

The Cultural Geography of the United States and Canada



CHAPTER FOCUS

Geographic Setting

Most Americans and Canadians trace their ancestral roots to other parts of the world. Some came voluntarily; others were forced to come either as enslaved labor or as exiles.

▲ **Photograph:** Street fair in New York City, New York



Geographic Themes

Section 1 Population Patterns

REGION Canada's population is concentrated in relatively small areas near the United States-Canadian border. Population in the United States tends to be concentrated along the coasts or in the Great Lakes region.

Section 2 History and Government

PLACE The United States and Canada share a British political heritage.

Section 3 Cultures and Lifestyles

MOVEMENT The United States and Canada have culturally diverse societies.

1 SECTION Population Patterns

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the human characteristics of the United States and Canada.
- how population is distributed across the United States and Canada.
- how advances in transportation led to the development of large cities.

Key Terms

- immigrant
- Sunbelt
- suburbs
- metropolitan area
- megalopolis

Identify and Locate

New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., St. Louis, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Denver, San Francisco, Houston, Dallas, New Orleans, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, Ottawa

Toronto, Canada



The Ojibway people believe that in order to function in a positive manner, a balance of Mind, Body and Spirit must be part of daily life. This whole way of thinking and living has been an essential part of native life long before European contact and is very much alive today.
Jeffrey M. Lee

Jeffrey Lee belongs to the Ojibway nation, one of the many Native American peoples who were the first to settle the area that is today the United States and Canada. The region was later settled by people from other areas of the world. Today the region's culture comes from the Europeans, Africans, and Asians who arrived after A.D. 1500. This mixing of different peoples and cultures has given the United States and Canada unique identities.

PLACE

Human Characteristics

Both Canada and the United States are home to various groups of native peoples.

These huge countries, however, are largely populated by many groups of **immigrants**—people who leave their home countries to settle permanently in others—and their descendants. A large number of these immigrants came from Europe. Many others came from various Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

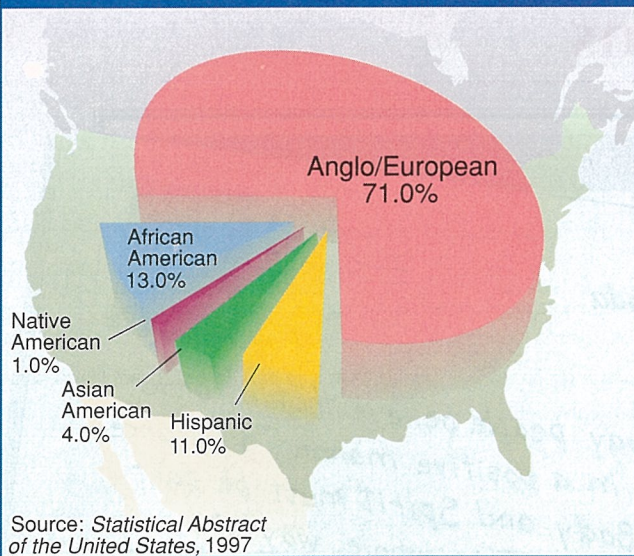
MOVEMENT

Population Distribution and Density

More than 300 million people—about 5 percent of the world's population—live in the United States and Canada. Of these,



ETHNIC ORIGINS OF AMERICANS



ETHNIC ORIGINS OF CANADIANS

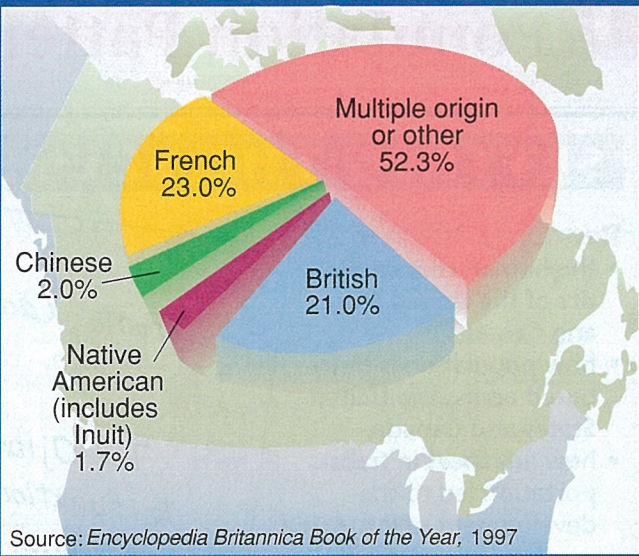


CHART STUDY



The largest ethnic groups in the United States and Canada have their ancestral roots in Europe.
 What percentage of Canadians trace their ancestry to France?

about 270 million live in the United States. The average population density of the United States is about 76 people per square mile (30 people per sq. km). The United States population is growing slowly. The average yearly population growth rate in the United States is about 0.6 percent. Canada, with a population of about 31 million people, averages only 9 people per square mile (4 people per sq. km) of land. The Canadian population is increasing at a rate about 0.5 percent per year.

Canada and the United States differ noticeably in population distribution as well as in population size. The population of the United States is largely concentrated in certain areas. The northeastern part of the United States is the most densely populated part of the country. A large part of the American population is concentrated in the Great Lakes region. These two areas are located near transportation routes and manufacturing centers. Parts of the western coast of the United States are also heavily populated. An abundance of natural resources, available land, and economic opportunities have helped the western coast of the United States

grow in population. Since the 1970s, the fastest-growing areas in the United States have been the South and the Southwest, including California. Industrial growth and an appealing climate have encouraged migration to the southern United States. Because of its mild climate, the southern United States is often called the **Sunbelt**.

Other areas of the United States are sparsely populated. Few people, for example, live in the subarctic climate of Alaska or in the dry climate of the Great Basin. In addition, thinly populated areas exist in parts of the interior plains.

Most Canadians live in the Great Lakes region and along the St. Lawrence River. These areas extend along the southern parts of Canada's two major industrial provinces: Quebec and Ontario. Pockets of population are also found in southern sections of the Prairie Provinces farther west, and along the Pacific coast of the province of British Columbia. All of these areas have relatively mild climates and are close to the United States, Canada's main trading partner. The remaining two-thirds of Canada, however, remains sparsely inhabited.



MOVEMENT

Urbanization

Both the United States and Canada have large urban populations. About three-fourths of the people live in or near cities and small towns.

