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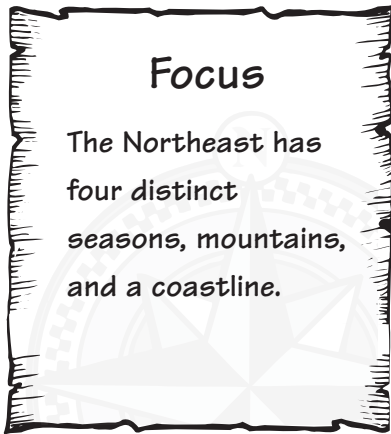
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Landforms of the Northeast Region

Brief #1



The Northeast region of the United States is made up of 11 states. These states can be put into two groups. **The New England states are the following:**

- Vermont
- New Hampshire
- Connecticut
- Rhode Island
- Massachusetts
- Maine

The Middle Atlantic states are the following:

- New York
- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Delaware
- Maryland

Vocabulary

1. *New England states*
2. *Middle Atlantic states*
3. *Appalachian Mountains*
4. *coastline*
5. *tourist*



Mountains

The Northeast Region of the United States is home to some of the oldest mountains in the world—the Appalachian Mountains. These mountains are million of years old. In fact, some parts of the Appalachian Mountains are nearly one billion years old! The Appalachian Mountains are about 2,000 miles in length. They begin in Newfoundland, in the country of Canada. They extend all the way to the state of Alabama.

Different parts of this ancient mountain range have different names. The part of the range that passes through New Hampshire is called the White Mountains. The part that passes through Vermont is called the Green Mountains, and the part that passes through New York is known as the Catskill Mountains. The peak of Mount Washington, located in New Hampshire, is over 6,000 feet tall!

The Appalachian Mountains are full of rivers, streams, and waterfalls. Many parts of them are thick with evergreen trees and forests. These mountains get very snowy, especially during the winter months. Many people visit them to ski or just to enjoy their natural beauty.

Landforms of the Northeast Region

Brief #1 (cont.)



Mountains (cont.)

A popular place to visit is the Appalachian Trail. This hiking path extends all the way through the Appalachian Mountains. It is over 2,000 miles long. It runs from Maine to Georgia.



Coastline

The Northeast Region of the United States has an extensive coastline that runs from Maine through the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. **The coastline is the land that is the closest to the ocean.** The Northeast coastline is right next to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Northeast coastline is different in different states. In Maine it is rocky and rugged, but most of the coastline in other parts of the Northeast is flat and sandy. This is what makes it so popular with tourists. **A tourist is a person who travels to a place to visit.** Thousands of tourists visit the Northeast coastline every year.



Climate

The Northeast Region has four distinct seasons: winter, fall, spring, and summer. Part of this region can receive heavy snowfall in the winter and significant rain in the spring. The summers are usually warm with some humidity. The autumn is mainly dry and comfortable. Autumn in the Northeast is a beautiful time as the green leaves turn orange, red, and yellow.



The Midwest

Activities



Generic Region Activities

- **Complete a Map:** Using an outline map of the region, locate and label all of the states, prominent landforms, and major cities.
- **Create a Mnemonic Device:** Create an acronym or acrostic to help students remember the names of all of the states and capital cities in the region.
- **Design a Board Game:** Design a board game based on the region. The game should feature important landforms, landmarks, natural resources, businesses, industry, and other unique features of this particular region. The object of the game should be to travel to each state within the region. Make sure that students develop rules of play and game pieces.
- **Make a Book:** Create a book on the region which contains information on state nicknames, official abbreviations, mottos, state trees, flowers, songs, flags, etc.
- **Make an Informational Poster:** Research the Native American tribes who lived in this region. Have students make colorful posters which illustrate the characteristics of their cultures and how they used the natural resources of the region to meet their basic needs.
- **Make a Travel Brochure:** Create a colorful travel brochure that features famous sights or popular tourist destinations in the region.
- **Research:** Find out the names of the professional sports teams in the region.
- **Create a Cookbook:** Create a regional-cuisine cookbook that features recipes of popular dishes from the region. Include illustrations and/or photographs. Alternately, students can prepare a dish from the region and share it with classmates.
- **Learn and Sing the State Songs:** Have students learn the state songs from some of the states in the region. Students can perform the songs for the class.

