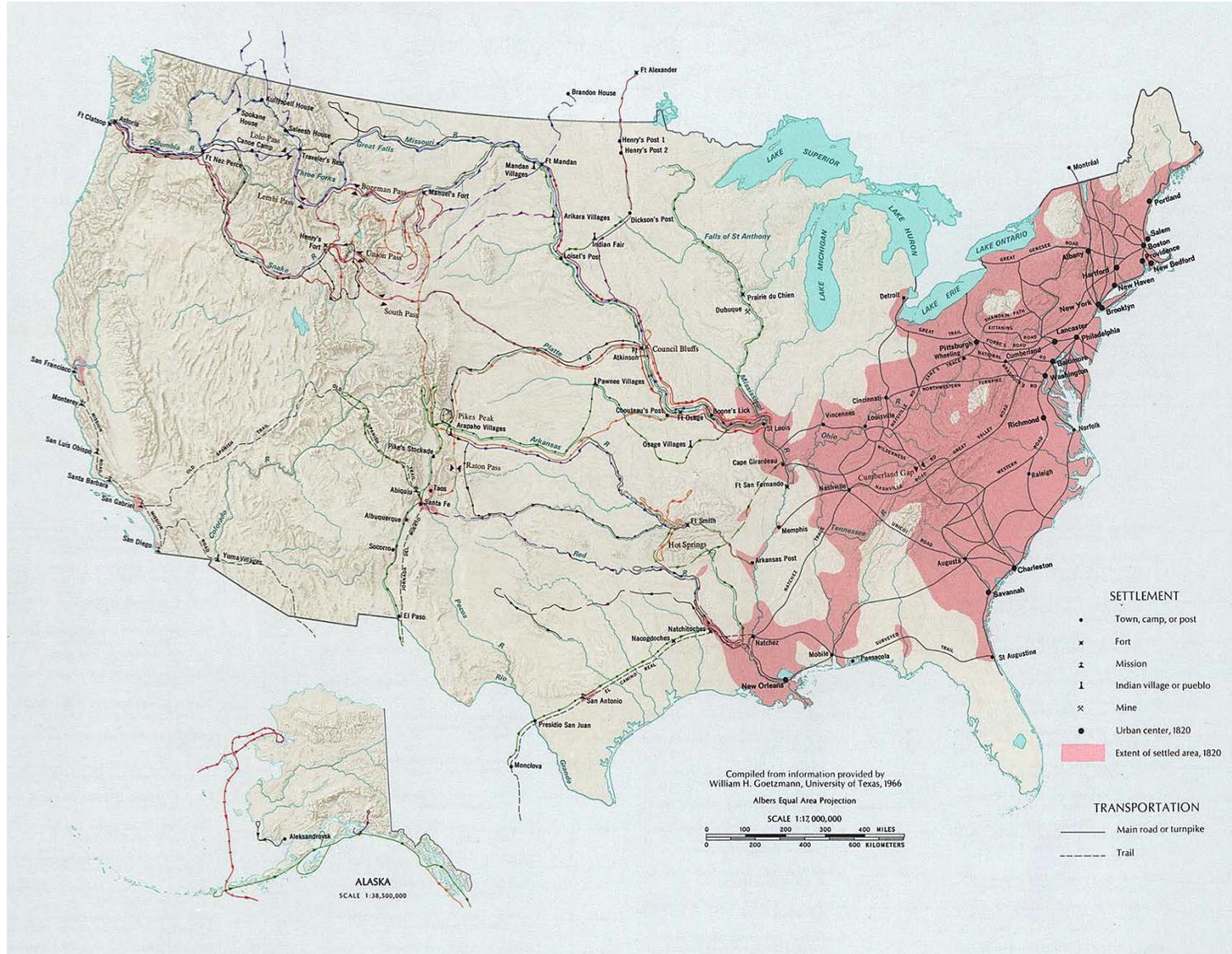
<<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0762183.html>>.

