

Regions of the United States

Regions of the United States

- Northeast
- South
- Midwest & Great Plains
- Rocky Mountains/Basin States,
including Southwest
- Pacific Coast

Topics to be discussed for each region

- ✓ Physical Geography
- ✓ Historical Geography
- ✓ Population Geography
- ✓ Economic Geography
- ✓ Cultural Geography

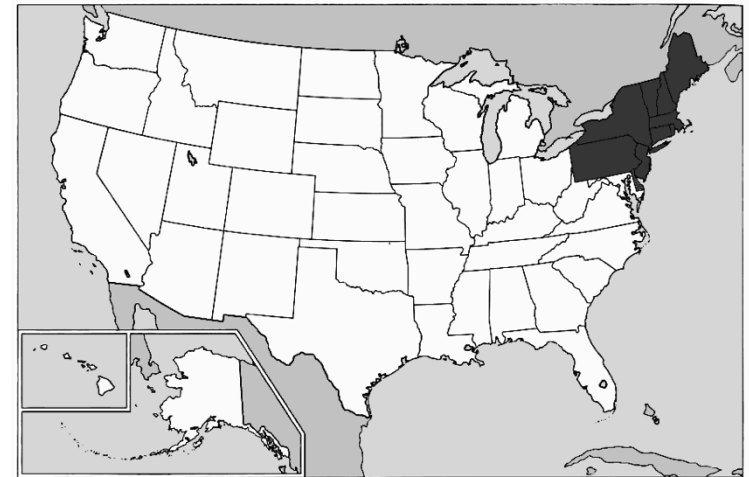
The Northeast

- States:

- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Massachusetts
- Connecticut
- Rhode Island
- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Delaware
- Maryland
- the District of Columbia

New England

Mid-Atlantic



- The Northeast can be subdivided into two smaller regions:
 - 1) New England and
 - 2) Mid-Atlantic States

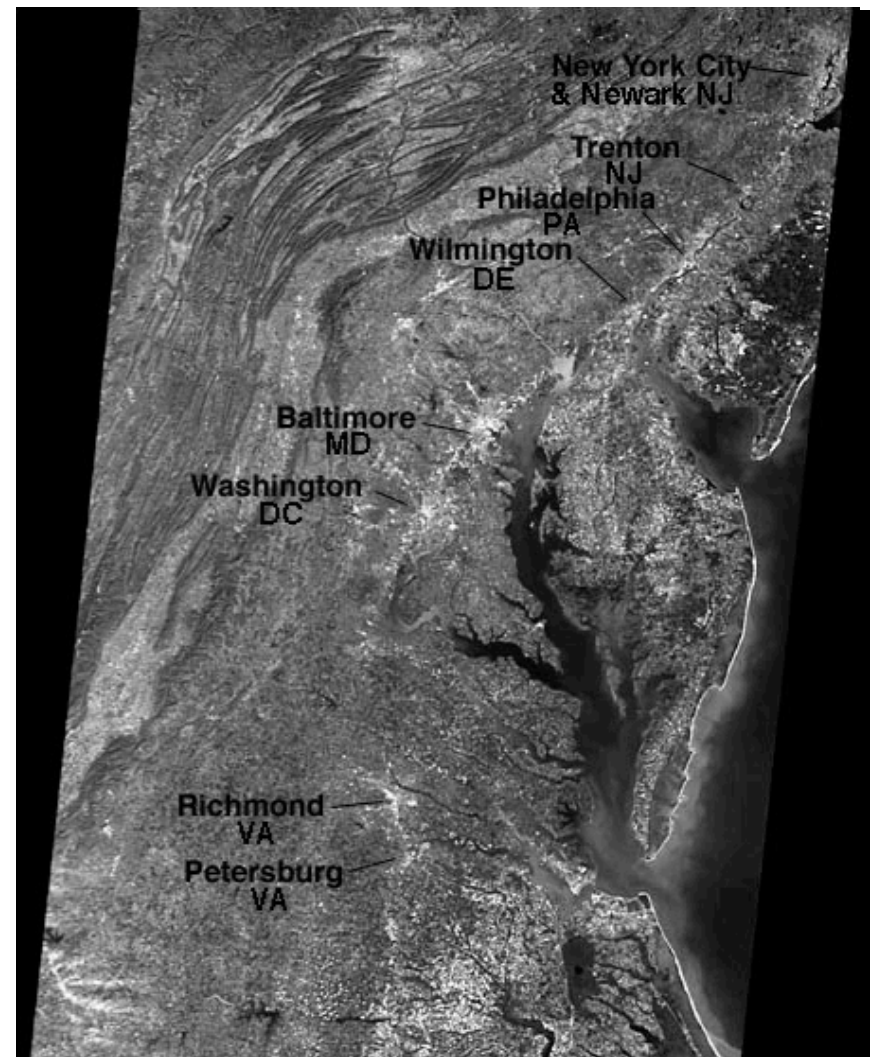
Physical Geography of Northeast

- Northern Appalachian Mountains
 - causing little farmland, except in valley areas



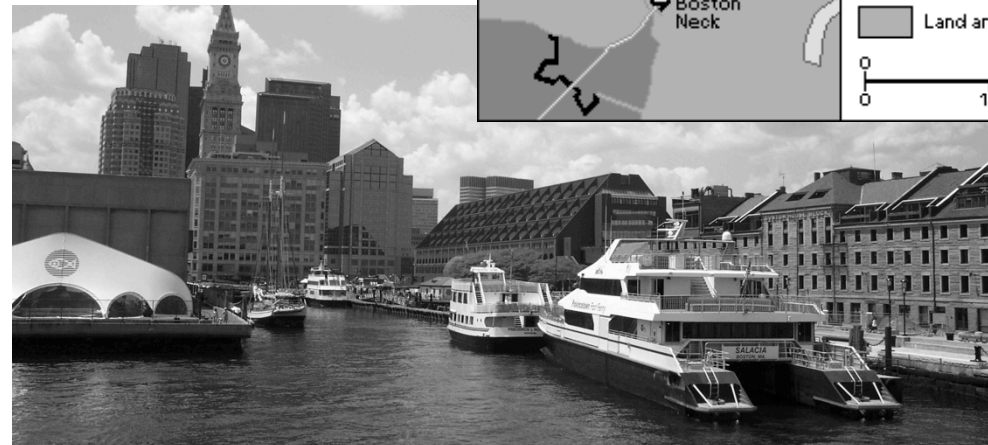
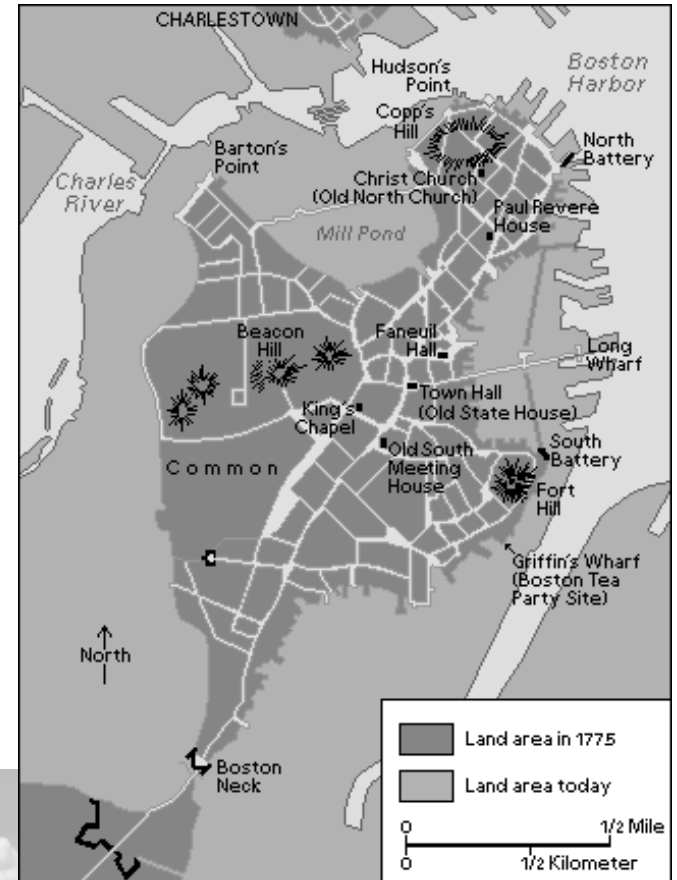
Physical Geography of Northeast

- Northern Appalachian Mountains
 - causing little farmland, except in valley areas
- Coastal Plain
 - narrow with an area between the mountains and coast called the **fall line**



Physical Geography of Northeast

- Northern Appalachian Mountains
 - causing little farmland, except in valley areas
- Coastal Plain
 - narrow with an area between the mountains and coast called the fall line
- Deep Bays
 - port towns



Physical Geography of Northeast

- Northern Appalachian Mountains
 - causing little farmland, except in valley areas
- Coastal Plain
 - narrow with an area between the mountains and coast called the fall line
- Deep Bays
 - port towns
- Jagged, rocky coastline
 - in northern areas



Climate & Vegetation of Northeast

Humid Continental

- No dry season
 - receives precipitation throughout the year
- Cold, snowy winters and hot summers
- Moderate growing season
 - decreases as you go north
- Mixed forests
 - deciduous and coniferous trees



Historical Geography of Northeast

- Longest history of European settlement
- Historically, it was the gateway to immigrants



If you were an immigrant, would you
be able to pass INS Citizenship Test?