Many of the urban areas in the United States and Canada consist of a central city, nearby neighborhoods, and outlying communities called **suburbs**. A central city and its surrounding suburbs are often called a **metropolitan area**. Because of the use of automobiles and mass-transit systems, more people live in suburbs than in central cities.

Coastal Cities

There are more than 70 urban areas in the United States and Canada with populations of more than 500,000 people. Several major cities lie along the northern Atlantic coast of the United States. The largest are Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. These cities are so close to one another that their surrounding areas overlap to form a single urban area. This type of urban pattern is called a **megalopolis**. The megalopolis formed by the cities between Boston and Washington, D.C., is sometimes called Boswash. Cities within Boswash have benefited from their coastal location. New York City, the culture region's largest city, is one of the world's leading centers for overseas trade.

Large port cities in the southern part of the United States include Miami, New Orleans, and Houston. Miami is on the Atlantic Ocean and is a major connection between the United States and the islands in the Caribbean Sea. New Orleans and Houston are busy transportation centers on the Gulf of Mexico.

Major port cities on the Pacific Ocean are Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver. In Los Angeles and Seattle, an important industry is the production of airplanes. An area near San Francisco called Silicon Valley is important for producing electronic equipment. Vancouver in the Canadian province of British Columbia is an important shipping center for western Canada.

Inland Cities

Many cities in the United States and Canada are located near inland waterways. In Canada Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, and Ottawa are near the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, or the Ottawa River.

In the United States, the cities of Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, and Cleveland are located on the Great Lakes. These cities grew partly because industries were able to use the Great Lakes to transport natural resources and manufactured goods. Pittsburgh's location on the Ohio River has been important for the shipment of goods related to western Pennsylvania's steel industry. St. Louis is situated near the confluence of the Missouri River and the Mississippi River. St. Louis's location made it a gateway to the settlements of the West during the 1800s.

Other major cities in the interior parts of the United States and Canada include Dallas, San Antonio, Atlanta, Memphis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Denver, Salt Lake City, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Edmonton. These cities serve as transportation and business centers for their surrounding areas.

SECTION

ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** immigrant, Sunbelt, suburbs, metropolitan area, megalopolis.
- 2. Locating Places** Where is North America's biggest megalopolis located?
- 3. Place** What major ethnic groups make up the population of the United States? The population of Canada?
- 4. Location** Where in Canada do most people live?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Making Comparisons** Compare population patterns of the United States and Canada.

What is the tallest living thing on earth?

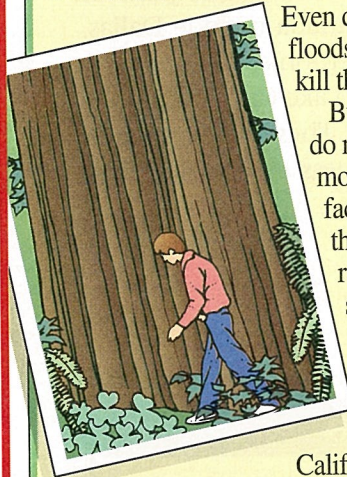
Survivors of ice ages and chain saws, California's coast redwoods are the tallest living things on the earth. The largest of these giant trees towers 367.8 feet (112 m)—higher than the Statue of Liberty.

Sprouting from seeds no larger than the head of a pin, coast redwoods grow at a rate of 2 feet (more than 0.5 m) a year, finally maturing in 400 years. With few natural enemies, the redwoods can live for 2,000 years. Thick bark shields them from insects and fires.

Even disease and floods don't often kill them.

But redwoods do need a lot of moisture, a fact that limits their range to rainy, foggy stretches of southern Oregon and northern California.

Their durable wood is prized by loggers. Only about 10 percent of the virgin redwood forest remains. Today 260,000 acres (104,000 ha) of redwood forests are protected in state and in national parks.



Another California redwood, the giant sequoia, is shorter and fatter than the coast redwood. With a 35-foot (10.7-m) diameter, the giant sequoia is wider than many city streets.



Designed by BILL PITZER



History and Government

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- how the United States and Canada were settled and became separate nations.
- how the United States and Canada expanded their territories and developed strong economies.

Key Terms

- strait
- cash crop
- republic
- industrialization
- dry farming
- Constitution
- amendment
- cabinet

Identify and Locate

Florida, Louisiana Purchase, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Saskatchewan

The first people to come to what is now the United States and Canada migrated from Asia. These people developed cultures that were influenced in part by the various environments in which they settled. After A.D. 1500 most of the region's settlers came from Europe. The Europeans used the land and its resources very differently from the region's first settlers.

MOVEMENT

History

The northwestern part of North America is separated from the northeastern part of Asia by a **strait**—a narrow passageway connecting two large bodies of water. The Bering Strait connects the Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. It is believed that during the last Ice Age the level of the water in the Pacific Ocean lowered, exposing a land bridge across the Bering Strait.

Many archaeologists believe that 25,000 or more years ago people from Asia used the land bridge to migrate to the nearby lands of North America. The cold northern climate encouraged many of these people to migrate throughout the continent in search of better living conditions. By 10,000 years ago, people were living in almost every part of the present-