# MYSTERY MAP



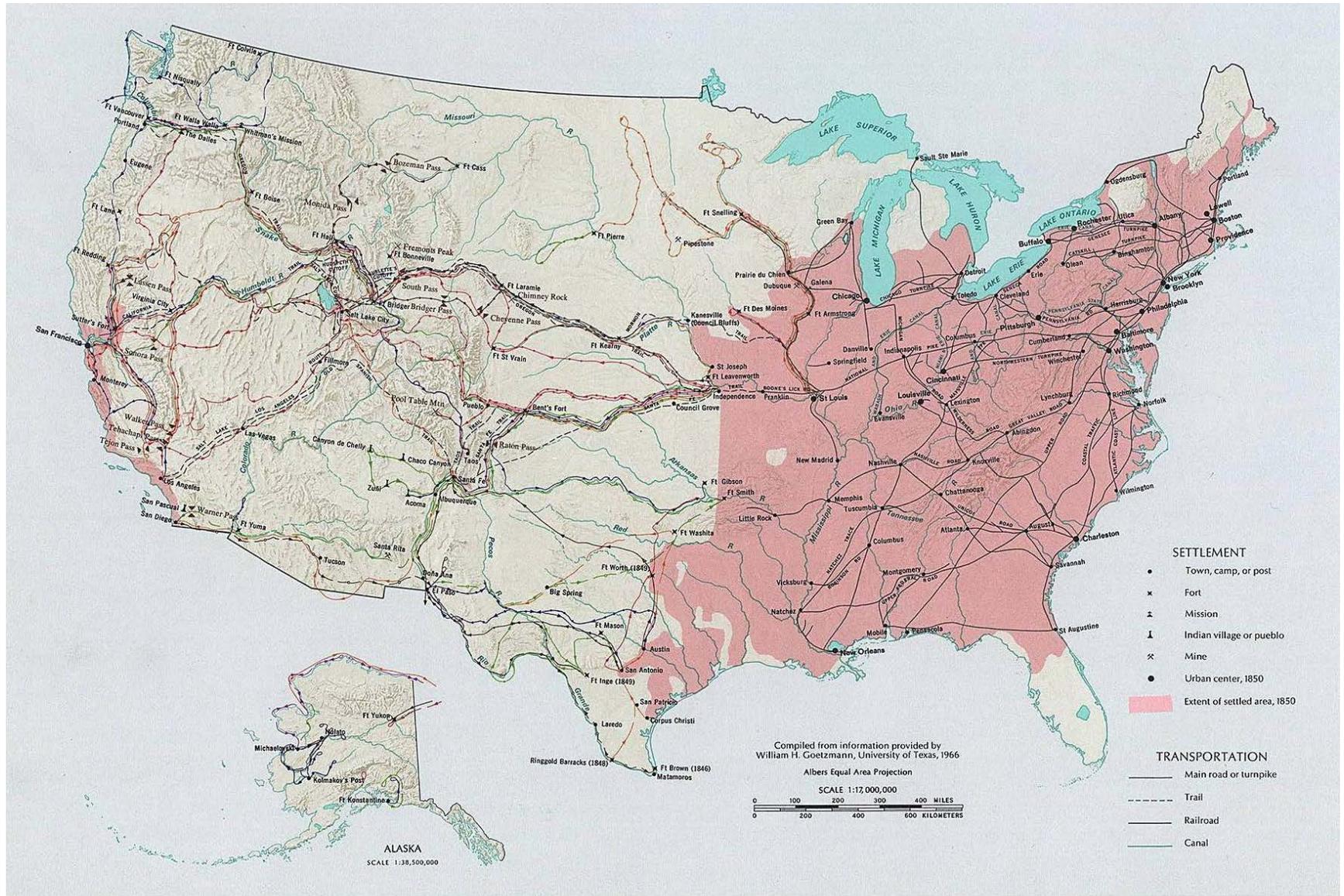


# EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT 1800-1820



Source: <[http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/united\\_states/exploration\\_1800.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/united_states/exploration_1800.jpg)>.

