

## ► Geotermns

**climate** the pattern of weather over a long period of time

**economic activity** any action that relates to the making, buying, and selling of goods and services

**landform** any natural feature of Earth's surface that has a distinct shape. Landforms include major features such as continents, plains, plateaus, and mountain ranges. They also include minor features such as hills, valleys, canyons, and dunes.

**physical feature** any natural characteristic of Earth's surface, such as landforms and bodies of water

**population density** the average number of people who live in a unit of area, such as a square mile. Population density measures how crowded an area is.

**region** an area defined by one or more natural or cultural characteristics that set it apart from other areas

**thematic map** a map that shows a particular theme, or topic

**vegetation** all the plants and trees in an area

## Political Maps

Political maps help us see where countries, states, and important cities are located. On this map of the United States, you can see the borders of your state. A star marks the state's capital. A star with a circle around it shows the nation's capital.

