

Lesson 8: Relationships Among the States

☐ Getting Started

Think about how your life is impacted by U.S. regions other than the one in which you live. To find out, you only have to take a trip to the grocery store or talk to people who are new to your state. There are many relationships among different regions of the United States. Transportation advancements have made the distances between states smaller, and technology has made us more connected.

Our American ideals also tie us all together. We may be Texans, North Carolinians, Alaskans, or Californians, but we are all Americans. Being an American comes with responsibility, and it is important to know as much as you can about your country.

Stuff You Need

- construction paper* (Activity 2 - Option 2)
- glue* (Activity 2 - Option 2)
- magazines or catalogs* (Activity 2 - Option 2)
- scissors* (Activity 2 - Option 2)

Ideas to Think About

- What relationships exist among the regions found in the United States?
- How are Americans across the country similar and different?

Things to Know

- Food products are transported from region to region.
- Americans have special symbols and holidays that they share.

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt

Take a trip to the grocery store and go on a scavenger hunt to find products that have a U.S. state in their name. As you explore different sections of the store, look carefully at labels, packaging, and signage. You might be surprised by how many states are represented in everyday food items! Pay special attention to the produce section, where you'll find fruits and vegetables that often include state names, like Florida oranges or Washington apples. But don't stop there—check the seafood section, snack aisle, and even packaged goods for more state-inspired items. Keep a list of everything you find, and when you get home, reflect on how different states contribute to the food we enjoy daily.

☐ **Activity 2: We're All Americans**

All Americans are connected through the traditions we share, regardless of the region in which we live. American symbols and holidays represent the values that make us Americans. Select one of the following options for this activity.

Option 1: The Pledge of Allegiance

Read the Pledge of Allegiance (on the page of the same name) and think about the words. Summarize each line so that a younger child could understand it.

Option 2: American Symbols and Holidays

Look over the "American Symbols and Holidays" page. These items symbolize the spirit of America — pride, freedom, and liberty. Create a collage that represents America and shows the unique relationship among all Americans. You can use clip-art from the computer, pictures from magazines or catalogs, and some of your own images.

☐ **Activity 3: Comparing Regions**

Find some similarities and differences among the regions of our country. Select three regions and create a three-ring Venn diagram to compare them. Where the circles overlap, include at least two similarities. In the individual circles, include at least three things that make each region unique.

Wrapping Up

Today you learned about ways that people who live in the U.S. are connected by culture and traditions. Though the regions are unique, they are all part of what many people consider the greatest country in the world.

In Lesson 5, you continued working on "Learn the 50 States" at the following link. See if you can advance a few more levels.



Learn the 50 US States

www.beyondthepage.com/link/13715/

The Pledge of Allegiance

Directions: Read carefully through each line and reword it so that the meaning would make sense to a young child.



I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America

and to the republic for which it stands

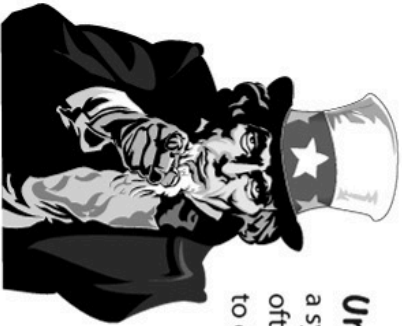
one nation under God

indivisible,

with liberty and justice for all.

American Symbols and Holidays

Directions: Look over the page of American symbols and holidays. Create a collage that represents America and shows the unique relationship that exists among all Americans. You can use clip-art from the computer, cut out pictures from magazines, and use some of your own images.