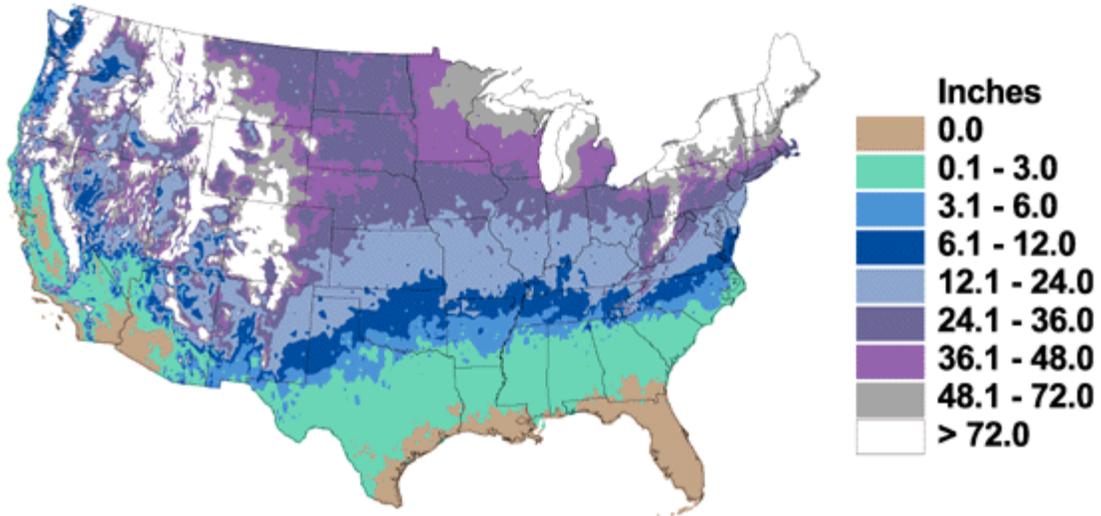
# EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT 1835-1850



Source: <[http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/United\\_States/exploration\\_1835.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/United_States/exploration_1835.jpg)>.