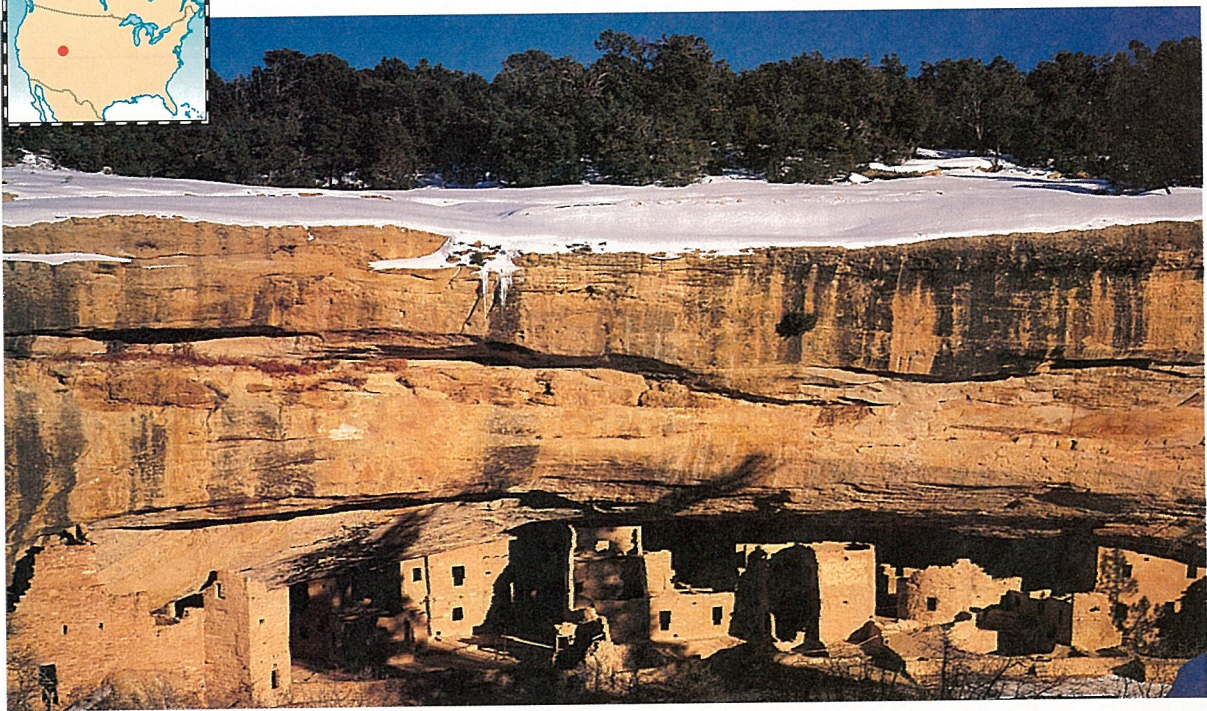
day United States and Canada. The early people became known as Native Americans. The kinds of cultures formed by these early groups of people varied and were influenced by their location.

Early Americans

The Inuit lived in the cold tundra lands of the Arctic. The harsh polar climate there made them rely upon such animals as caribou for fur and food because other resources were scarce and farming was impossible. The Native Americans of the Far North, who lived in the subarctic, also relied on the animals they hunted to help fill their needs for food and clothing.

The Native Americans along the Pacific Coast lived where the climate was mild and the natural resources, especially fish, were abundant. Large trees and a variety of plants covered the land. With stone and copper woodworking tools these Native Americans split cedar, fir, and redwood trees into planks to make elaborate houses and large canoes. They also developed ways to harvest salmon with fiber nets, spears, and wooden traps.

Native Americans who settled in the high desert regions of present-day Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah had fewer resources than those who settled in other areas. Nevertheless, the Native Americans of the



Geographic Themes

Human/Environment Interaction: Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado

Mesa Verde is a huge plateau covered with pine forests where Native Americans built cliff dwellings hundreds of years ago. *How did Native Americans in other parts of the Southwest make use of their environment?*

Southwest adapted to their environment. For example, they invented techniques of irrigation to farm the land. One community in southern Arizona dug an irrigation canal 3 miles (4.8 km) long to draw the river's waters onto fields planted with corn, beans, and squash.

Native Americans living on the grasslands of the Great Plains found farming very difficult because the thick plains sod was hard to plow. Although some farming was done along streams, most Plains Native Americans depended on the great herds of buffalo that roamed the plains. From earliest times, they followed the herds from one grazing ground to another. They used every part of the buffalo for their food, clothing, shelter, and tools.

Native Americans of the woodlands east of the Mississippi River hunted a variety of animals. Deer, turkeys, geese, and squirrels were common in eastern forests. Like the Plains people, Woodlands Native Americans made use of every part of the animals they killed—eating deer meat, wearing deerskin clothing,

and making tools out of animal bones and antlers. Because summers were warm, rainfall abundant, and soil fertile throughout most of the Eastern Woodlands, the people of this region lived in farming villages and grew crops such as corn, squash, beans, and tobacco.

European Colonization

European migration to the United States and Canada had begun by the late 1500s. Europeans came to the region in search of land to farm, valuable minerals, and political and religious freedom.

Most early European settlers came from Spain, France, and England. People from these nations established colonies in different parts of the present-day United States and Canada. By the 1700s, England had colonies or controlled land along much of the Atlantic Coast and around Hudson Bay.

The settlers in the northern English colonies were not able to farm very well because of the thin, rocky soil and the short



growing season. The area, however, had excellent harbors, good timber, many types of fish, and cheap waterpower. As a result, the settlers generally made their living by fishing, shipbuilding, trade, and manufacturing.

The English colonies just south of the northern colonies had wide river valleys, level land, and rich soil. They also had mild winters; warm, long summers; and a long growing season. Many of the settlers were farmers who raised **cash crops**, or crops that are raised to be sold.

The English colonies farthest south produced surpluses for export because the mild climate, rich soils, and open land encouraged large-scale plantation agriculture. Most plantation owners used enslaved Africans to provide the labor such large-scale farming required.

The French came to North America primarily for economic reasons, especially the fur trade. French trappers, traveling such major rivers as the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi,

settled at places along waterways where beaver pelts and other furs could be collected and shipped to Europe. Most did not plan to settle, wanting to make money and then return to France. Those who did settle lived primarily near the St. Lawrence River, where they founded Quebec. Other French settlements thrived along the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, especially the port city of New Orleans.

The Spanish ruled large areas of the present-day United States west of the Mississippi River. These lands were part of the vast Spanish Empire that included much of South America and all of Central America and Mexico. In 1565 Spain set up the first European settlement in the present-day United States at St. Augustine, Florida. Most Spanish settlements made during the colonial era, however, were in the Southwest—Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Many of these communities were founded as barriers to block



Geographic Themes

Movement: Quebec City, Canada

This street in Quebec City reveals the French character of the Canadian province of Quebec. *What other areas of North America were settled by the French?*





Geographic Themes

Movement: Loyalist Historic Site, New Brunswick, Canada

Loyalists from the 13 American colonies also settled in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. *How did the Loyalists receive their name?*

potential expansion by such colonial powers as France and Great Britain. They served two purposes—as military outposts and as missions, or religious settlements to convert Native Americans to Christianity. Although the population of the Spanish colonies remained small, Spanish settlers in time started farms and huge cattle ranches, based largely on practices brought from their European homelands.