**I dare you...
to take the test!**

Historical Geography of Northeast

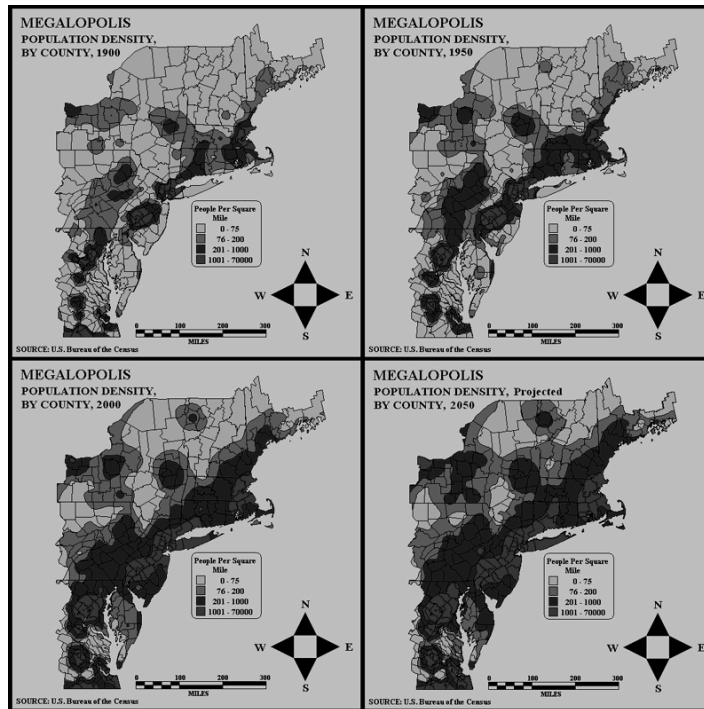
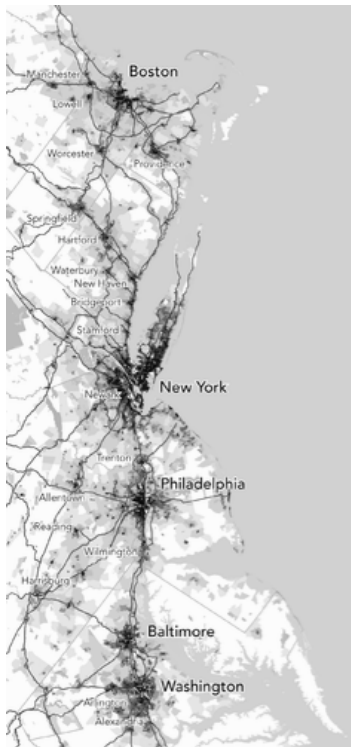
- Longest history of European settlement
- Historically, it was the gateway to immigrants
- Financial and manufacturing hub early in the industrial revolution

The Factory: Young Miners: The dust was
The White Snake boys
of days waiting for
found this white
to pass to the
The White Snake
The edge is entirely
open on two sides
and not very well
kind of smoke
protected on the
sides of the
other boys
were
used
Young
them into
smoke.



Population Geography of Northeast

- Population – most concentrated in the **Megalopolis**
- Megalopolis runs from Boston to Washington, DC.
- Most densely populated region in the United States



Economic Geography of Northeast

- New England States – long history or **maritime industry** and **forestry** with little farming
- Mid-Atlantic States – **financial sector** of the U.S., advertising, manufacturing
- Home to most major corporations



Land Use in the Northeast

- Dairy farming
- Farming
- Timber
- Maritime activity
- Some mining
- As you go north, the growing season shortens, which limits farming. In part of the Northeast, timber is a primary economic activity.



Rust Belt

- Northeast - the heart of the manufacturing core, but has been called the RUST BELT.



Cultural Geography of the Northeast

Mid-Atlantic

- Warmer weather and longer growing season
- More farming activity and less maritime activity, although major shipping waterways are present
- Major cities located on waterways:
 - New York City (Hudson River)
 - Philadelphia (Delaware River)
 - Baltimore (Chesapeake Bay)

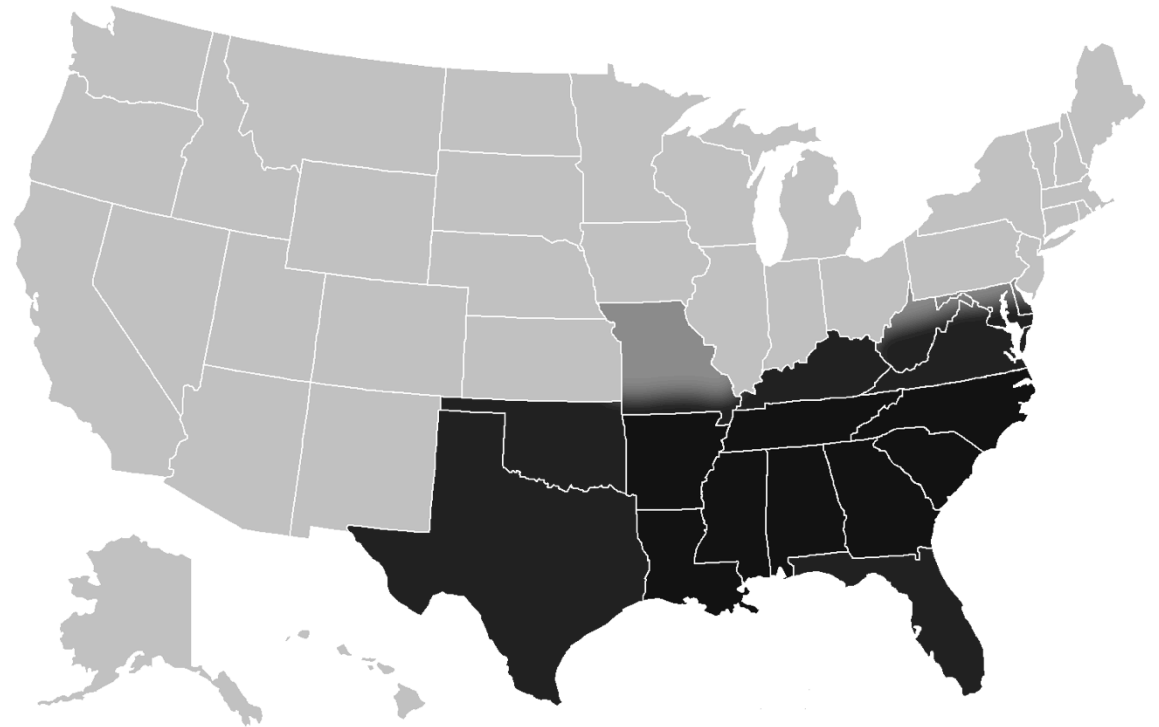


The South

- States:

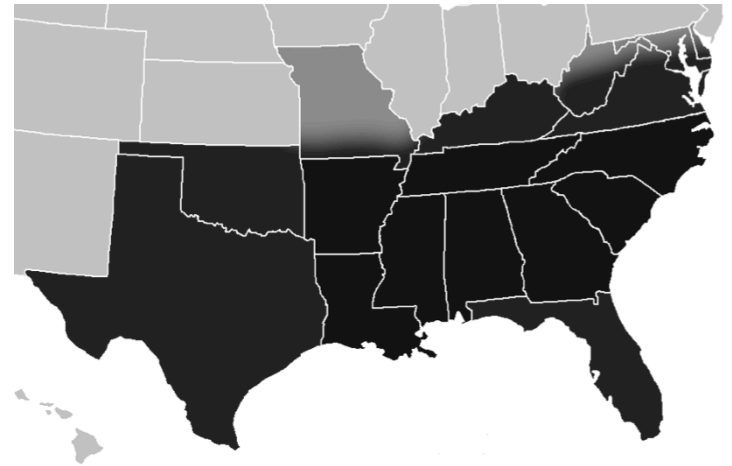
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Florida
- Georgia
- Alabama
- Mississippi
- Tennessee
- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- Kentucky
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Missouri
- Oklahoma
- Texas

} Transition States



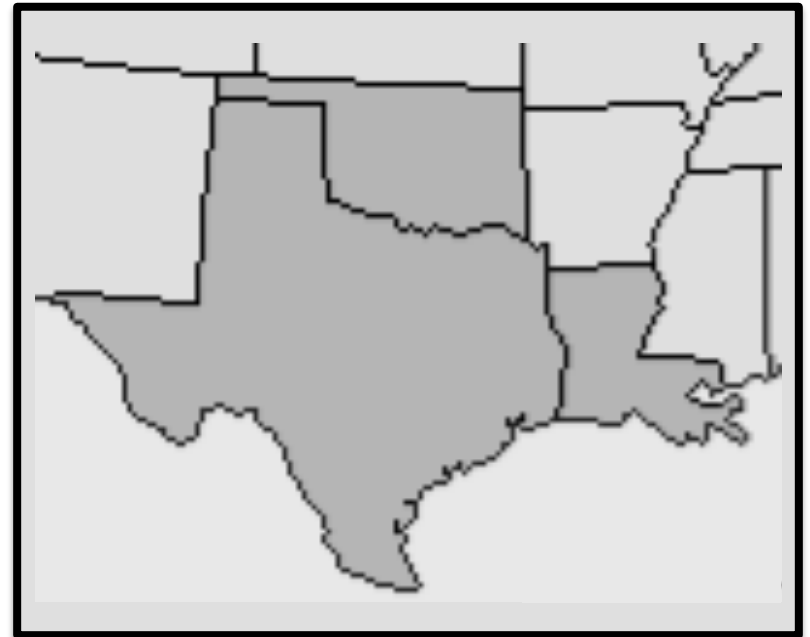
Variations on the South

- Deep South
 - 6 founding members of Confederacy
(South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana)
- Appalachia Region
 - Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and parts of North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama
- Cajun South
 - Louisiana and Texas
- Gulf Coast States
 - Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas



Notes about Transition States

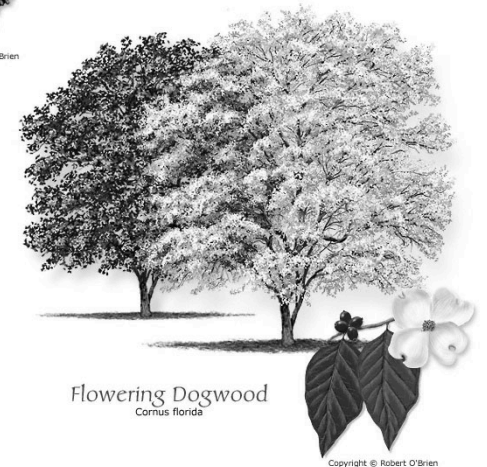
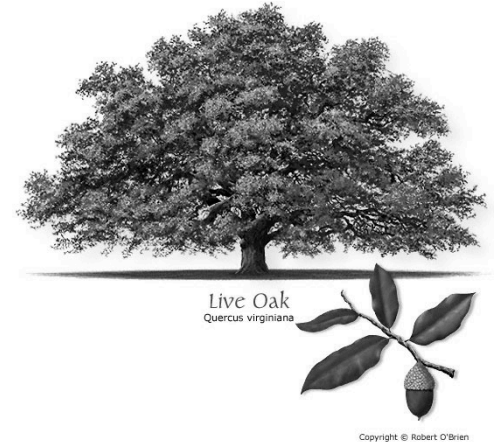
- Southern Louisiana – influenced by French, Caribbean, and Latin American history
- Texas – divided into the South, Great Plains, and Southwest regions
- Oklahoma – included in Great Plains region for two reasons:
 - climate
 - “Indian Territory”



Climate & Vegetation of the South

Humid Subtropical

- Hot, humid summers and mild winter, seldom with snow
- Long growing season
- No dry season
- Mixed forests
 - deciduous and coniferous trees
- Known for:
 - live oaks
 - magnolia trees
 - flowering dogwoods