## Lesson Review

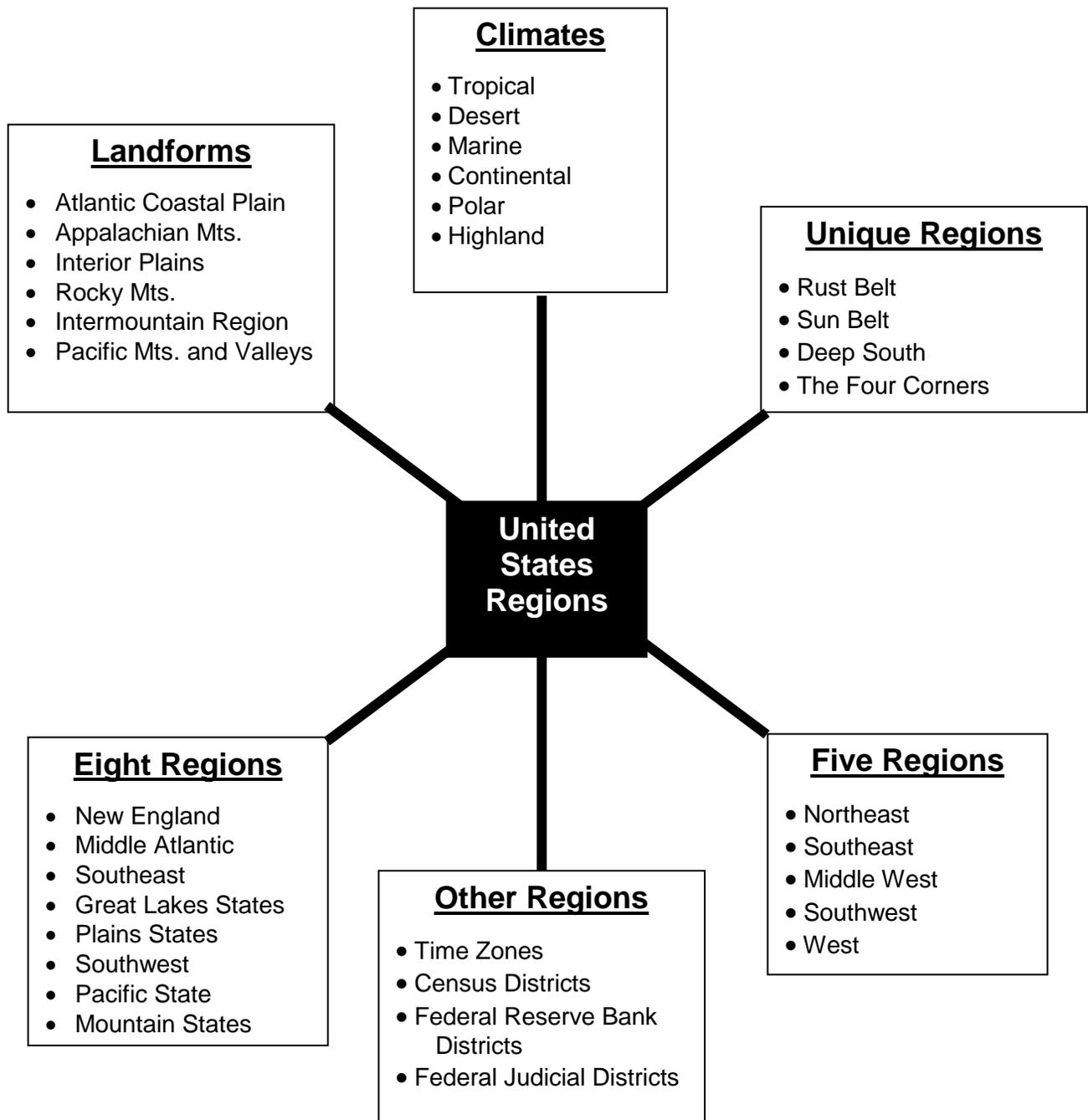
# Annual Mean Total Snowfall



Source: Annual Mean Total Snowfall. 22 Sept. 2008  
<<http://wf.ncdc.noaa.gov/img/about/cdrom/climatls1/info/snow.gif>>.

**What are three conclusions you can draw from this map?**


## Lesson 5 Graphic Organizer



## Big Ideas of Lesson 5, Unit 2

- A region is an area with at least one characteristic or feature that sets it apart from other areas. Geographers say that these common characteristics or features help “bind a region together.”
- Regions make it easier to study large places like the world, continents, and countries.
- Regions can be based on many different natural characteristics such as landforms or climate.
- Regions can also be based on cultural characteristics like the kinds of work people do.

## Word Cards

### Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

- Fundamental Themes of Geography – Word Card #1 from Lesson 1
- Landforms – Word Card #12 from Lesson 2
- Physical Characteristics – Word Card #11 From Lesson 2
- Human Characteristics – Word Card #25 from Lesson 3
- Climate – Word Card #29 from Lesson 4

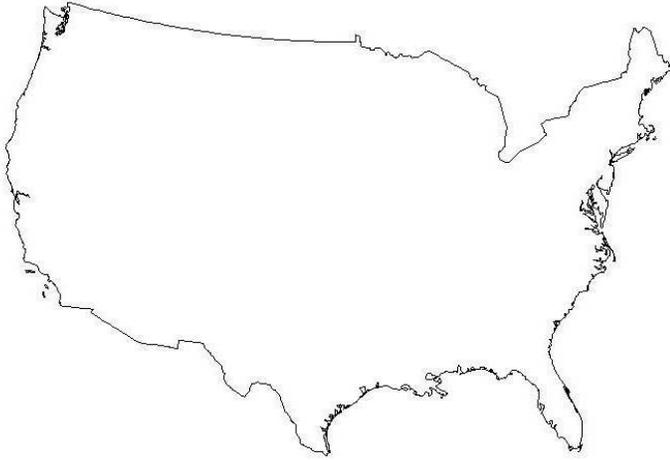
### 35 region

an area with one or more common characteristics or features

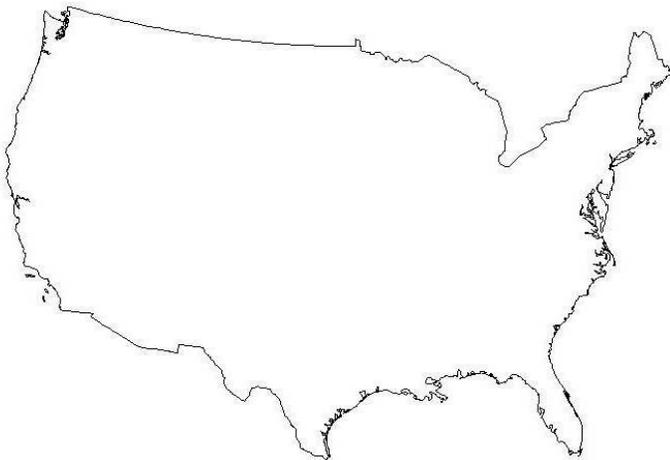


**Example:** There are many different ways to divide the United States into regions.

## Dividing the United States into Regions



<p><b>Describe the regions.</b></p>	
<p><b>Why did you divide it this way?</b></p>	