The Midwest

Activities (cont.)



Generic Region Activities (cont.)

- **Make a Regional Quarter:** Have students research the designs on the state quarters from the states in this region. Then, using cardboard and other art materials, have them design and create another quarter that represents the entire region.



Brief #1—Landforms of the Midwest

- **Listen and Research:** The *Edmund Fitzgerald* was a ship that was wrecked in Lake Superior in 1975. Have students listen to the song *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald* by Gordon Lightfoot and then research the particulars of the wreck. Ask students to write a newspaper article describing what happened to the ship.
- **Write a Pamphlet:** Ask students to research Badlands National Park and then write a pamphlet that details the physical features of the park and the things you can do and see there.
- **Create Sound Effects:** Explain to students that a “Foley artist” is a person who creates many of the sound effects in movies by using everyday objects. For example—to create the sound of galloping horses, a Foley artist will bang empty coconut shells together. Have students research the Mississippi River and then use everyday objects to create a series of sound effects of things you might hear along the river.

Examples: city sounds, sounds of animals that live along the river, ship sounds, etc. Students can record their sounds effects or perform them for the class.

- **Make a Chart:** Have students research the Fujita Scale (classification for tornado strength) and create a chart that illustrates and details the various categories of tornadoes.

Keywords: *Edmund Fitzgerald, The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, Gordon Lightfoot, Badlands National Park, Foley artist, Mississippi River, Fujita scale, tornado*



Brief #2—Resources of the Midwest

- **Compose a Rap or Poem:** Explain to students that there are many different breeds of dairy cows (Holstein, Guernsey, etc.). Ask students to research the various breeds and then write a rap or poem which describes the types of different dairy cows. Encourage students to include information about size, color, and place of origin. Students can record their rhymes or perform them for the class.

The Midwest

Activities *(cont.)*



Brief #2—Resources of the Midwest *(cont.)*

- **Make a Diagram:** Explain to students that the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Illinois Waterway are systems of locks and canals. Ask students to research how locks operate. Then ask them to create a diagram which illustrates the process.
- **Plan a Party:** Wisconsin is famous for its production of cheese. Have students plan a Wisconsin-cheese-tasting party. Students should make invitations, create a menu, and supply the cheese and crackers. Encourage students to decorate the classroom for the party by creating decorations that have a cheese theme.

Keywords: Breeds of dairy cows, St. Lawrence Seaway, Illinois Waterway, canals and locks, Wisconsin and cheese production



Brief #3—History of the Midwest

- **Conduct an Imaginary Interview:** Have students role-play interviews with Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Thomas Jefferson or Sacagawea. Encourage them to ask and answer at least three questions about the mission and their experiences.
- **Make a Proposal:** Explain to students that desertification is the breakdown of land as a result of human activities or climate change. The Dust Bowl is an example of the first process. Have students research what happened during the Dust Bowl and what people can do to take care of the land on which they depend. Proposals can be presented orally or in a written format.

Keywords: Lewis and Clark, Sacagawea, Corps of Discovery, Dust Bowl, desertification



Brief #4—People and Culture of the Midwest

- **Tell a Story:** The Ojibwa were able to tell a story by using a series of pictures. Ask students to tell simple stories of something that has happened to them by creating a series of pictures. Have students swap stories.
- **Present Statistics:** The Sears Tower, located in Chicago, Illinois, is one of the world's tallest buildings. Ask students to research the building to find out its height, when it was constructed, number of floors, how long it took to build, etc. Have students share statistics with the class.

Keywords: Ojibwa, Sears Tower