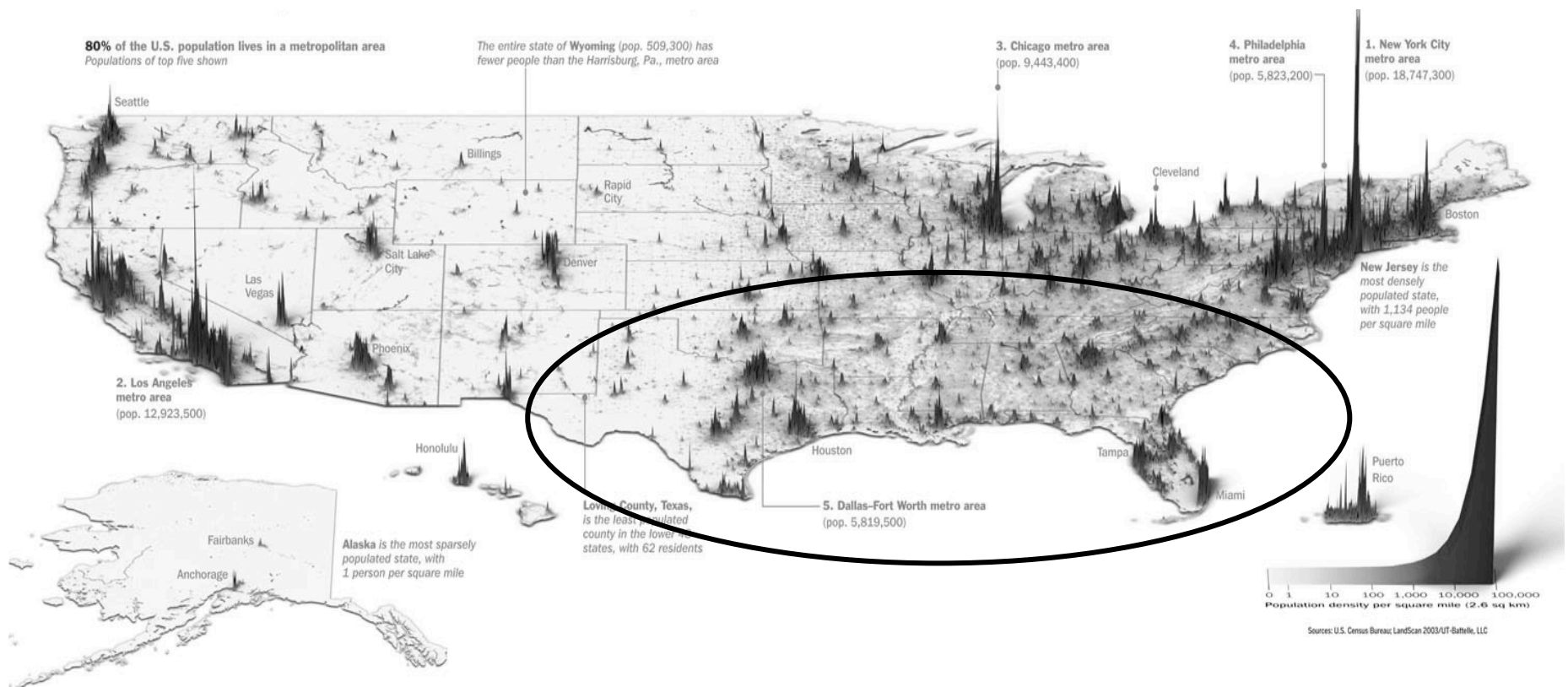
Historical Geography of the South

- An agricultural region
 - slavery and cash crops
 - climate and landscape were perfect for agriculture
- Settled by many different cultures
 - Anglo Protestant plantation farmers were the dominant group.
- Other cultures included Spanish, Caribbean, Creole (French/Spanish), Cajun (Indians/French)



Population Geography of the South

- Population is evenly distributed in the South, except for urban centers
 - Example: Houston, New Orleans, Miami



Economic Geography of the South

- Historically based on agriculture, with tobacco and cotton being the first cash crops

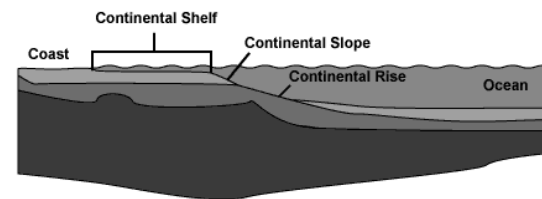


- Although, agriculture has dominated the economy, service industry, manufacturing, and high tech industries are also located in the South.



- Fishing – common activity in Gulf Coast States

- Tourism – common in Gulf Coast, especially Florida



- Oil Industry – located in Gulf and in cities like Houston and Beaumont, close to continental shelf drilling

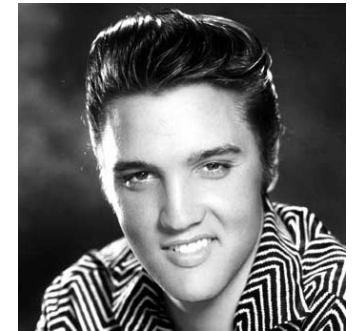


Cultural Geography of the South

- Deep South
- Appalachians
- Gulf Coast region
- Florida
- Cajun South and East Texas

Deep South

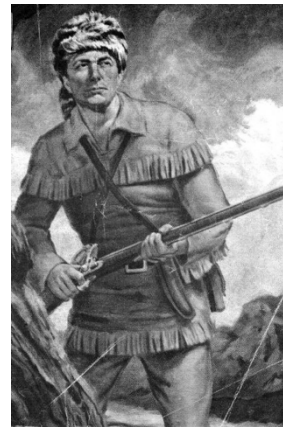
- Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, & Tennessee
- History:
 - Homeland of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Cherokee before the French, Spanish, and British arrived and took over.
 - Slavery
 - Birthplace of modern Civil Rights
 - More African-Americans elected to public office than any other part
- Gone with the Wind (Georgia)
- Tennessee – capital of music
- Southern food (fried green tomatoes, mint juleps, peach cobbler, gumbo, soul food, jambalaya, fried chicken, barbecue ribs, iced tea, grits, catfish, and soft shell crabs)



Cultural Geography of the South

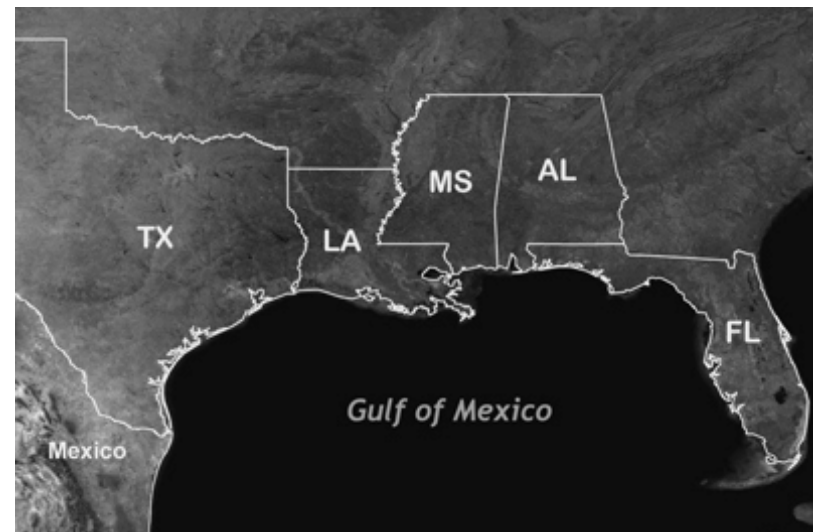
Appalachians

- Appalachian frontiersmen with coonskin cap, buckskin clothing, long rifle, and powder horn. Ex. Daniel Boone



Gulf Coast region

- Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida
- Ports
- Seafood



Cultural Geography of the South

Florida

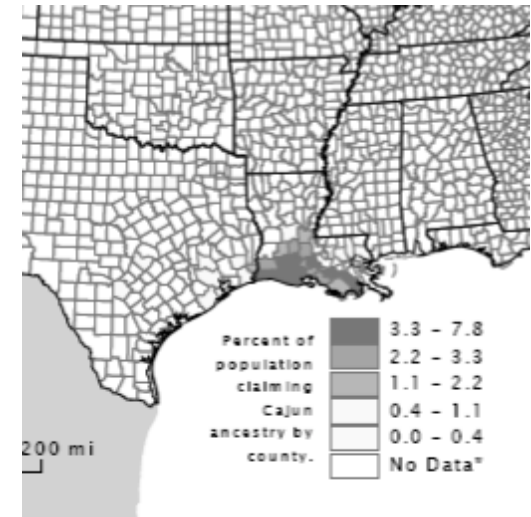
- a state with longest coastline
- a mild, sunny climate



One of best tourist states

Cajun South and East Texas

- **Most Cajuns live in Acadiana** (French Louisiana region). Over the years, many Cajuns migrated to Beaumont and Port Arthur (southeast of Texas), especially in large numbers as they followed oil-related jobs, when oil companies moved jobs from Louisiana to Texas.
- Language: Cajun French/Cajun English (Ex.: Respect – pronounced respek)
- Mardi Gras
- Traiteur (Cajun Healer)



Midwest

- States:

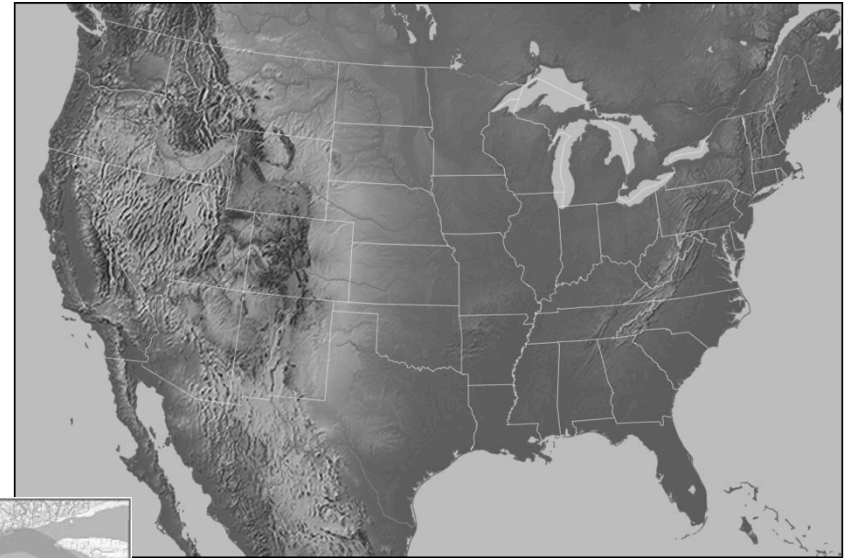
- Michigan
- Ohio
- Indiana
- Illinois
- Wisconsin
- Minnesota
- Iowa
- Pennsylvania
- Missouri

} Transition States



Physical Geography of the Midwest

- Flat landscape, with river basins
- Distinctive Great Lakes, which provide for shipping