<p><b>Describe the regions.</b></p>	
<p><b>Why did you divide it this way?</b></p>	

## Mystery Regions of the United States



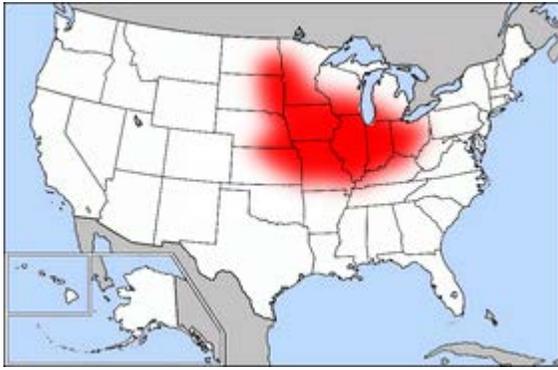
<p><b>What would be a good label for this region?</b></p>	
<p><b>What makes this a region?</b></p>	



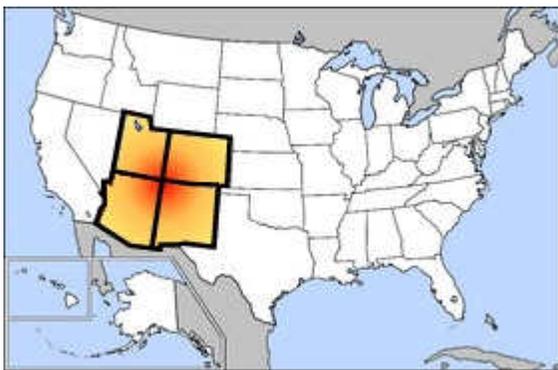
<p><b>What would be a good label for this region?</b></p>	
<p><b>What makes this a region?</b></p>	



<p><b>What would be a good label for this region?</b></p>	
<p><b>What makes this a region?</b></p>	



<p><b>What would be a good label for this region?</b></p>	
<p><b>What makes this a region?</b></p>	