Two Nations

In 1763 France was forced to give up a great part of its empire in North America to the British. Conflicts soon arose between the Native Americans and the settlers in the British colonies. The settlers' methods of cutting down forests and clearing fields in order to farm destroyed the Native Americans' hunting grounds. Conflict also affected the fur trade. Some Native Americans began to resent the number of traders entering their lands.

During the 1760s relations between the American colonies and Great Britain began to

worsen. The British government gradually extended its control over the colonies by passing laws that taxed the colonists and limited their freedoms. The colonists had become accustomed to governing themselves, and had developed a sense of unity and independence. As a result they deeply resented what they viewed as British interference in their affairs.

Another development in the American colonies at this time was growing opposition to monarchy as a form of government. Along with independence, some colonists favored the creation of a **republic**, a form of government in which people elect their own officials, including their head of state. Beginning in 1775, 13 of the British colonies along the Atlantic coast fought a war to gain independence. As a result of the War for Independence, a new republic—the United States of America—was formed.

A number of colonists, however, did not want to sever ties with Great Britain. During the war, more than 40,000 American colonists who remained loyal to the British monarch



moved north to Canada, which had a large French population. Known as United Empire Loyalists, they settled mainly in sparsely inhabited areas of the present-day Canadian provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

Unlike its southern neighbor, Canada united slowly, and without the violence of war. The American War for Independence, however, did have a great impact on Canada. The arrival of the United Empire Loyalists meant that the French Canadians in Quebec no longer enjoyed a comfortable majority. Great Britain divided Quebec into Lower Canada and Upper Canada in an attempt to give representation to both the French Canadians and the Loyalist settlers. The colony of Lower Canada was situated along the eastern part of the St. Lawrence River, where mostly French Canadians lived. English-speaking Canadians occupied the colony of Upper Canada, which included the area above the Great Lakes and around the western part of the St. Lawrence River.

Upper and Lower Canada became united in 1841, and self-government was approved by Great Britain in 1849. In 1867 the Dominion of Canada was established and the four provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were united. Between 1869 and 1873, Canada established the provinces of Manitoba, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island. Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Newfoundland were added in the 1900s.

Industry and Expansion

The growth of industry changed the development of the United States and Canada. The northeastern United States has many waterfalls that could be harnessed to produce power to run machines. Partly for this reason, the first water-powered cotton mill was built in Rhode Island in 1793. Other factories soon sprang up where waterpower was available. **Industrialization**—the setting up of manufacturing that uses machinery—spread. Because waterpower was limited to a few places, people in industry searched for a new source of power. In the 1800s, steam became the domi-

nant source of power. The large supplies of coal in Pennsylvania and Ohio, which were used to power steam engines, made steam power cheap and manufacturing very profitable. Soon the Midwest became a leading center of industry and business. The many rivers in the Midwest, improved by the building of canals, were used to transport goods from factories to port cities.

A growing demand for cotton by the textile industry in the Northeast made cotton production highly profitable. Cotton became the South's major cash crop. Swamps were drained and pine forests cleared for more cotton plantations. The labor of enslaved Africans became more important than ever before.

During this period of great economic development, the West became a source of raw materials for the markets of the East. In 1803 the United States bought nearly all the land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains from France. This agreement, known as the Louisiana Purchase, gave the United States control of the Mississippi River and access to the port of New Orleans. The purchase also nearly doubled the land size of the United States and gave the United States fertile farmland and access to the Far West.

The territories of the West were rich in natural resources. The discovery of gold and silver deposits encouraged settlement in parts of the Far West, the Southwest, and the Far North. Texas, a former Mexican territory that became an independent republic in 1836 and joined the United States in 1845, was valued for cotton production and cattle ranching. The land in parts of present-day California, Arizona, and New Mexico belonged to Mexico. The United States wanted to build a railroad through this land to the Pacific coast. In the 1840s, as a result of a war with Mexico, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo gave the United States all of the present-day states of California, Utah, and Nevada, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, and New Mexico. This agreement between the United States and Mexico also established the southern border of Texas at the Rio Grande.

The good climate and the rich soil for farming in the northwestern United States





Geographic Themes

Movement: Craigallachie, British Columbia

The Canadian Pacific Railway was completed in 1885 with the nailing of the last spike. *What impact did transcontinental railroads have on the United States and Canada?*

and southwestern Canada began to attract settlers in the 1840s. This part of the region was known as the Oregon Country. Both the United States and Great Britain claimed the Oregon Country. In 1846 the two countries agreed to divide Oregon's territory between them, extending the United States-Canadian border along the 49th parallel from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

During the late 1800s, settlement of the Great Plains was encouraged by both the United States and Canada. The governments wanted to ease the crowding in eastern cities, caused by people coming to these cities from Europe. They also wanted people to farm the region, thus providing more food for city populations. Thousands of people from the crowded lands in the eastern parts of the region, as well as European immigrants, started farms on the Great Plains of Canada and the United States.

In 1867 the United States bought Alaska from Russia. Alaska was rich in fur-bearing animals and in fish. Alaska later proved to be important for its deposits of gold, oil, and other valuable resources.

Technology and Growth

Settlers on the dry Great Plains used a special farming method, called **dry farming**, to ease the shortage of water there. Dry farming is a way of saving water in the soil by plowing land so that it holds rainwater.

Advances in farm machinery also helped the farmers. Steel plows replaced iron plows. Stronger than iron plows, steel plows were better able to cut through the prairie sod. During the late 1880s, steam tractors and planting and harvesting machines made it possible to farm large areas of land faster and easier.



The completion of transcontinental railroads in the United States and Canada made it possible to transport goods from the East to the West and to transport food products and beef cattle from the West to the East. Chinese, Irish, Mexicans, and other groups of people were recruited to come to the region to help build the railroads.

By the early 1900s, the Industrial Revolution led to the development of new and better methods of mass production. These new industrial developments greatly changed the lives of many people in the United States and Canada. Now, more people lived in cities rather than in rural areas. The use of standard parts and assembly lines in automobile factories cut the time and cost needed to build an automobile. Because more people could afford automobiles, more roads had to be built. The automobile made it possible for great numbers of people to move out of the central cities by enabling them to commute to their jobs.

In the 1900s industries grew dramatically during the two world wars. The vast resources of the United States and Canada were used to

supply the manufacture of military equipment needed for their armed forces and for their allies around the world. Agricultural products, such as cattle and grains, were also in great demand. Because the United States and Canada were separated from the war zones by the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the countries' resources were vital to their European and Asian allies.