Uncle Sam

a symbol of freedom that was often used to convince men to enlist in the army



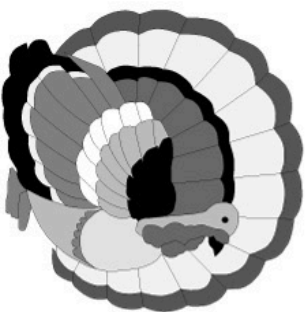
American Eagle

the official bird of the United States



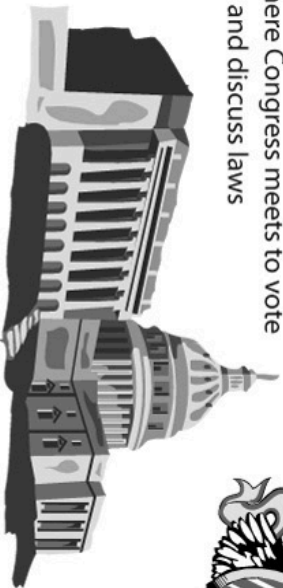
Statue of Liberty

a symbol of freedom to immigrant families



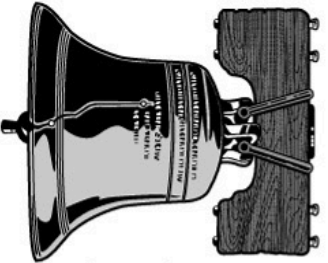
Thanksgiving

a holiday based on a feast between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans and a special day when Americans express their thankfulness and eat special foods



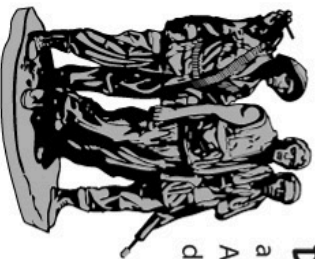
Capitol Building

where Congress meets to vote on and discuss laws



Liberty Bell

a symbol of liberty, it is a real bell from early America that can be seen in Philadelphia today



Memorial Day

a day we remember Americans who died during war times



Fourth of July

America's birthday



Labor Day

a holiday where workers take a day off from their jobs



President's Day

honors the birthdays of Lincoln and Washington

Lesson 8: Relationships Among the States

Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- What relationships exist among the regions found in the United States?
- How are Americans across the country similar and different?



Things to Know

- Food products are transported from region to region.
- Americans have special symbols and holidays that they share.

• Skills

- Describe the variety of regions in the United States. (SS)
- Describe the origins and significance of national celebrations such as Memorial Day and Labor Day. (SS)
- Explain the meaning of patriotic symbols and landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty and the White House. (SS)
- Recite and explain the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. (SS)

Introducing the Lesson

In this lesson, your child will explore the many ways Americans are connected, even though they may live in very different parts of the country. Whether someone is from the mountains of Colorado, the beaches of Florida, the farmlands of Iowa, or the deserts of Arizona, we all share a common identity as Americans. She will learn how different regions rely on one another for goods and resources—many of the products we use every day come from states far from our own.

Beyond trade, Americans are also connected through shared traditions, holidays, and patriotic symbols. From celebrating the Fourth of July to reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, these customs bring people together, no matter where they live. As she works through this lesson, she will gain a deeper appreciation for the way geography shapes life in different parts of the U.S. while also recognizing the values and traditions that unite us as a nation.

Activities

Activity 1: Grocery Store Scavenger Hunt

Plan a time to take your child to the grocery store for a fun and educational scavenger hunt. Encourage her to check different areas of the store, from fresh produce and seafood to frozen and packaged foods. She should record every product that includes a state in its name, such as Florida oranges, Washington apples, Idaho potatoes, Vermont maple syrup, Wisconsin cheese, or Texas barbecue sauce. Once home, discuss her findings and talk about how different regions specialize in certain crops or food products. You can even extend the activity by looking up why certain foods are associated with specific states, reinforcing the idea that different regions contribute to the goods we enjoy across the country.

Activity 2: We're All Americans

There are two options for this activity. Let your child choose the one she wants to complete or help her choose an activity. In Option 1, she will summarize the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. In Option 2, she will create a collage representing America.

Option 1: The Pledge of Allegiance

If your child selects this option, she will interpret the Pledge of Allegiance so that a young child can easily understand it. Let her share her ideas with you when she finishes.

