



Geographical Understandings

SS5G1 The student will locate important places in the United States.

SS5G2 The student will explain the reasons for the spacial patterns of economic activities.

Physical Features

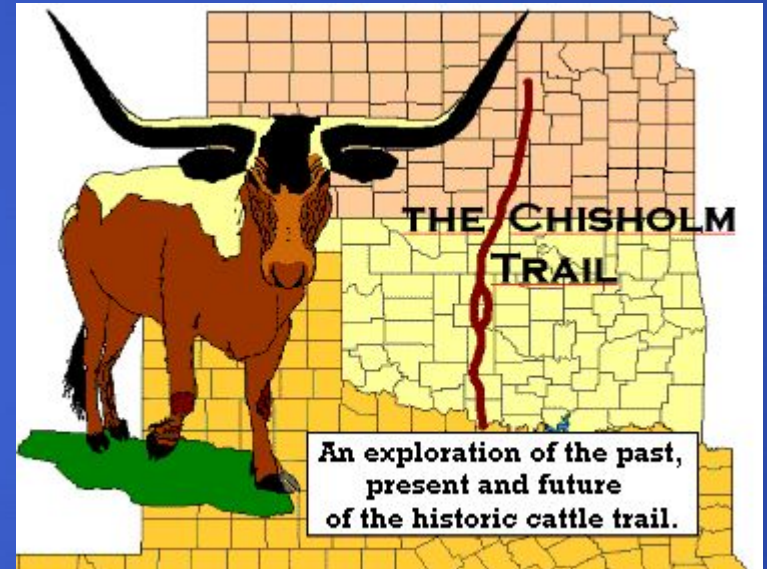
Geography is the study of land, physical features (mountains, waterfalls, gorges, and so on), bodies of water, climate, cultures, natural resources, and so on. Physical Geography is the study of how specific physical characteristics define a region. Physical features include deserts, bodies of water, mountain ranges, and other land forms. The United States has many important physical features. Some of them are listed in the following slides.

Man Made Features

Geography includes the study of man-made places (places or features constructed by humans). Examples of man-made features include farms, cities, canals, and roads. For centuries, the geography of the United States has been impacted by humans. Some of these geographical places are in the following slides.

Chisholm Trail

The Chisholm Trail is a man-made feature in the US. It was a route used in the late 19th Century to move cattle from Texas to Kansas. The journey could take up to 2 months. It was often very dangerous. Cattle drives often encountered harsh weather, wild animals, hostile Native Americans, and outlaws.



Pittsburgh ,PA

Pittsburgh is the second largest city in Pennsylvania after Philadelphia. It is located where the Allegheny and the Monongahela Rivers come together to form the Ohio River. Due to these massive rivers, Pittsburgh relies on a number of bridges to deal with traffic and transportation. Pittsburgh has so many bridges that it is often called the “Bridge Capital of the United States.” The city’s location has made it a key industrial center. The Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers provide key water routes for transporting industrial resources and goods. During the early 1900’s, Pittsburgh manufactured almost half of the nation’s steel. Today, Pittsburgh is still known as the steel city.

Pittsburg, PA



Kitty Hawk, NC

Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, is a town on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The Outer Banks is a series of small islands that line North Carolina's coast. Kitty Hawk became famous as the sight of the Wright brothers' first powered airplane flight in 1903.