United States Government

In 1787 a group of leaders of the United States drafted a plan of government for the United States, called the **Constitution**. Over the years changes in the Constitution, called **amendments**, have been made to meet the changing needs of the people. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. These amendments guarantee the basic rights of citizens, such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press.

The Constitution created a national government and gave it certain powers over

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

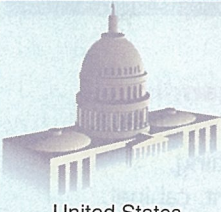
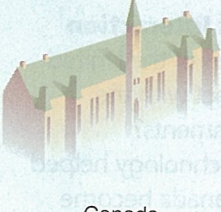
 United States	<p>Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Vice-President Cabinet Departments and Agencies 	<p>Legislative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House of Representatives Senate 	<p>Judicial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supreme Court Federal Courts State and Local Courts
 Canada	<p>Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Monarch Governor-General Prime Minister Cabinet Departments and Agencies 	<p>Legislative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House of Commons Senate 	<p>Judicial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supreme Court Federal Courts Provincial Courts

CHART STUDY

The United States and Canada are democracies. The United States has a presidential form of government and Canada has a parliamentary form of government. *In which country do the executive and legislative branches of government overlap?*



things that affected the entire country, such as defense and foreign affairs. Each of the former colonies of Great Britain became a state, and was also given certain powers, such as control over education. The national government and the state governments, along with various forms of local government, share the governing of the country. The government of the United States is a representative democracy in which people elect those who govern them.

The national government of the United States has three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch includes the President, the Vice President, and the executive departments that administer various divisions of the national government. The heads of these departments are members of the President's **cabinet**—a group of special advisers. The legislative branch consists of Congress, made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The judicial branch of the United States government is made up of the Supreme Court and other courts throughout the country.

Canada's Government

The British North America Act of 1867 made Canada a self-governing nation with close ties to Great Britain. This act set up a strong national government and gave the individual Canadian provinces only minor powers. Over the years amendments have been added to give the provinces more powers. Under the terms of the British North America Act, Canada needed the approval of Great Britain in order to make changes in the Canadian government. The Constitution Act of 1982 gave Canada the right to make constitutional changes without British approval.

The executive part of the Canadian government includes the governor-general, the prime minister, and the cabinet. The British monarch is still the official head of state in Canada and appoints a governor-general to act in his or her place. The governor-general has little actual power and performs only certain ceremonial duties. Canada's prime minister is the actual working head of the government.

The national legislature of Canada is called the Parliament and is made up of the Senate and the House of Commons. The Supreme Court of Canada, which is the highest court in the country, has nine judges. There are also other lower courts.

States, Provinces, and Territories

The United States is made up of 50 states and several territories. United States territories include the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States in the Caribbean Sea. American Samoa, Guam, and several other Pacific islands and island groups are also territories of the United States.

Canada is made up of 10 provinces and 2 territories. The territories, located in the extreme northern part of the country, are the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. In 1999 a third territory—Nunavut—is being carved out of part of the Northwest Territories. Nunavut has a largely Inuit population.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

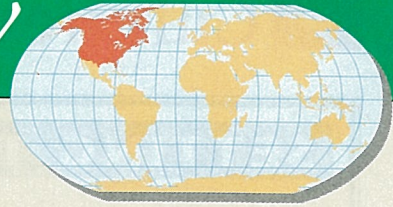
- 1. Define** strait, cash crop, republic, industrialization, dry farming, Constitution, amendment, cabinet.
- 2. Locating Places** Where is the Bering Strait?
- 3. Human/Environment Interaction** How did the early peoples of the United States and Canada interact with the region's different environments?
- 4. Movement** How has technology helped the United States and Canada become industrial leaders?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Making Comparisons** How are the governments of Canada and the United States similar? How are they different?



Geography and History



CANADA'S TWO LANGUAGES

As you read, examine how Canada became a bilingual country.

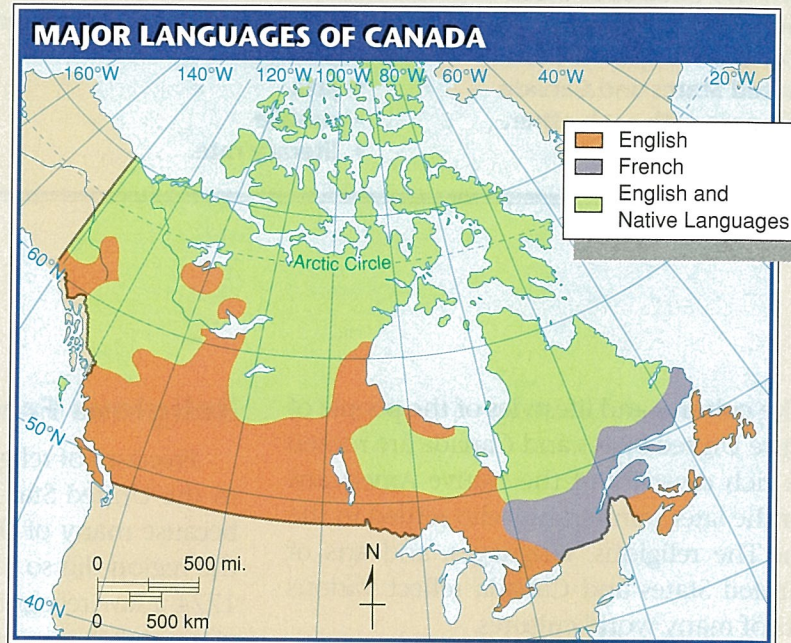
Loyalists Move to Canada

The Treaty of Paris opened to British settlement a huge area of land in the north. Known as Quebec, the British-ruled territory later provided a perfect refuge for residents of the 13 American colonies who opposed the American Revolution. Known as Loyalists, these immigrants left the unpleasant situation in the 13 colonies to resettle in Canada. With them, they brought the English language, as well as British law and customs.

French Culture Recognized

Quebec, however, was home to thousands of French Canadians. Although the British Parliament guaranteed them political and religious rights, the French Canadians felt at a disadvantage with their British rulers and the English-speaking Loyalists.

The British tried to solve the problem by dividing Quebec into two colonies in the Constitutional Act of 1791. Lower Canada, along the lower St. Lawrence River, remained largely French in population and law. Upper Canada, along the Great Lakes, was British in population and law.



