

Guided Reading Activity



The United States East of the Mississippi River

Lesson 1 *Physical Features*

Essential Question: How does geography influence the way people live?

The Regions

Directions: Complete the chart with the details about each of the subregions that make up the United States east of the Mississippi River.

Subregion	Details
New England	
The Mid-Atlantic	
The Midwest	
The Southeast	

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



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Bodies of Water

Directions: Use your textbook to label each description with the correct body or bodies of water.

1. This is an enormous salt-water ocean that borders the states along the East Coast of the United States.

2. This body of water covers an area of about 600,000 square miles and is nearly surrounded by land. It borders the Gulf Coast of the United States.

3. These lakes are located in the American Midwest and Canada. The five lakes were formed by glaciers thousands of years ago. They are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world.

4. This river carries water from the Great Lakes eastward to the Atlantic Ocean. A series of locks make it possible for ships to travel from the Great Lakes, through this river, to the Atlantic Ocean.

5. This river runs from Minnesota 2,350 miles south to the Gulf of Mexico. People have used this river for transportation for hundreds of years. It has had an enormous influence on U.S. history.

6. This river begins in Pennsylvania and runs to the Mississippi River. It forms a border that separates Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois on the north and West Virginia and Kentucky on the south.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



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Physical Landscape

Directions: Use your textbook to help you fill in the blanks to describe characteristics of the physical landscape and the climate east of the Mississippi.

1. For millions of years ocean waves washed over the continental platform on the East Coast of the United States. The waves left behind layers of sediment that built up over time to create a _____.
2. The Appalachian Mountains are a long chain of mountains called a _____.
3. The climate of the eastern United States is varied and some eastern subregions are known for their dramatic _____.
4. Much of the Southeast has a humid _____ climate with rainy, hot summers and cold, dry winters.
5. Iron ore, gold, and zinc are all examples of _____ that can be found in the eastern United States.