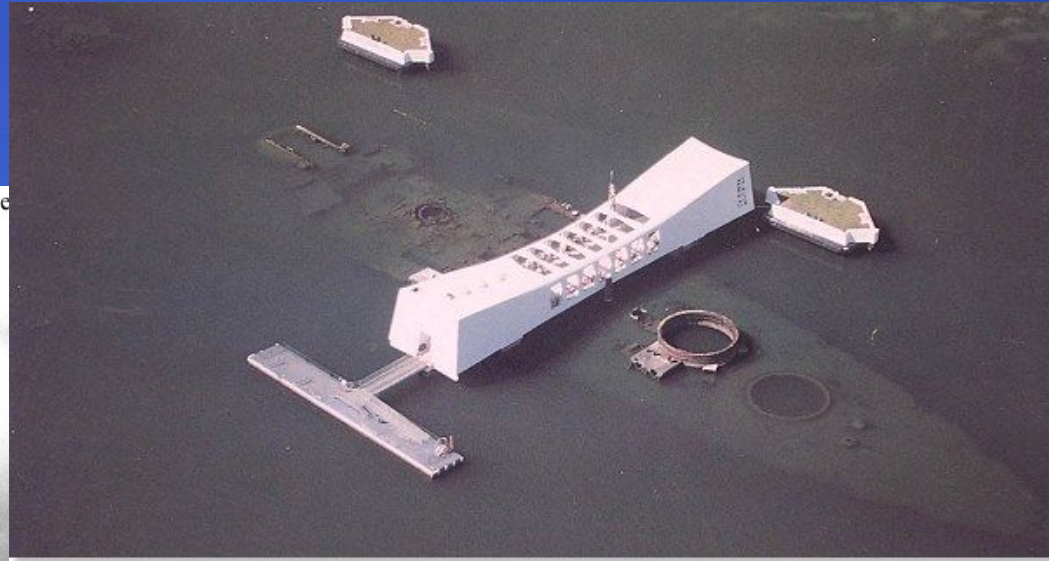


Pearl Harbor, HI

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii is located west of Honolulu on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Its harbor serves as a US naval base. On December 7, 1941, Japanese forces bombed Pearl Harbor in a surprise attack. Japan chose to attack Pearl Harbor because it wanted to expand its Empire. Japan's leaders felt that Pearl Harbor was too close to Japan. It feared the US Pacific Fleet, would sail for Japan and try to stop Japan's expansion. The attack badly damaged the US fleet, but failed to destroy it. The United States declared war on Japan and entered WWII in response to Pearl Harbor.

Pearl Harbor, HI

Photo # 80-G-19949 USS Maryland and capsized USS Oklahoma, 7 December



Montgomery, AL

Montgomery, Alabama, is the capital of Alabama. It is located in the southeast region of the state and has a rich history.

Montgomery served as the first Capital of the Confederacy after the southern states seceded from the Union in 1860. The city also became well-known during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's. The Montgomery Bus Boycott led to a Supreme Court decision ending segregation on public buses. It also made Martin Luther King, Jr. a national figure and the recognized leader of the Civil Rights Movement.



Montgomery, Al





Economic Development of the United States

Industrial Development after the Civil War

After the Civil War, the United States became more industrialized. Industrialization means that more factories and large businesses developed. Many factors affected industrialization. One was available resources. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Detroit had large populations. Large populations meant lots of labor, allowing factories and industries to grow.



Accessibility to transportation also increased industrialization. Many cities along long rivers, lakes and coastlines became industrial centers because they had access to shipping. Later, as railroads expanded, transportation to more areas became easier and industry expanded.



Available resources determined what industries became important in different regions. In the South, where agriculture is important, tobacco and cotton industries (textiles) thrived. Fertilizer production, saw mills, naval stores (products used to build and repair wooden sailing ships), and iron ore all became important southern industries. In the West, new technologies helped industrialize mining, agriculture, and the cattle industry. Places like north California and Oregon became home to important timber industries. Oil became an important industry in parts of the Southwest. In the Midwest, agriculture became more industrialized as farmers produced large amounts of corn, wheat, and other products.

Economic Activity Since the Turn of the Century

Since 1900, various industries have thrived in different parts of the country. In the Northeast, financial industries such as banks and insurance have done well. The region has also been home to manufacturing and factory production industries. The South has featured textiles and agricultural industries. In recent years, banking has become important as well. Today, Charlotte, North Carolina is home to Bank of America and Wachovia.



It ranks second to only New York as the nation's banking center. Atlanta continues to grow as an industrial center. It is the home of world-famous Coca-Cola, Home Depot, and Chick-fil-A. Atlanta is also home to a thriving media and entertainment industry. Turner Broadcasting, Cable News Network (CNN), and profitable recording industries are all based in Atlanta.



Agricultural industries continue to do well in the South, Midwest, and parts of the West. Automobile Manufacturing became a big part of the Northern Midwest's economy driving the twentieth century. Other industries, like brewing, became important in Milwaukee. In the Appalachian Mountains, coal mining became important due to the large amount of coal available. Fishing industries play an important role in regions along the nation's coastlines. The defense industry (industry that builds weapons for the nation's military) is important in several western states.



Coal Mine in Operation

Copyright: <http://coalgeology.com>



The United States as a World Power

After World War I

Before World War I, the United States was not considered a world power. After the war, however, things changed. European economies were devastated. Property, industries, and infrastructure had been badly damaged. Meanwhile, the war boosted the US economy. Although US troops eventually fought in the war, none of the battle took place in the United States. US businesses were not damaged or destroyed by attacks. Industries grew as the nation produced more goods to support the war effort. Once the war ended, the United States found itself an economic world power. It was producing more goods than ever before while many other industrialized nations were trying to recover.

After World War II

The United States became even more of a world power after World War II. Once again, the US economy did well while economies overseas suffered from the destruction caused by war. The US provided loans and financial aid to rebuild parts of Europe and Southeast Asia. In addition to being an economic power, the US became one of the world's leading military powers. It developed the world's first nuclear weapons and placed military bases in European countries. This led to a rise in defense industries, boosting the US economy even more.