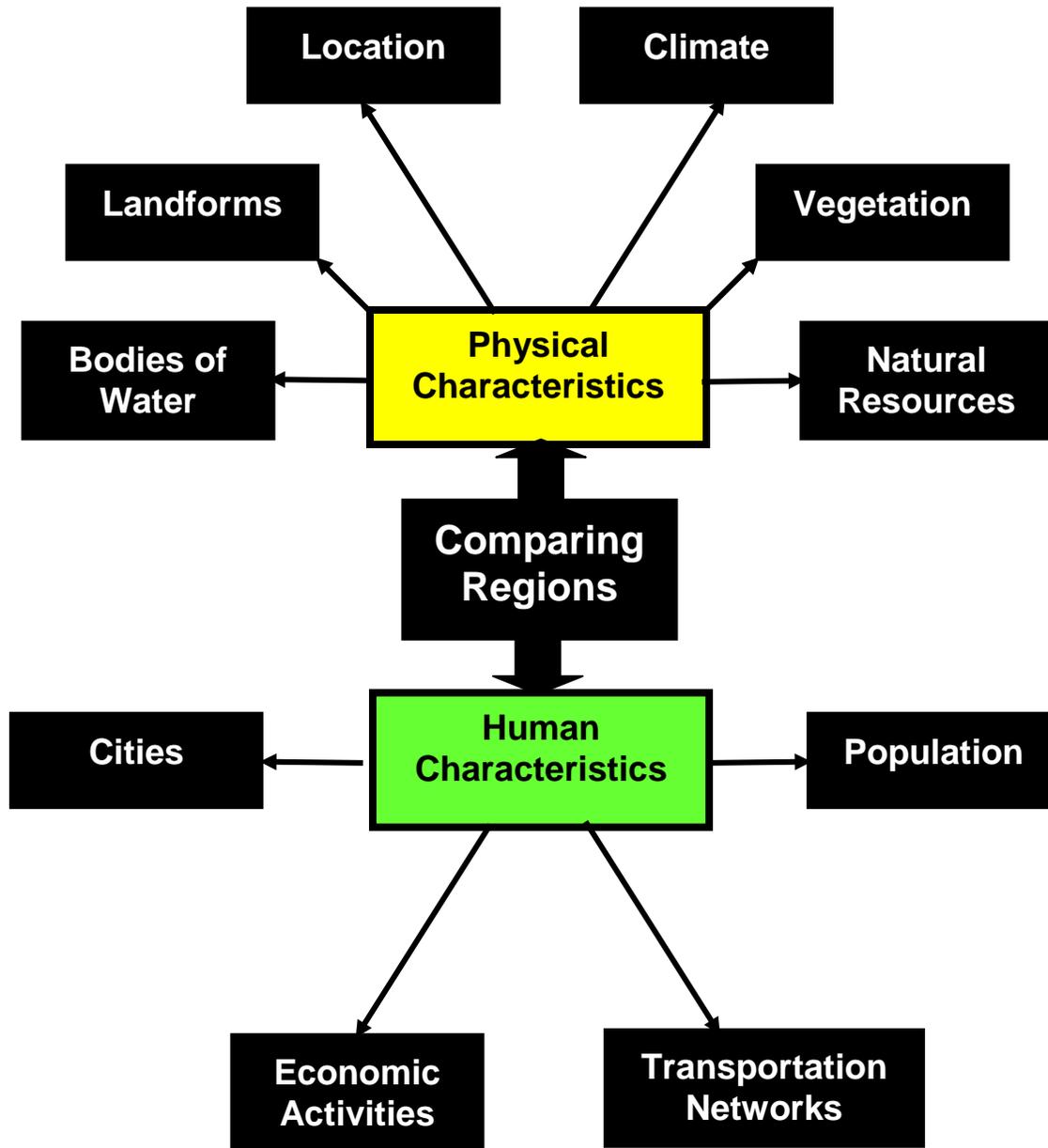
<p><b>What would be a good label for this region?</b></p>	
<p><b>What makes this a region?</b></p>	



<p><b>What would be a good label for this region?</b></p>	
<p><b>What makes this a region?</b></p>	

Source: *Regions Maps*. 8 October 2008  
 <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions\\_of\\_the\\_U.S.#The\\_Belts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_the_U.S.#The_Belts)>.

### Lesson 6 Graphic Organizer



### Big Ideas of Lesson 6, Unit 2

- A region is an area with at least one geographic characteristic or feature sets it apart from other areas. Geographers say that these common characteristics or features help “bind a region together.”
- Michigan and seven other states that border one or more of the Great Lakes make up the Great Lakes region.
- The Great Lakes have influenced the history, climate, economic activities, transportation networks, and culture of the Great Lakes region.
- To better understand the geography of the United States it is useful to compare different regions.
- The Southwest region and the Pacific Northwest region are interesting regions to compare to the Great Lakes region.

### Word Cards

#### Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

- Location – Word Card #2 from Lesson 1
- Physical Characteristics – Word Card #11 from Lesson 2
- Human Characteristics – Word Card #25 from Lesson 3
- Transportation Network – Word Card #26 from Lesson 3
- Climate – Word Card #29 from Lesson 4
- Population – Word Card #32 from Lesson 4
- Region – Word Card #35 from Lesson 5

#### 36 movement



the geographic theme that explains how and why people, goods, and ideas move

**Example:** The theme of movement helps us understand how places are connected to other places.

#### 37 economic activities



different ways people use resources and make goods and services.



**Example:** Farming and mining are economic activities.

## Great Lakes Information Sheets

### Lake Erie

Lake Erie is the smallest of the Great Lakes. It measures 241 miles across and 57 miles from north to south. It has about 871 miles of shoreline. Lake Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes. Its average depth is only about 62 feet. At its deepest spot, it is only 210 feet. It warms quickly in spring and summer and often freezes over in winter. It is surrounded by land with very fertile soil so there are lots of farms. It also has a lot of industry near it and 13 busy ports. Lake Erie has been exposed to more stress than any other Great Lake. This has been caused by people, industry, and farming.