Climate of the Midwest

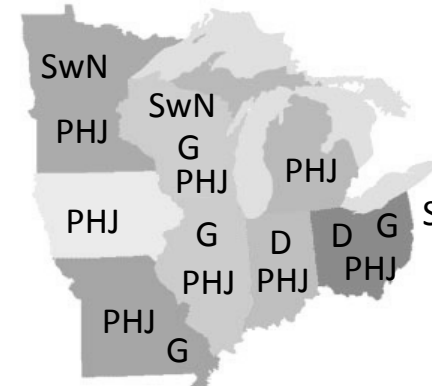
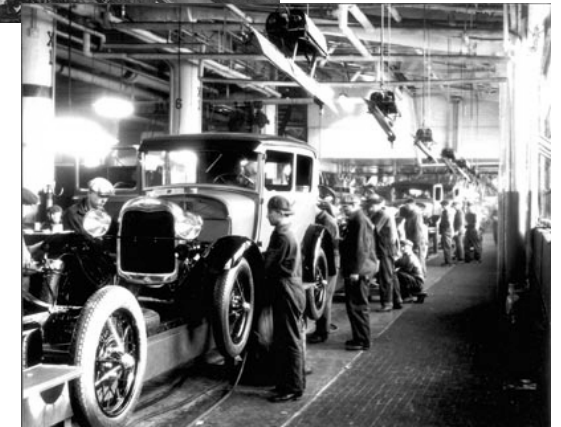
Humid Continental

- No dry season
 - receives precipitation throughout the year
- Cold, snowy winters and hot summers
- Moderate growing season
 - decreases as you go north
- Mixed forests
 - deciduous and coniferous trees



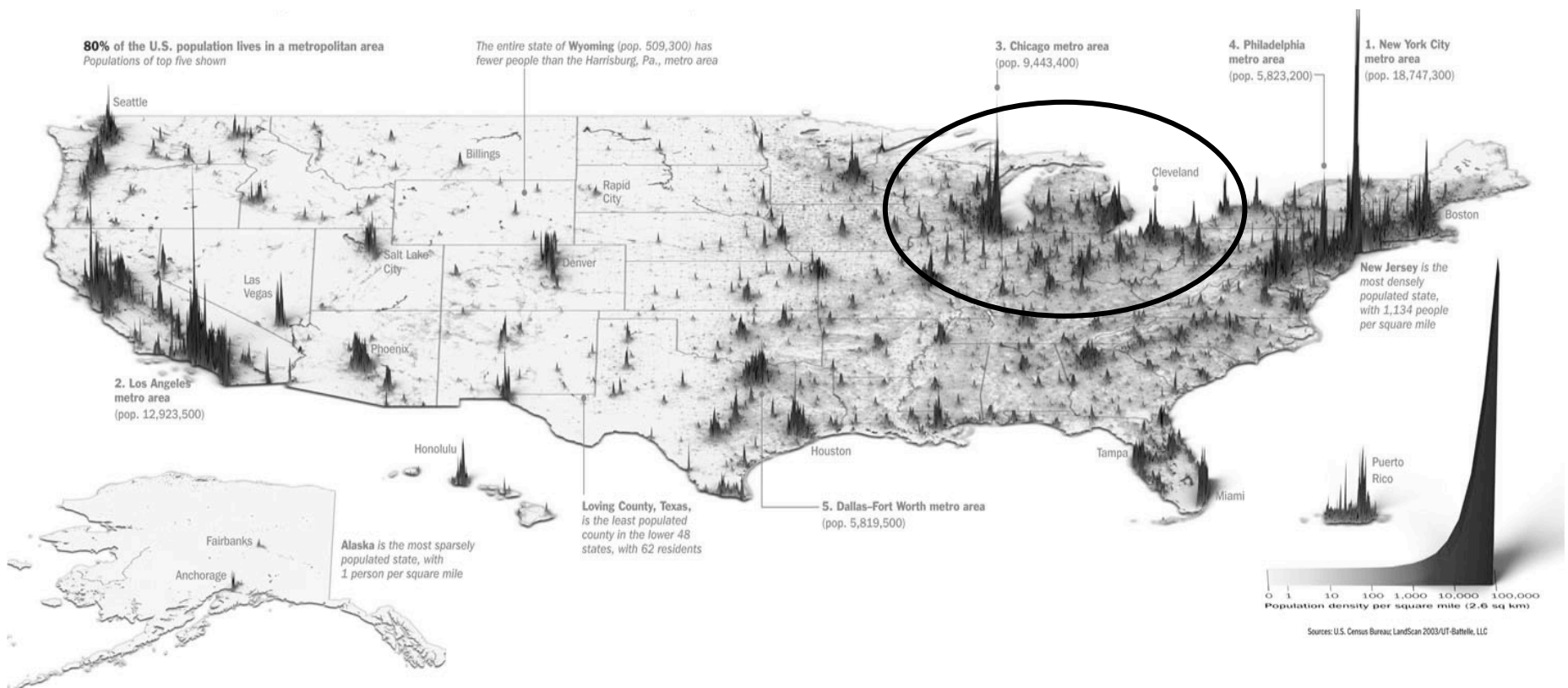
Historical Geography of the Midwest

- Considered the “Western Frontier”
- Also, as a manufacturing, blue-collar hub of the U.S.
- ...and a Cultural Crossroad (immigrants)
 - Scots Presbyterians settled in **Pennsylvania**.
 - Dutch Amish and Quakers settled in **Ohio and Indiana**.
 - German Lutherans settled in **Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois and Eastern Missouri**.
 - Swedes and Norwegians settled in **Wisconsin and Minnesota**.
 - Polish, Hungarians, German Catholics, and Jews settled in **Midwestern cities**.



Population Geography of the Midwest

- Large cities include Chicago and Detroit
- The region is evenly distributed.
- Population is dense along the Great Lakes.



Economic Geography of the Midwest

AGRICULTURE

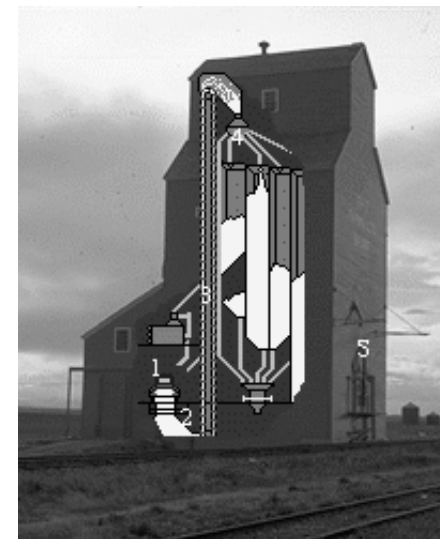
- Many regional variations, such as precipitation, growing season, and quality of soil, that affect the type of agriculture possible.
- Midwestern farms, the most productive in the world, have earned the Midwest the nickname **“the nation’s breadbasket.”**
- Dairy Farming in Wisconsin and Minnesota
- Fruit Orchards in Michigan
- Corn in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa



American farms were once modest family enterprises, but they have become big businesses involving fewer people and more machinery.

Farming Technology

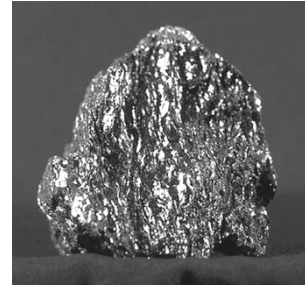
- In 1834, Cyrus McCormick's **mechanical reaper** revolutionized farming, allowing vast amounts of wheat to be harvested in less time.
- As more tasks became **mechanized**, farmers could produce more crops.
- **Push-and-pull migration** factors have helped reduce the number of farm workers.
- Farm output has **increased** dramatically.
- Business activities focus on dairies or on **grain elevators**.



Industry, Resources, and ...

- The Midwest is home to much heavy manufacturing because of its supply of natural resources.

- Minnesota - iron ore
- Indiana & Illinois - coal



- With iron, the development of steel mills in Indiana and Ohio encouraged the region's automobile industry in Detroit, Michigan.

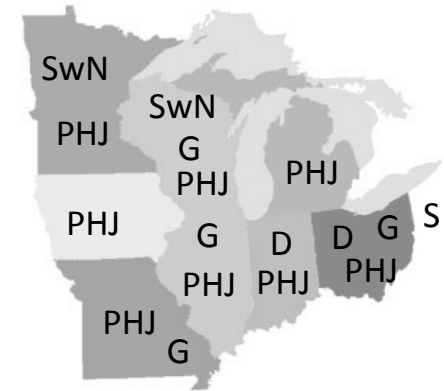


- Many of the major cities in the Midwest are located on the shores of the Great Lakes or along major rivers, and water transportation aided the growth of heavy industries.



Cultural Geography of the Midwest

- Home to various immigrant groups, which causes ethnic, racial, and religious diversity in the cities.
- Cuisine reflects the cultural and physical diversity: Chicago style pizza, Polish bakeries, Wisconsin cheese, and Michigan's apple cider mills and fruit orchards.

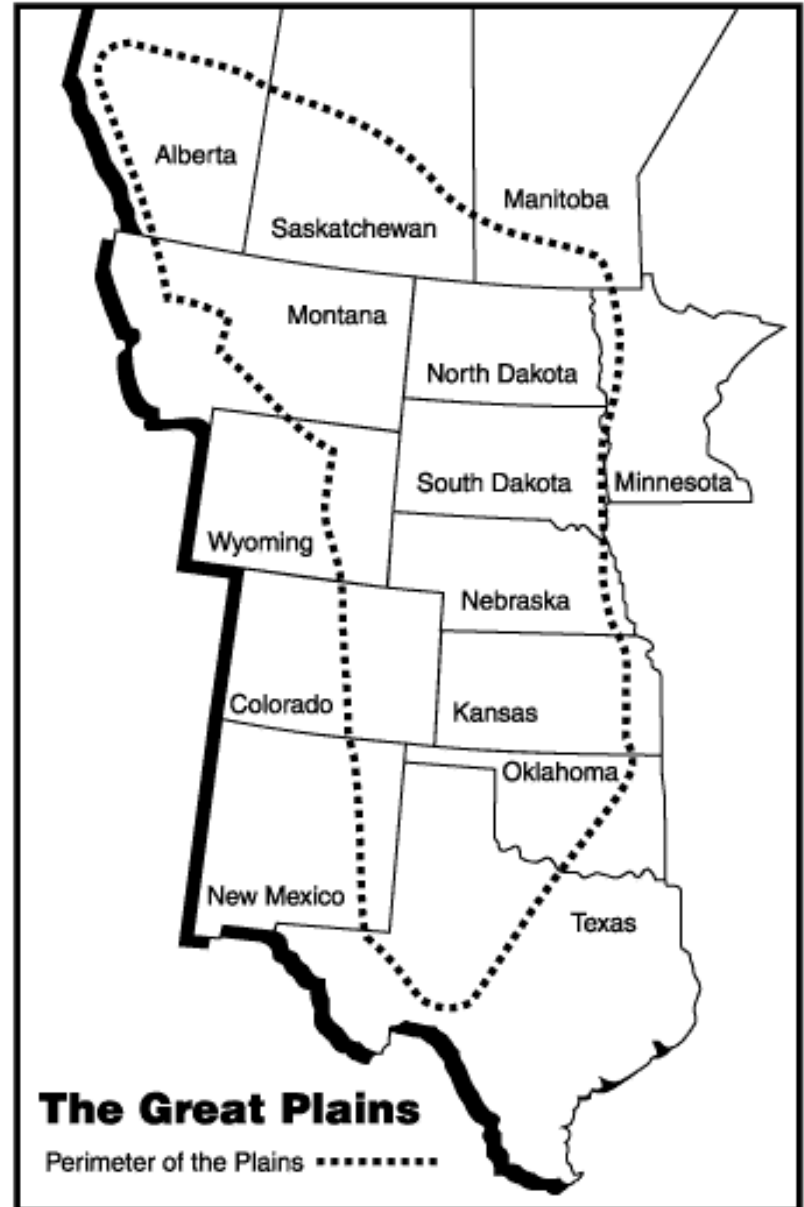


The Great Plains

- States:

- Kansas
- Nebraska
- South Dakota
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Texas (Panhandle)
- Colorado (Eastern)
- Wyoming
- Montana

} Transition States

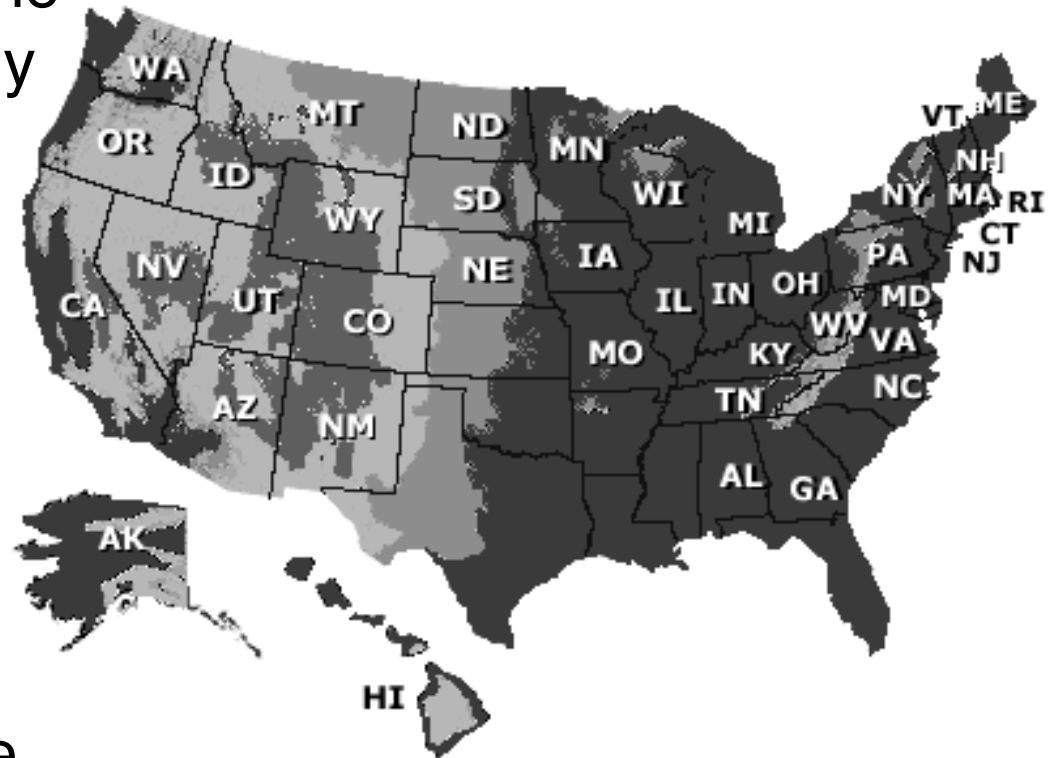


Physical Geography of the Great Plains

- The Great Plains are also called the **High Plains**, as the elevation increases gradually as you go west.

- Generally flat with some rolling hills

- Major River Basins: Red River, Arkansas River, Platte River, and the Missouri River

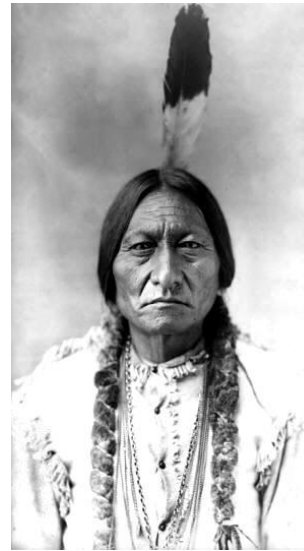


Climate of the Great Plains

- Some have
 - Steppe climate (Grasslands)
 - Humid Continental climate (eastern areas)
- Little rainfall
 - (less than 18 in. a year on average)
- Cold winters, especially in the northern areas

Historical Geography of the Great Plains

- Before Americans settled the frontier, the Great Plains was home to the Sioux, the Cheyenne, and the Arapaho.
- During the 19th century, the Great Plains became the staging point of war between the native people and the American settlers.
- The Great Plains was also used for cattle grazing and cattle drives.
 - Many of the cities in this area were founded as railroad hubs for cattle.



Homestead Act of 1862

- This act provided each settler with 160 acres of land, as long as he cultivated (farmed) the land.
- This caused a rush of settlers to the Great Plains region in the 1800s.
- Ironically, the Great Plains has lost a third of its population since 1920. Kansas has 6,000 ghost towns.



Population & Cultural of the Great Plains

Two words: Rural and declining

~ Very agrarian agricultural traditions ~



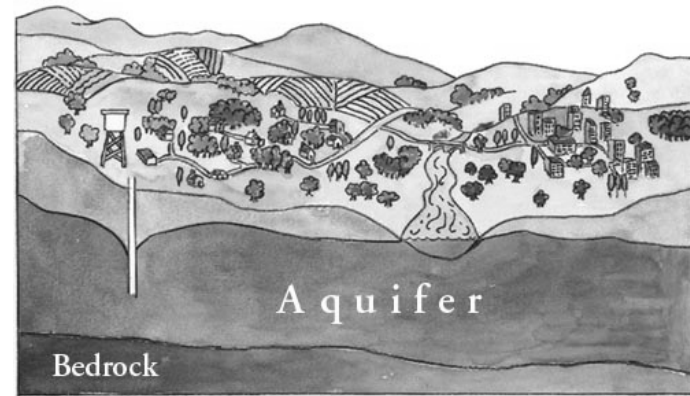
Economic Geography of the Great Plains

- **Wheat** – important crop
- **Cattle**

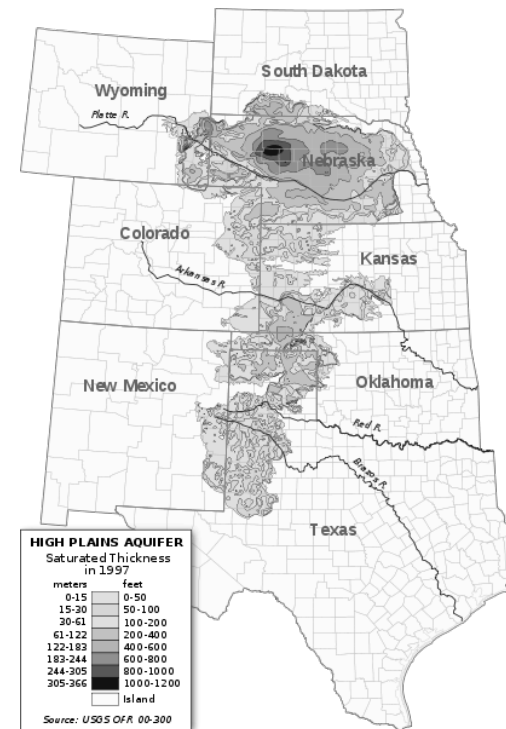


Ogallala (High Plains) Aquifer

- Because there is little rainfall, farmers use the aquifers to irrigate crops. The **Ogallala** is one of the largest in the U.S., but it is being depleted at a high rate.



- The Aquifer runs from the Texas Panhandle to Nebraska. Almost the entire state of Nebraska lies on top of the Aquifer.



The Rocky Mountain & Basin

- States:

- Montana

- Colorado

- Wyoming

- Idaho

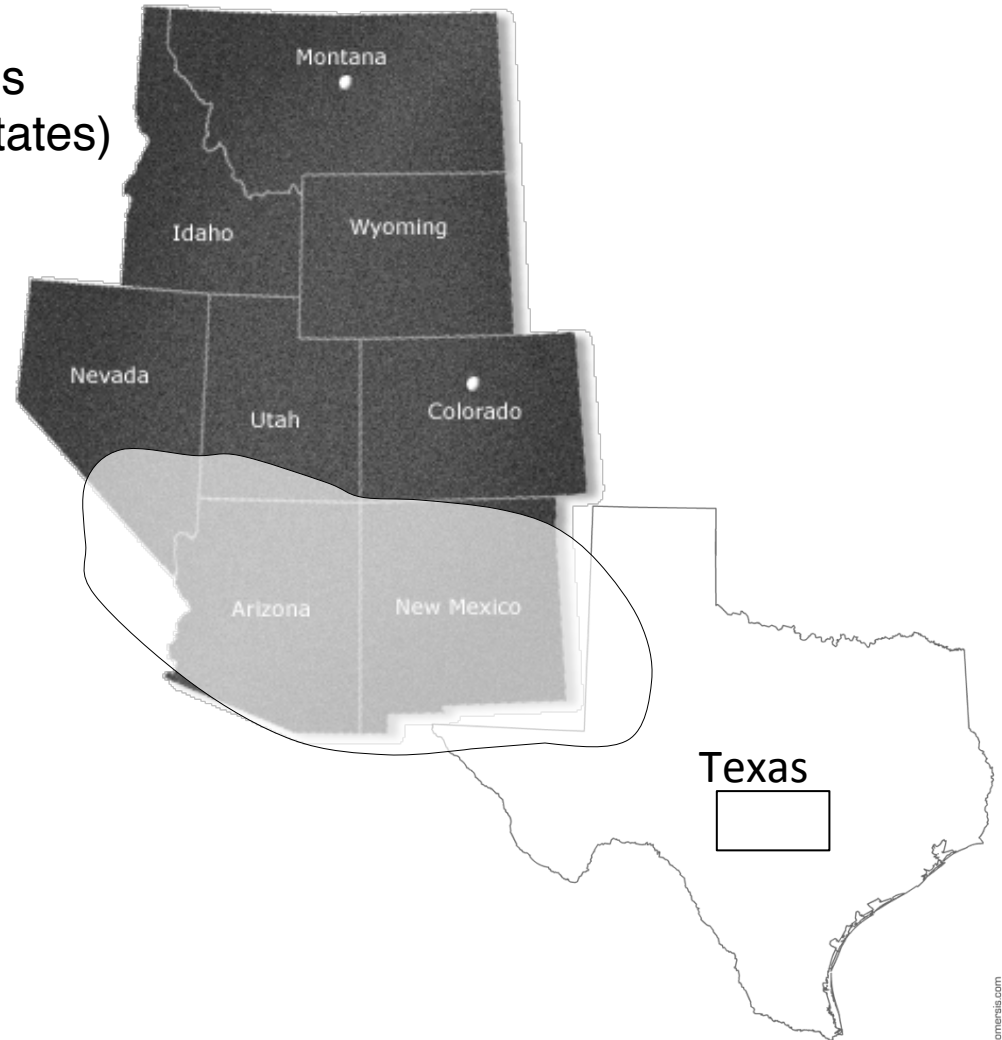
- Utah

- New Mexico

- Nevada

- Arizona

Transition States
(Great Plains States)