Two Languages Recognized

When the modern nation of Canada was formed in 1867, both French and English were recognized as Canada's official languages. In many places, however, English continued to be used almost exclusively.

Finally, in 1969, the Canadian Parliament passed the Official Languages Act. This law guarantees all Canadians the right to communicate with the Canadian federal government in English or French.

In 1974 the Quebec legislature strengthened the position of the French language in the province by making French the sole official lan-

guage for the provincial government. In 1977 it adopted the Charter of the French Language, making French the language of business and communications.

Checking for Understanding

1. How did the relocation of the Loyalists lead to Canada's present-day system of two languages?
2. **Location** Study the map at the top of the page. Why was Canada "the perfect place" for British Loyalists?



Cultures and Lifestyles

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- how the cultures of these countries developed.
- how the lifestyles of the United States and Canada compare with each other.

Key Terms

- multicultural
- bilingual
- abstract
- jazz
- mobile
- literacy rate

Identify and Locate

New Orleans, Quebec, New Mexico

The cultures and lifestyles of the people of the United States and Canada are rooted in the rich diversity of the Native Americans and of the later immigrants who settled in the region. The religions, languages, and arts of the United States and Canada reflect various aspects of many world cultures.

REGION

A Region's Cultures

Because of their diversity, the United States and Canada are considered **multicultural** societies—that is, societies having more than one culture. One Canadian refers to his country in the following way:

— — — — —
. . . Canadians believe . . . in a mosaic [an elaborate design] of separate pieces with each chunk becoming part of the whole physically but retaining its own separate color and identity.
 — — — — —

Whether described as a mosaic or some other term, these cultures offer a bounty of beliefs and traditions that help define the region of the United States and Canada.

Religious Freedom

Freedom of religion has always been valued in the United States and Canada. This is true because many of the people who migrated to the region did so to worship freely. As early as 1774 a law recognizing French Canadian religious rights was passed by the British Parliament. After the United States became an independent country, citizens were guaranteed religious freedom under the Constitution.

Most people who are members of an organized religion in the United States and Canada today are Christians. In the United States more than one-half of all religious people are Protestants, while another one-fifth are Roman Catholics. In Canada, Roman Catholics make up almost one-half of all religious people. Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism are among other religions in the United States and Canada. Religion and where people live today often reflect earlier settlement patterns.

Languages

Like religion, language in the United States and Canada also reflects the identities of early settlers. People from Great Britain brought English to the United States as the primary language. In some areas of the United States that were first colonized by Spain or France,

however, many people speak Spanish or French. Many Spanish-speaking people live in the Southwest, and many French-speaking people live in southern Louisiana.

Many recent Spanish-speaking immigrants to the United States have come from Latin America. These immigrants have generally settled in the Southwest, in Florida, and in such major cities as New York and Chicago. Therefore, in many of these places, information in public places is often printed in English and Spanish. In New Mexico, which is officially a **bilingual** state, any communications with the state government or with local governments may be in Spanish or English. *Bilingual* means "having two languages." Canada is a bilingual nation, with English and French as the two official languages. In California the presence of Asian cultures is evident in the signs written in Korean, Japanese, and Chinese.

The Arts

Early people in the region used objects from their environment to make artwork. Native Americans who settled in the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys made detailed carvings of shell or stone. Native Americans living in the Southwest used clay from their area to make pottery, and wove baskets, sandals, and mats from native plants.

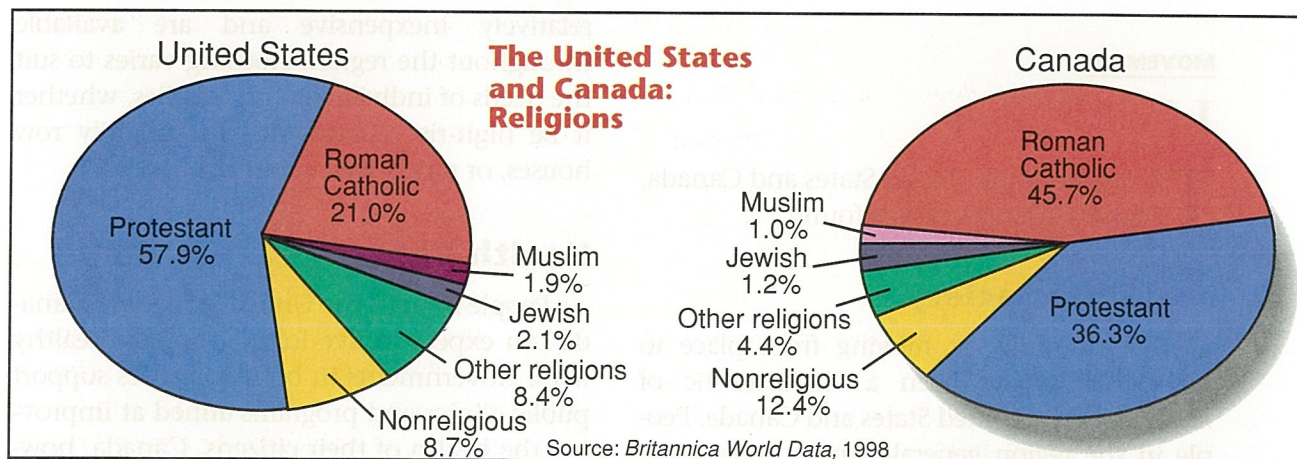
After European settlement, the arts of the region were greatly influenced by European styles. By the mid-1800s, however, the region's

artists began to create art that showed the beauty of the land and life in their own countries.

In the early 1900s, a group of American artists painted scenes that reflected the reality of city life. This group of artists became known as the Ashcan school. Later in the 1900s, American and Canadian artists began to use the new European **abstract** style of art. In abstract art, the artist tries to show his or her own attitudes and emotions.

Like art, architecture in colonial times in the United States and Canada was greatly influenced by European styles. Later the region developed its own approach to architecture. The skyscraper, which can house many people or businesses over a small land area, was developed in the United States.

Literature in the United States and Canada at first dealt mainly with history and religion and reflected European themes. Later, writers such as James Fenimore Cooper, Thomas Chandler Haliburton, and Edgar Allan Poe wrote about life in North America. Since the late 1800s some American and Canadian authors have written about different regions of the country. Mark Twain wrote about life on the Mississippi River, Margaret Laurence focused on the prairies of Manitoba, and a later writer, Willa Cather, described life on the Great Plains. More recently, African American writers, such as Richard Wright, and Jewish writers, such as Isaac Bashevis Singer, have explored the experiences of their people.