### Lake Huron

Lake Huron measures about 206 miles across and 183 miles from north to south. It has a coastline of 3,827 miles. Two of its important coastline features are shallow, sandy beaches and the rocky shores of Georgian Bay. Lake Huron has 30,000 islands, including Manitoulin Island, which is the world's largest freshwater island. The average depth of the lake is 195 feet. At its deepest point it is 750 feet. Lake Huron is connected to Lake Michigan by the Straits of Mackinac.

### Lake Michigan

Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that lies entirely within the United States. It is about 118 miles wide and 307 miles long. Lake Michigan has more than 1,600 miles of shoreline. The average depth of Lake Michigan is 279 feet. At its deepest part it reaches 925 feet. The southern end of the lake has a large industrial region that includes Chicago. The northern part of the lake is in a colder, less developed region. The eastern shoreline of the lake has the largest collection of freshwater sand dunes in the world. Its shoreline also includes an important fruit-growing area.

## **Lake Ontario**

Lake Ontario is similar to Lake Erie in length and width. It is about 193 miles long and 53 miles from north to south. However, Lake Ontario is much deeper. Its average depth is about 283 feet. At its deepest point, Lake Ontario is around 800 feet. It holds almost four times the water of Lake Erie. Along its western shores is a large urban center including the Canadian cities of Hamilton and Toronto. The rest of its shoreline is mainly rural. Lake Ontario is connected to Lake Erie by the Niagara River. Niagara Falls prevented ships from moving between the two lakes so the Welland Canal was built.

## **Lake Superior**

Lake Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes. It also has the largest surface area of any freshwater lake in the world. If you took all the water in Lake Superior you could fill all the other Great Lakes plus three more the size of Lake Erie! Lake Superior is also the deepest and the coldest. Its average depth is 500 feet. Its deepest point measures 1,332 feet. It is about 350 miles from east to west and about 160 miles from north to south. Its shoreline is about 2,800 miles. Much of the area around Lake Superior has heavy forests and few people. There is little farming because of a cool climate and poor soil nearby.

**Source of Facts:** Great Lakes Facts and Figures. Great Lakes Information Network. 30 September 2008  
<<http://www.great-lakes.net/lakes/ref/lakefact.html>>.

## Great Lakes Chart

Lake	Length and width	Average depth	Deepest part	Important Facts
Erie				
Huron				
Michigan				
Ontario				
Superior				