- Southwest States:

- Texas

- New Mexico

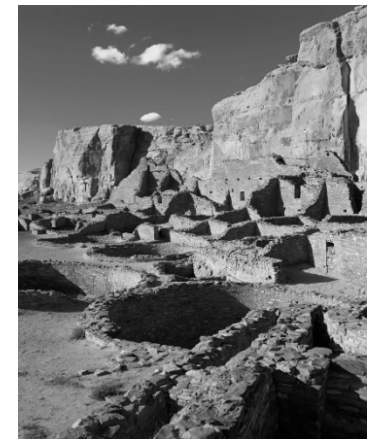
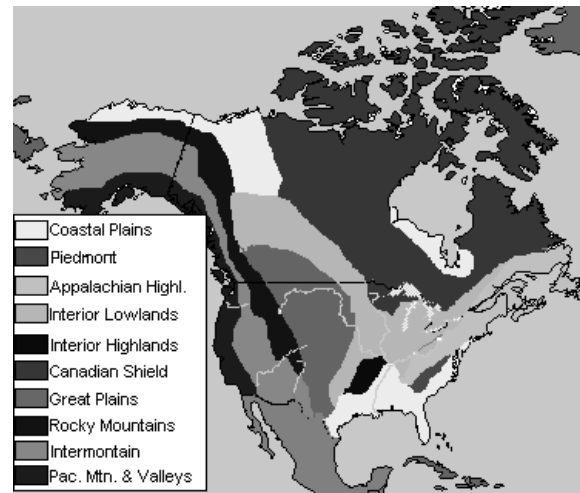
- Arizona

- Southern Utah/Nevada

Physical Geography of the Rocky Mountain & Basin

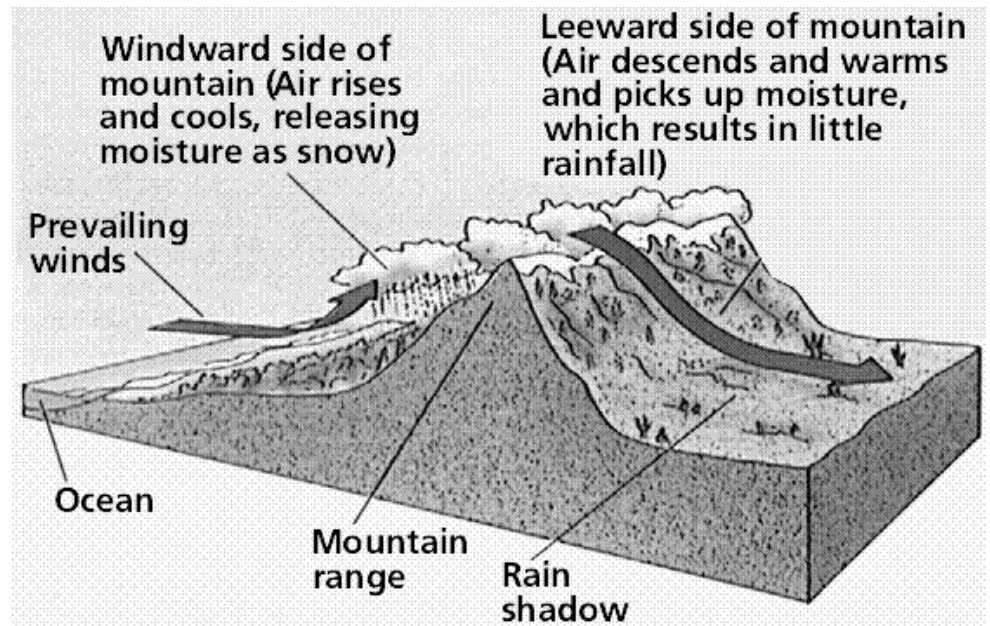
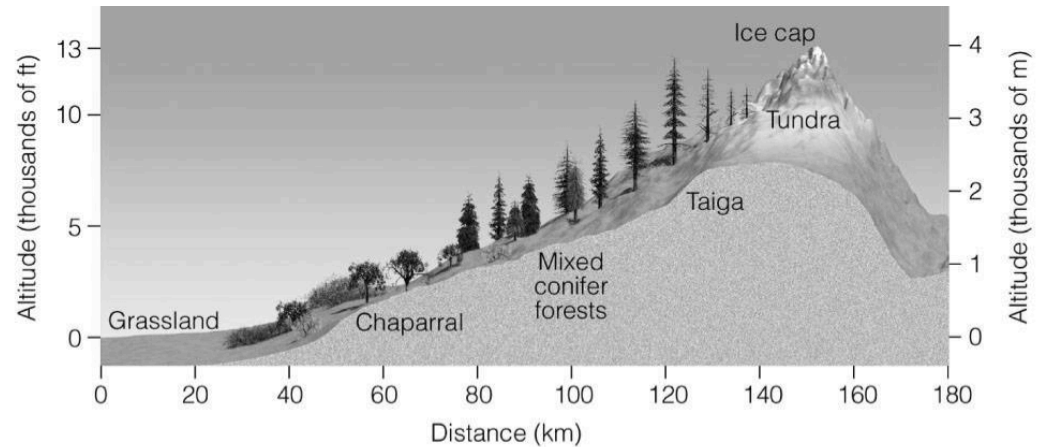
- **Characterized by the:**
 - steep and jagged Rocky Mountain Range
 - foothills of the Rockies
 - high deserts
 - Intermountain Basins

- **Diverse physical region,** including landforms and climates



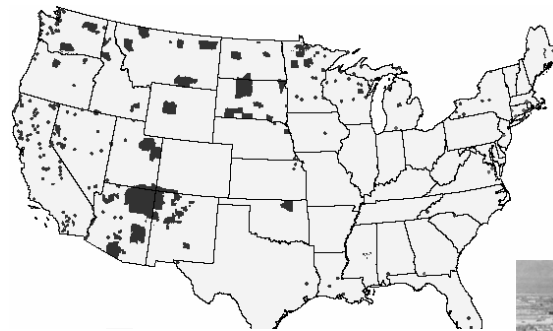
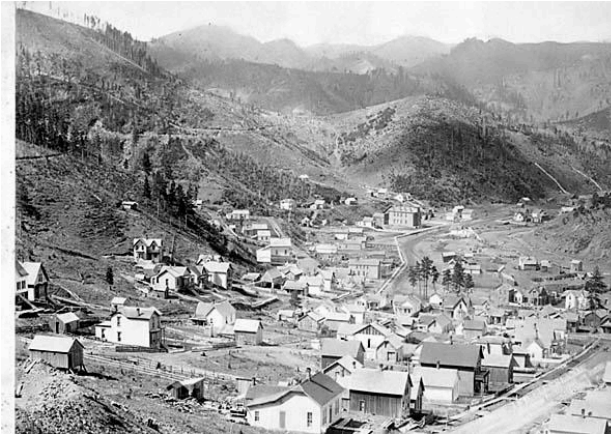
Climates of the Rocky Mountains & Basin

- Highland climate is found throughout the Rockies.
 - cool to cold, found in mountains and high plateaus
 - Climates change rapidly on mountains, becoming colder the higher the altitude gets.
- Desert and Steppe are found in the Southwest and Basin area
 - A steppe climate is found in the middle of continents and in the lee of high mountains.
 - The mountains block moist air from oceans or tropical climates from reaching the steppe. There is not enough precipitation for trees to grow except by rivers.
- In general, the area is arid. Farming is done with irrigation.

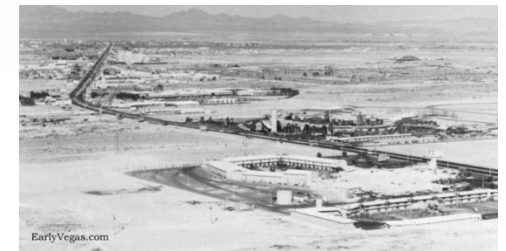


Historical Geography of the Rocky Mountains & Basin

- ▶ Mining towns
- ▶ Outlaws (Wild West)
- ▶ Cattle/Sheep Grazing
- ▶ Reservation Lands
- ▶ Las Vegas and Reno - Gambling towns
- ▶ National Park Service

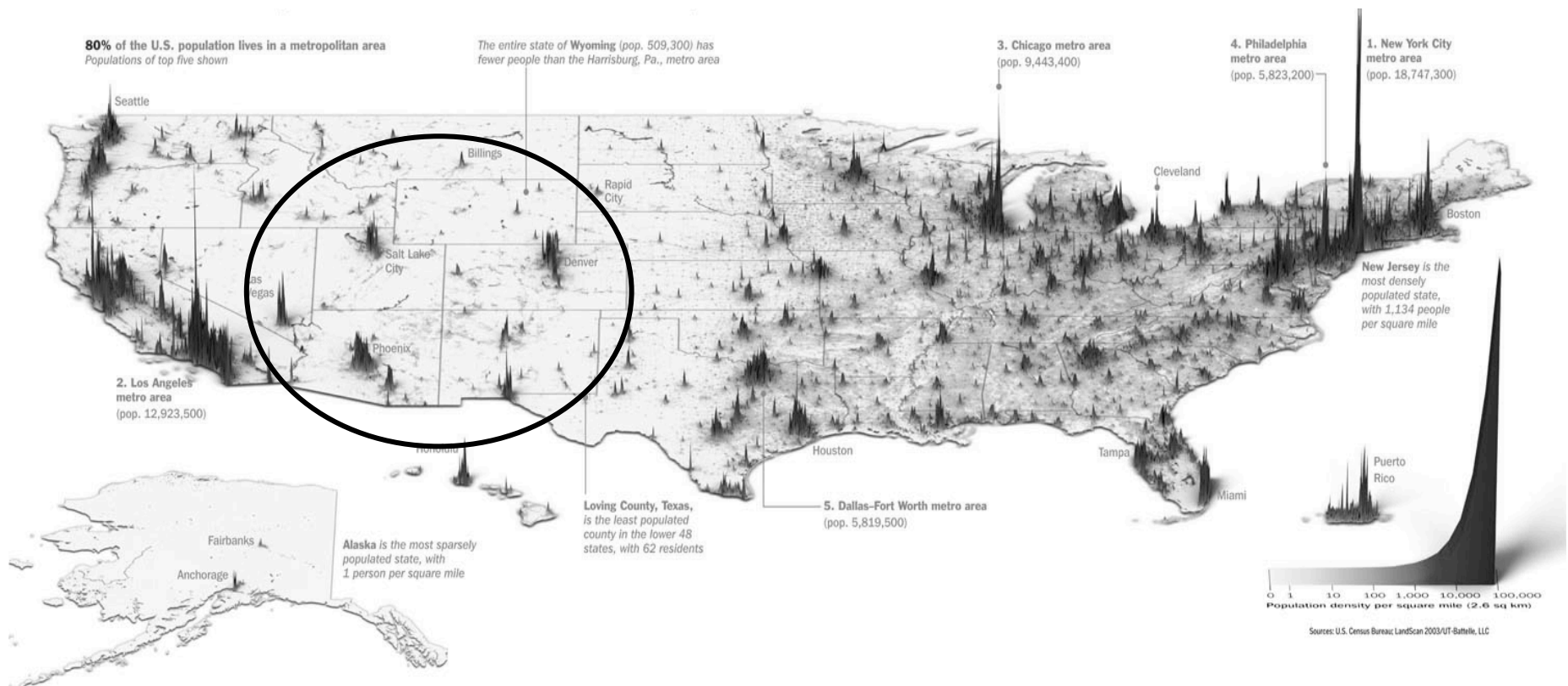


58 National Parks



Population Geography of the Rocky Mountains & Basin

- Not densely populated
- Major urban centers include: Denver, Salt Lake City, Phoenix