Geographic Themes

Region: The American Southwest

Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings reflect her interest in the landscape of the American Southwest. *What group of Americans painted urban life?*

Native Americans developed their own music, while Europeans brought European folk and religious music to the region. At the beginning of the 20th century, a distinctive form of music known as **jazz** developed in the United States. Jazz blends African rhythms with the harmony of European music. In the 1950s another unique form of music—rock 'n' roll—became an instant success.

MOVEMENT

Lifestyles

Throughout the United States and Canada, various lifestyles can be found.

A Mobile Society

Being **mobile**, or moving from place to place, has always been a characteristic of lifestyles in the United States and Canada. People in the region generally move to increase

their business opportunities, to get better housing, or to get a better education. Widespread use of the automobile has given people a greater choice of where to work and live.

Standard of Living

The United States and Canada are among the richest countries in the world. Because the region has an agricultural surplus, foods are relatively inexpensive and are available throughout the region. Housing varies to suit the needs of individuals and families, whether it be high-rise apartments, multifamily row houses, or ranch-style suburban houses.

Health Care

People in both the United States and Canada can expect to live long, generally healthy lives. Governments in both countries support public clinics and programs aimed at improving the health of their citizens. Canada, how-



ever, spends more money ensuring the health of its citizens than does the United States.

Many people in the United States have health insurance, but the cost of this insurance, as well as of medical costs, is skyrocketing. Although the United States government does offer public insurance—Medicare and Medicaid—for older and disabled citizens, no national health insurance plan now exists. In the early 1990s, the government offered hotly debated proposals for a national health-care system.

Education

These nations have similar educational systems. Each has public and private schools. Both countries require a minimum number of years be spent in school. In the United States, school systems have 12 grades. In Canada, most provinces also have 12 grades. In addition, every province and every state has colleges and universities.

The literacy rates of the countries reflect this concern for education. The United States has a **literacy rate** of 97 percent. This means that 97 of every 100 residents can read and write. Canada's literacy rate is 96 percent.

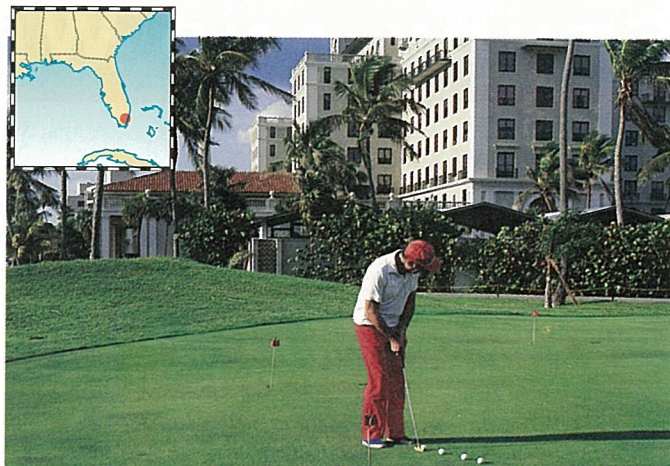
Sports and Recreation

Citizens of both nations have plenty of leisure time. Many use this time to play and watch sports. In the United States, baseball, football, and basketball are very popular.

Ice hockey tops the list of popular Canadian sports. Other winter sports, such as skiing, snowshoeing, and ice skating, are popular as well.

The United States and Canada offer their citizens a grand series of national parks in which to play. Since the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, the United States has created more than 350 national parks that together offer 125,000 square miles (325,000 sq. km) of parkland.

In Canada, every province and territory boasts at least one national park. Some of these parks are huge. The Wood Buffalo Park, lying partly in Alberta and partly in the North-



Geographic Themes

Region: The Sunbelt

The Sunbelt region of the United States is a popular recreation area that draws tourists from other parts of the country. *What natural areas are popular recreation spots for Americans and Canadians?*

west Territories, encompasses 17,296 square miles (44,807 sq. km).

Celebrations

The United States and Canada share several holidays. For example, some religious holidays are observed in both countries. Other celebrations pay tribute to certain people or patriotic holidays, such as Independence Day in the United States and Canada Day in Canada.

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** multicultural, bilingual, abstract, jazz, mobile, literacy rate.
- 2. Locating Places** What Canadian provinces lie west of Ontario?
- 3. Region** Why has religious freedom been valued in the United States and Canada?
- 4. Place** How do people in the United States and Canada spend their leisure time?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Analyzing Information** Why did early art in the United States and Canada reflect a European influence?



STUDY AND WRITING SKILLS

Outlining

In studying for exams or writing reports, two common problems arise: 1) identifying the most important information, and 2) keeping related information together. Outlining is an excellent tool for organizing information in a clear, logical order.

REVIEWING THE SKILL

In an outline, related ideas and facts are grouped together. Each group begins with a broad idea, followed by increasingly specific information. For example, an outline begins with two or more main ideas. Under each main idea two or more subtopics, or parts of main ideas, can be listed. Finally, supporting details follow each subtopic.


Letters and numbers identify and separate the different categories of information in an outline. Roman numerals identify main ideas. Capital letters mark subtopics, while Arabic numerals and lowercase letters identify supporting facts.

Outlines can be used in several ways. First, creating an outline is a good way to study textbook material for exams. Use the main headings in the chapter as main ideas in your outline. Then, read the material under each main heading and identify subtopics and supporting details. Second, when researching and writing essays or reports, use an outline to help clarify and organize your thoughts. Decide what main ideas to include and flesh out each main idea with subtopics and supporting details.

To use the technique of outlining, apply these steps:

- Identify the general topic of the outline and write the topic as a question.
- Write the main ideas that answer this question. Label these with Roman numerals.
- Write subtopics under each main idea. Label these with capital letters.
- Write supporting details for each subtopic. Label these with Arabic numerals and lowercase letters.

PRACTICING THE SKILL

 Study the incomplete outline of Chapter 6. The main ideas in the outline correspond to the section headings in the chapter. On a separate sheet of paper, copy this outline and fill in the missing information for Section 1.