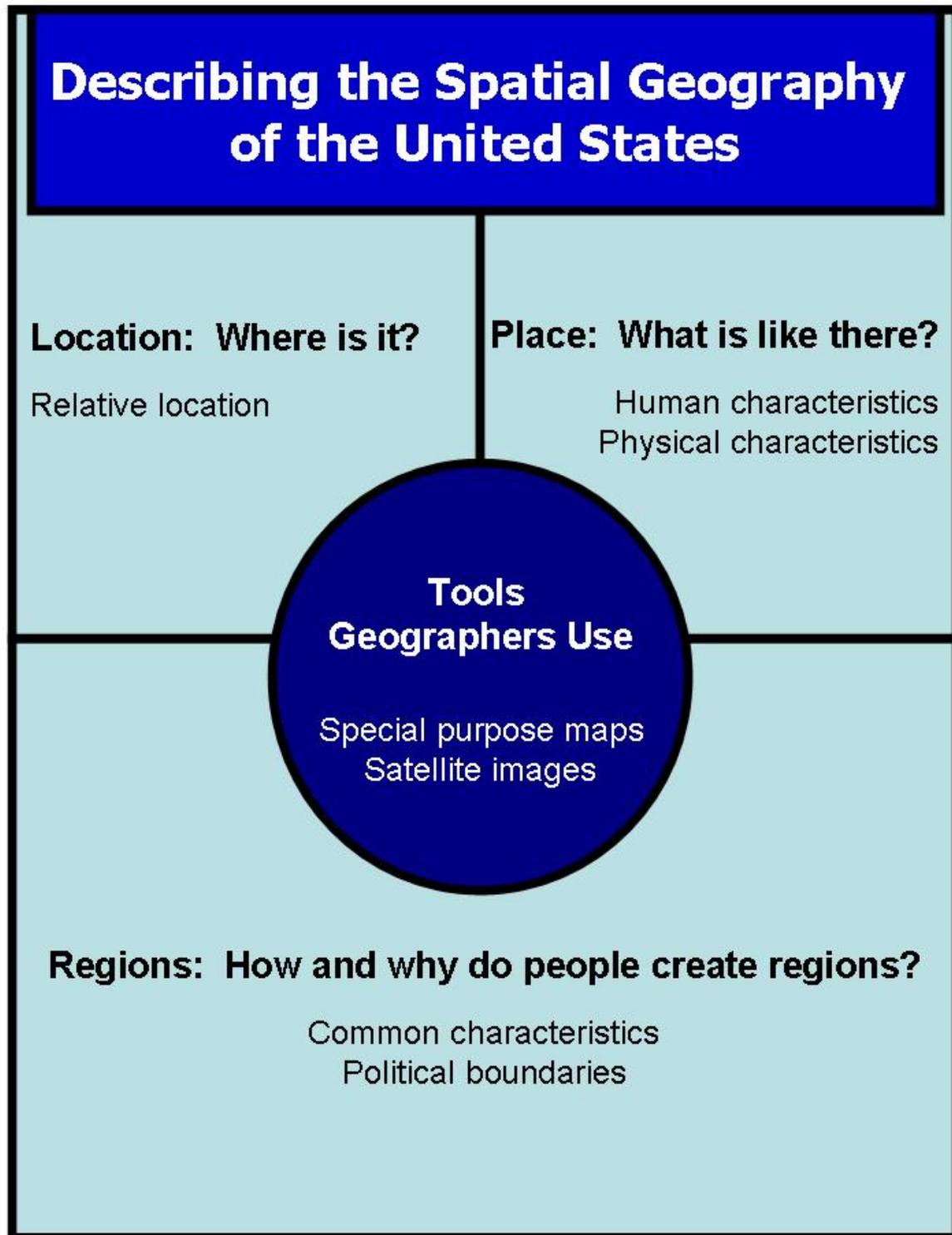
**Describing a Region Chart #1**

<b>Region</b>	
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Climate</b>	
<b>Landforms</b>	
<b>Bodies of Water</b>	
<b>Vegetation</b>	
<b>Natural Resources</b>	
<b>Major Cities</b>	

**Describing a Region Chart #2**

<b>Important Economic Activities</b>	
<b>Transportation Networks</b>	
<b>Population Factors</b>	
<b>Other Important Information</b>	

## Lesson 7 and Unit Graphic Organizer



**Big Ideas of Lesson 7, Unit 2**

- Geographers ask a variety of questions when investigating the geography of a place like the United States.
- To answer the question “Where is the United States located?” geographers use concepts such as relative location, continent, hemisphere, equator, and direction.
- To answer the question “What is it like there?” geographers investigate both the physical and human characteristics.
- To answer the question “How is it connected to other places?” geographers use the concept of region.
- By identifying common characteristics that bind several locations together, geographers can divide the United States into regions in many different ways.
- Special purpose maps that show particular characteristics of an area (such as elevation, climate, and population density) can be used to answer geographic questions about the United States.

# Creating a *Wow! America!* Book: Page Description Overhead

<b>WOW!</b>	
<b>Write a descriptive sentence here</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Draw your illustration in this large box.</b></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Write the characteristic here.</b></p>

# Planning Sheet

**WOW!**

<b>WOW!</b>	

## Unit 2 Vocabulary Words

absolute location .....	5
basin.....	13
canyon .....	13
climate .....	32
coastal plain.....	13
continent .....	5
desert .....	14
economic activities.....	50
elevation .....	31
equator .....	5
five themes of geography .....	4
gulf.....	14
hemisphere.....	5
human characteristics .....	23
landforms .....	12
location .....	4
metropolitan area .....	32
mountain range.....	12
movement .....	50
physical characteristics.....	12
place.....	12

plain .....	13
plateau.....	13
political boundaries .....	5
population .....	32
population density .....	32
precipitation.....	32
Prime Meridian .....	5
region .....	45
relative location.....	5
river system.....	14
special purpose maps .....	31
temperature.....	32
transportation network .....	23
tributary .....	14
valley .....	13
vegetation .....	14