Economic Geography of the Rocky Mountains & Basin

- Grazing



- Mining



- Tourism



- Lumber



Cultural Heritage of the West

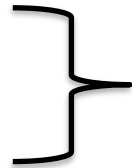
- Old Mining ghost towns exemplify (represents) the culture of the mountain states. When mining diminished, tourism took over.
- Mountain towns are known for their transient (temporary) population, seasonal employment, and influx of tourists.
- The Basin states are home to the largest number of National Parks.



The Pacific (West) Coast

- States:

- California
- Oregon
- Washington
- Alaska
- Hawaii

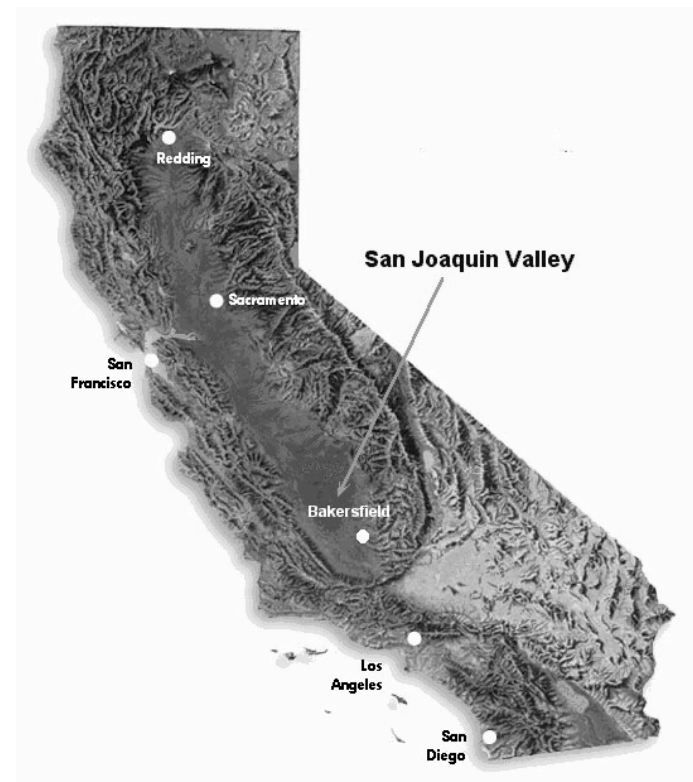
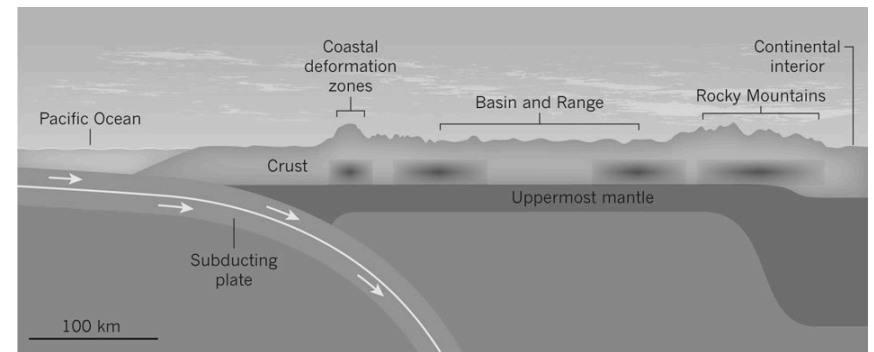


Noncontiguous States
(will be covered separately)



Physical Geography of the West Coast

- Mountain Ranges (Sierra Nevada and the Cascades) and Rocky coastlines due to **subduction** forces
- Fertile valleys (San Joaquin) and forests in northern areas that receive more rainfall
- Physical hazard exist across the region due to tectonic forces.



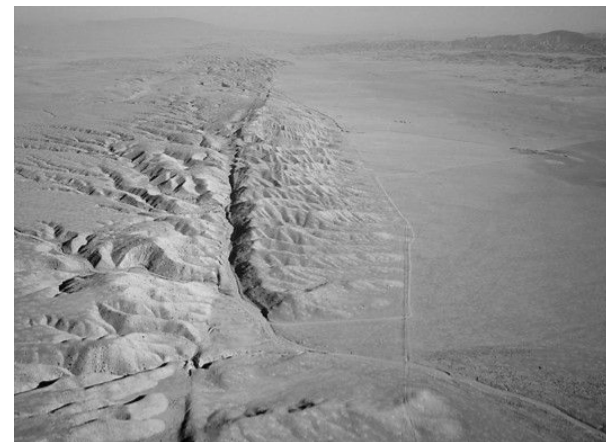
Southern California

- ▶ The continual presence of natural hazards, including fire, flood, earthquakes, and intense drought, has done **little** to reduce the growth of this area.



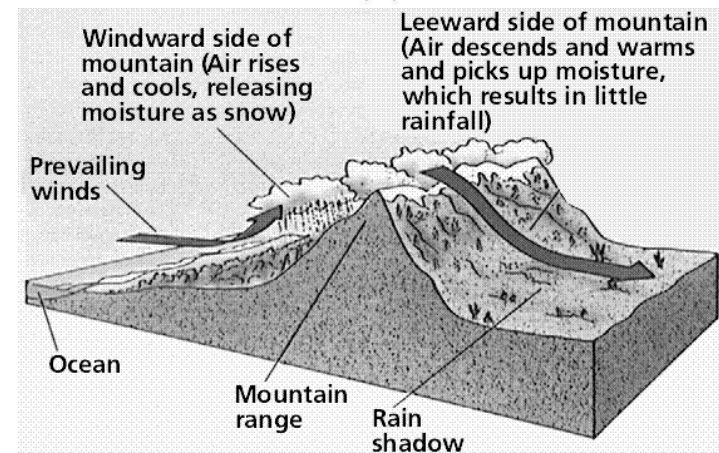
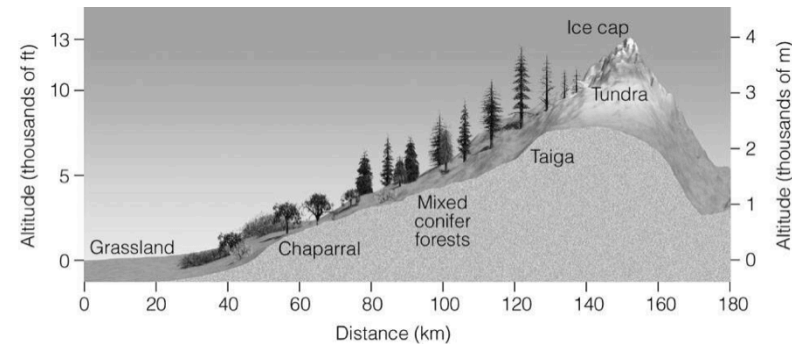
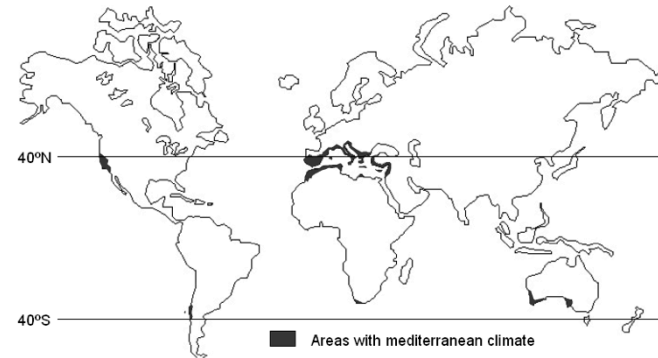
- ▶ San Andreas Fault

- ▶ Los Angeles is the 2nd largest city in the U.S.