General topic: Cultural Geography of the United States and Canada

Topic as question: _____

- I. Population Patterns
 - A.
 1.
 - a. Most are of European descent
 - b.
 2. Ethnic composition of Canada
 - a.
 - b. Others—Asian, Inuit, or Native American descent
 - B. Population Distribution and Density
 1. Population Size
 - a. United States: 270 million, about 76 people/sq. mile (30 per sq. km)
 - b.
 2. Low growth rate
 3. Population Spread
 - a.
 - b. Most Canadians live within 200 miles of the U.S. border
 - C. Urbanization
 1.
 - a.
 - b. Southern port cities
 - c.
 2. Inland cities
 - a. Near inland waterways
 - b.
- II. History and Government
- III. Culture and Lifestyles

For additional practice in outlining, see Practicing Skills on page 126 of the Chapter 6 Assessment.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.

1

SECTION

Population Patterns

KEY TERMS

SUMMARY



Skyline of Chicago

immigrant (p. 107)
Sunbelt (p. 108)
suburbs (p. 109)
metropolitan area
(p. 109)
megalopolis (p. 109)

- Most immigrants to the United States and Canada were of European descent, with Great Britain supplying the greatest number.
- Other ethnic groups include French, African American, Hispanic, and those of Asian ancestry.
- Climate limits the population of Canada's northern two-thirds, and most people live along Canada's border with the United States.
- Most of the people of the region live in urban areas.

2

SECTION

History and Government

KEY TERMS

SUMMARY



St. Louis Street in old Quebec City

strait (p. 111)
cash crop (p. 113)
republic (p. 114)
industrialization
(p. 115)
dry farming (p. 116)
Constitution (p. 117)
amendment (p. 117)
cabinet (p. 118)

- Scientists believe that the first humans to settle in the region crossed a land bridge between Asia and North America.
- Colonists fought the War of Independence to free themselves from Great Britain.
- The British North America Act of 1867 made Canada a self-governing nation with ties to Great Britain.

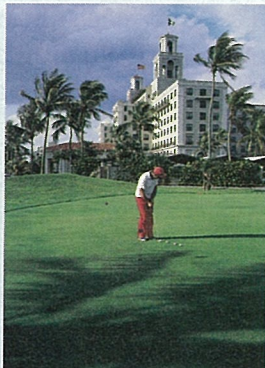
3

SECTION

Cultures and Lifestyles

KEY TERMS

SUMMARY



Golfers in southern Florida

multicultural (p. 120)
bilingual (p. 121)
abstract (p. 121)
jazz (p. 122)
mobile (p. 122)
literacy rate (p. 123)

- Freedom of religion has always been valued in the region.
- The United States has a largely English-speaking population, although many Americans speak Spanish and other languages. Canada recognizes both English and French as its official languages.
- Citizens of both countries enjoy a variety of cultures and a high standard of living.



Reviewing Key Terms

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

immigrants (p. 107)

Sunbelt (p. 108)

strait (p. 111)

cash crops (p. 113)

republic (p. 114)

amendments (p. 117)

cabinet (p. 118)

bilingual (p. 121)

abstract (p. 121)

jazz (p. 122)

mobile (p. 122)

SECTION 1

1. Those who leave their homes to settle in another country are ____.
2. The ____ includes southern and southwestern states with temperate climates.

SECTION 2

3. Middle Colonies produced ____ for sale.
4. A narrow body of water called a ____ often separates two larger seas.
5. The first 10 ____ to the United States Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights.
6. The heads of executive departments in the United States government are members of the President's ____.
7. A ____ is a form of government in which citizens elect their own officials.

SECTION 3

8. Because Canada has two official languages, it is considered ____.
9. In ____ art, the artist tries to show his or her own emotions and attitudes.
10. ____ means moving from place to place.
11. A musical blend of African rhythms and European harmony is called ____.

Reviewing Facts

SECTION 1

12. What are the population densities for the United States and Canada?
13. Where is Canada's least populated area?

SECTION 2

14. How was the land of the United States and Canada changed by European settlers?
15. What were the first four provinces to join the Dominion of Canada?

SECTION 3

16. How has immigration affected language in the United States and Canada?
17. What are Medicare and Medicaid?

Critical Thinking

18. **Analyzing Information** Why do most Canadians live near the United States?
19. **Determining Cause and Effect** How do archaeological finds suggest when people first came to North America?
20. **Predicting Consequences** How would things be different if the United States were officially bilingual?



Geographic Themes

21. **Human/Environment Interaction** Why was Pittsburgh's location favorable for the development of the steel industry?
22. **Human/Environment Interaction** How did early art reflect the environment?
23. **Movement** Why do most people in the United States and Canada generally move?



Practicing Skills

Outlining

Create a detailed outline of Chapter 6, Section 2, similar to the one you completed for Section 1 in the skill lesson on page 124.

Using the Unit Atlas

Refer to the cultural geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 86–87.

24. What are the two most densely populated provinces of Canada?
25. What five states once belonged to Spain?

Projects

Individual Activity

Use an encyclopedia to help you select a United States territorial acquisition, such as the Louisiana Purchase. Write a report on the area's importance today.

Cooperative Learning Activity

Working in groups of four, imagine your class is immigrating to the region. Use your text's physical and climatic maps to select a location. Present a speech explaining your

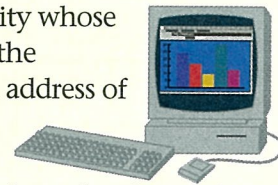
choice. After all speeches are heard, take a class vote on your future home.

Writing About Geography

Description Using your journal as well as reference works in your library, find out what major group or groups of immigrants settled in your local area. Write an essay about the cultural influences these people have had.

Technology Activity

Using E-mail Analyze a state or provincial map. Find a city whose name is unusual. Using the Internet, find the E-mail address of that city's chamber of commerce. Then e-mail your selected city, asking how the city got its name, what the city is known for, and whether anyone famous grew up there. Share your responses with the class.



Locating Places

THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA: PHYSICAL/POLITICAL

Match the letters on the map with the places and physical features of the United States and Canada. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Yukon Territory | 6. Saskatchewan |
| 2. Great Salt Lake | 7. Prince Edward Island |
| 3. Nova Scotia | 8. Manitoba |
| 4. Quebec | 9. Ontario |
| 5. Alberta | 10. Nunavut |
| | 11. British Columbia |