Option 2: American Symbols and Holidays

If your child selects this option, she will create a collage that reflects American culture. Encourage her to share her collage and the meaning behind the images she included.

Activity 3: Comparing Regions

Check your child's Venn diagram to see if the information she recorded is accurate.

Answer Key:

- Possible Similarities Across Regions (Overlap Areas in the Venn Diagram)

All regions are part of the United States and contribute to the nation's economy.

Each region has natural resources that support agriculture, industry, or tourism.

Every region has a unique climate that impacts the way people live, work, and travel.

All regions celebrate national holidays such as Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Memorial Day.

Each region has historical landmarks and cultural influences from different ethnic groups.

- Northeast: Home to some of the oldest cities in the U.S. (Boston, New York, Philadelphia).

Famous for historical landmarks like the Statue of Liberty and Independence Hall.

Known for cold winters and vibrant autumn foliage.

Seafood (lobster, clams, and cod) is a major part of the local cuisine.

Strong influence from early European settlers (Puritans, Pilgrims).

- Southeast: Warm, humid climate with mild winters and hot summers.

Known for Southern hospitality, blues and country music, and Creole culture.

Agriculture is a key industry (cotton, tobacco, peanuts, citrus fruits).

Home to famous historical sites like Jamestown, Charleston, and the Civil Rights Trail.

Gulf Coast beaches and the Appalachian Mountains provide diverse landscapes.

- Midwest: Known as "America's Breadbasket" due to its large production of corn, wheat, and soybeans.

Home to the Great Lakes, one of the largest freshwater systems in the world.

Harsh winters with heavy snowfall and hot summers.

Industrial cities like Detroit (automobiles) and Chicago (transportation hub).

Strong cultural ties to German, Scandinavian, and Polish immigrants.

- Southwest: Hot, dry desert climate with vast open landscapes.

Strong Native American and Mexican cultural influences.

Home to famous natural landmarks like the Grand Canyon and Monument Valley.

Oil and cattle ranching are major industries.

Adobe-style architecture and Spanish missions are common.

- West: Diverse geography, including mountains, forests, deserts, and coastline.
Tech industry hub (Silicon Valley in California, Microsoft in Washington).
Home to major national parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Rocky Mountains.
Entertainment capital of the U.S. (Hollywood, Las Vegas).
Earthquakes and wildfires are natural hazards in this region.
- Alaska: Cold, arctic climate with long, harsh winters.
Known for glaciers, fjords, and stunning natural landscapes.
Fishing, oil, and tourism are major industries.
Wildlife includes bears, moose, and bald eagles.
Long summer days and extreme winter darkness due to its northern location.
- Hawaii: Tropical climate with warm temperatures year-round.
Made up of volcanic islands, with active volcanoes like Kilauea.
Tourism is the largest industry.
Unique Polynesian culture with traditions like hula dancing and luaus.
Rich biodiversity with exotic plants, marine life, and coral reefs.

Wrapping Up

Questions to Discuss

- What are some significant symbols of the United States? Explain the meaning of each one. (*The United States has many important symbols that represent freedom, unity, and history. The American flag has 50 stars, one for each state, and 13 stripes for the original colonies. The Statue of Liberty stands for freedom and was a gift from France. The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is a symbol of independence. The Bald Eagle is the national bird, representing strength and courage. The White House is where the president lives and works, showing leadership. Each of these symbols reminds us of what it means to be an American.*)
- What are some examples of ways Americans are connected? (*Americans are connected in many ways, even if they live in different parts of the country. People from all states celebrate national holidays like Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Memorial Day. They follow the same government laws and have the right to vote in elections. Many foods and products are shipped across the country, like Florida oranges, Idaho potatoes, and Wisconsin cheese, so people everywhere can enjoy them. Americans also share a love for sports, music, and movies, bringing them together no matter where they live.*)

Things to Review

Review the fact that although there are unique regions of our country, there are many ways Americans are connected.

Special Notes

If your child does not know the Pledge of Allegiance, encourage her to recite it once a day until she has memorized it.