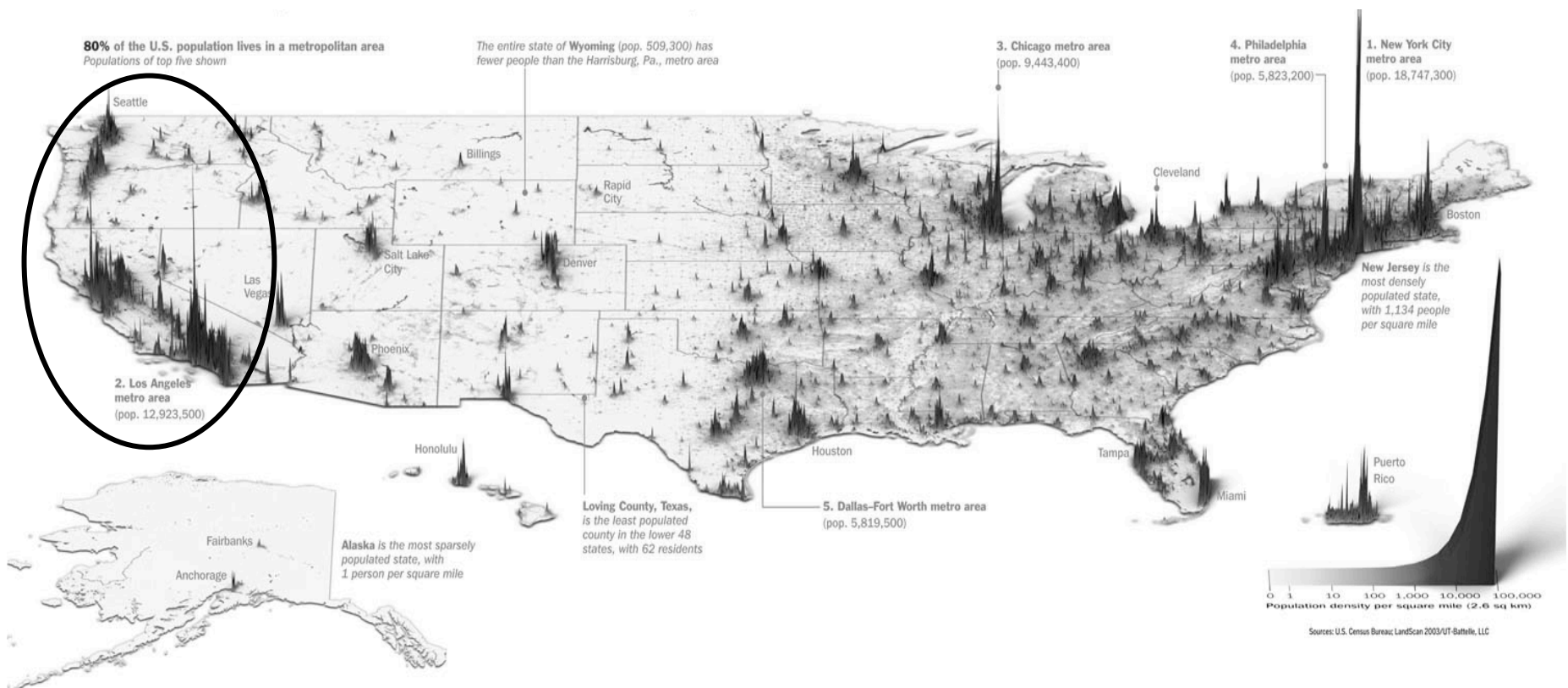
Climates of the West Coast

- **Mediterranean** in Southern California
 - warm to hot, dry summers and mild to cool, wet winters
- **Deserts and Steppe** in California
- **Highland** Climate in Sierra Nevadas and Cascades
- **Marine West Coast** in North California, Oregon and Washington
 - west coasts at the middle latitudes
 - warm summers, not cold winters with narrow annual temperature range
 - lack a dry season
- **Windward** and **leeward** slopes of mountains are crucial in this area: populations tend to settle on windward (moisture laden) side of mountains and become less dense on leeward side.



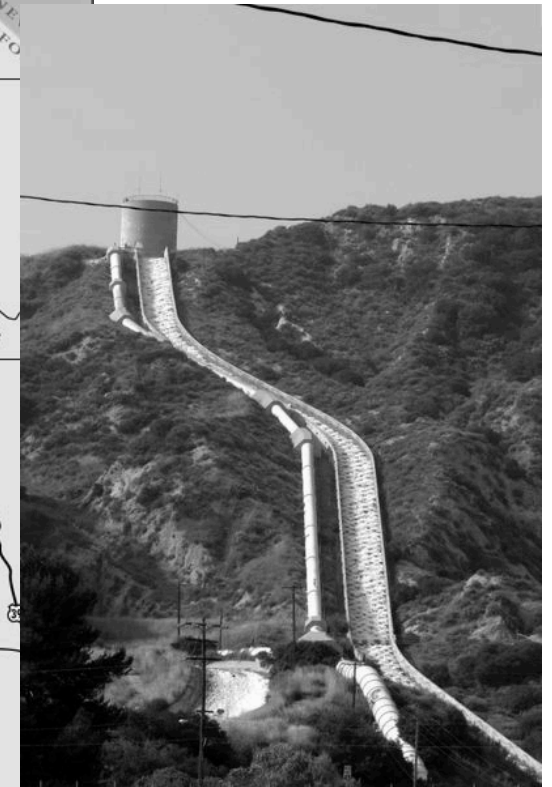
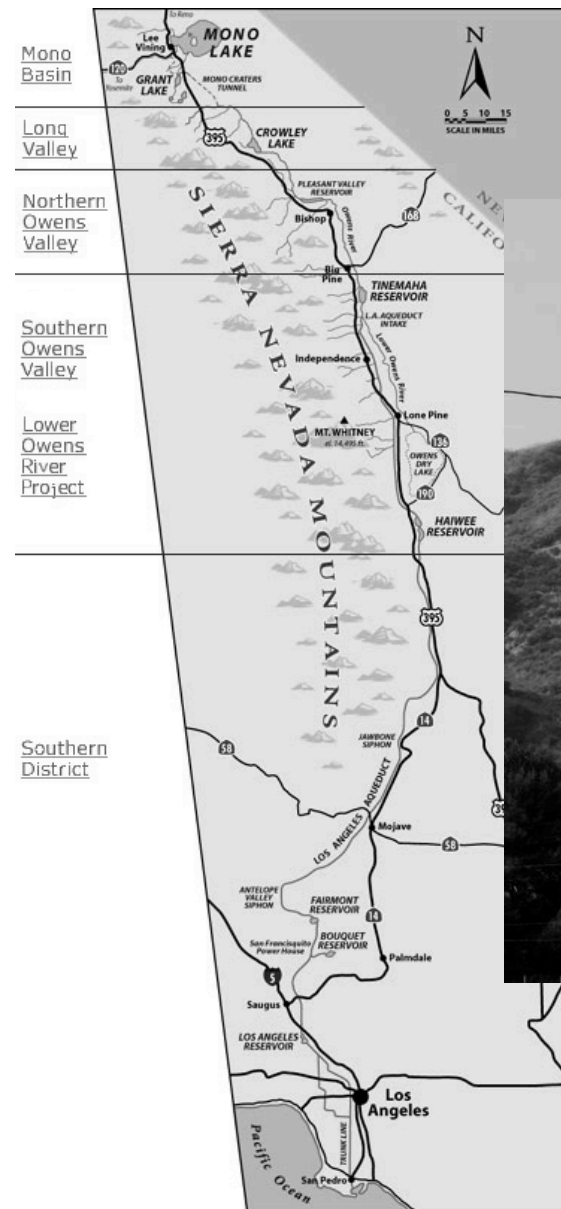
Population Geography of the West Coast

- ▶ More dense along the coastal areas, especially between San Diego, LA, and San Francisco
- ▶ Other urban centers exist around Seattle and Portland.



Development in Southern California

- Began to grow significantly when water was brought from the distant Owens Valley to Los Angeles early in the 20th century
- As water from the Colorado River Project was also made available to cities in the southwest & in southern California, growth accelerated



California Aqueduct

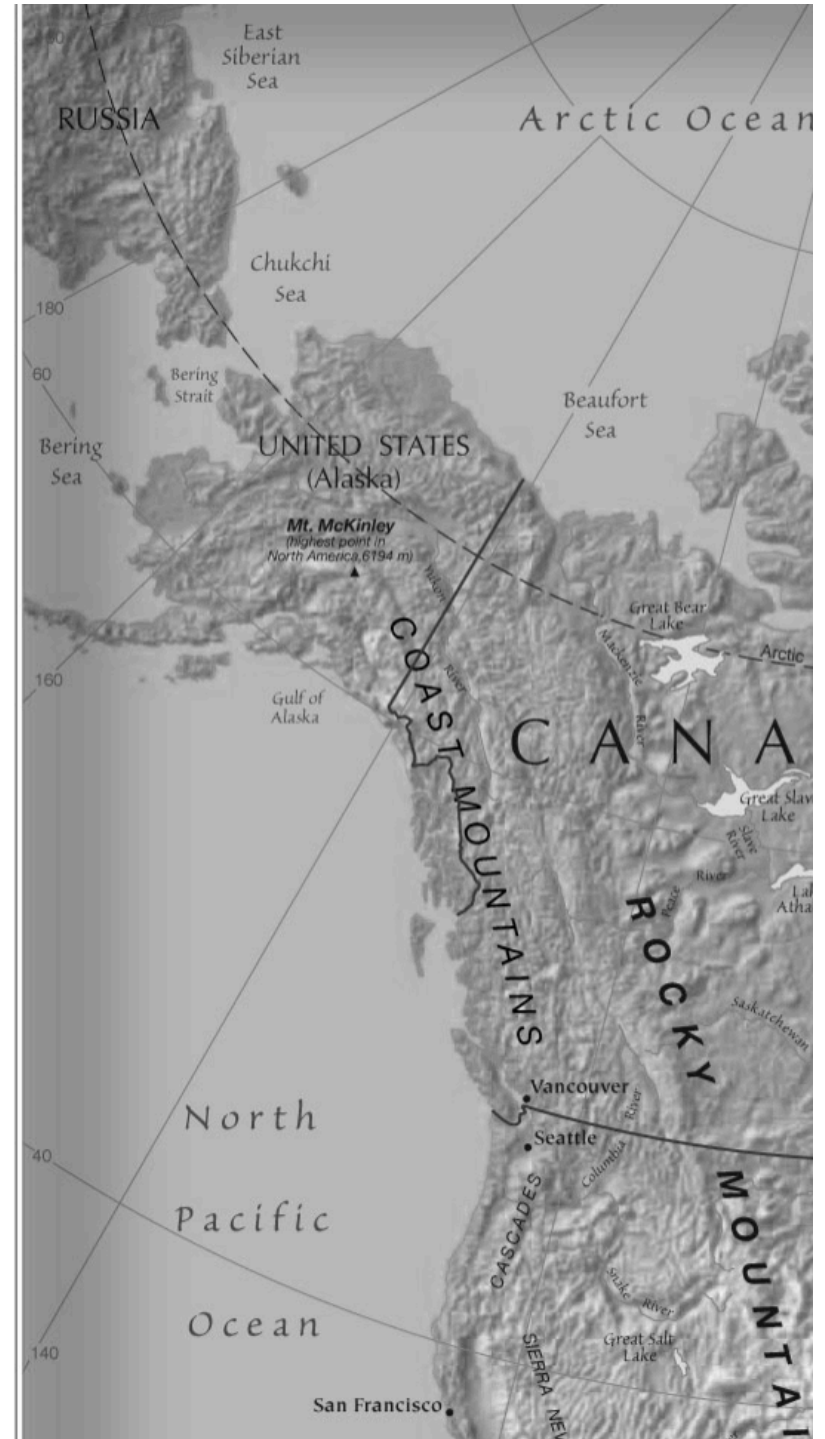
Economic Geography of the West Coast

- Hi-tech Industry
- Movie Industry
- Farming in the San Joaquin Valley
- Wine (Napa and Sonoma)
- Tourism
- Fishing on the coast



Alaska

- Alaska was purchased from the Russian Empire on March 30, 1867, for \$7.2 million (\$112,000,000 in today dollars) at about two cents per acre (\$4.74/km²).
- the largest state, but least populated state with few roads through its rugged mountains.



Hawaii

- It was an independent republic from 1894 until 1898, when it was annexed by the United States as a territory, becoming a state in 1959.
- Hawaii was the target of a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan on December 7, 1941.

