

## Geography Challenge Cards

### Challenge 3

Use the economic activity map in Section 3 to complete the following tasks in your notebook.

- A. List the main areas of the United States for trade and manufacturing.

B. Shade these regions in one color on the map, and label this color in the key.
- A. List the areas in the United States where commercial farming is widespread.

B. Shade these areas in a second color on the map, and label this color in the key.
- A. Identify one area of the United States where large amounts of coal are found.

B. Label this area by drawing a few symbols for coal on your map and in the key.
- A. Identify the area where the most precious metals are found.

B. Label this area by drawing a few symbols for precious metals on your map and in the key.

Read Section 3. Consider all the information in that section—including images, captions, graphs, tables, maps, and text—to answer the following question.

- How might the availability of natural resources have shaped the development of the United States? Consider economic activities and settlement in your answer.

### Challenge 2

Use the physical geography map in Section 2 to complete the following tasks in your notebook.

- A. List three large mountain barriers that settlers had to cross as they moved across the continent from one coast to the other.

B. Label these barriers on the map.
- A. List water features that might have promoted trade and the movement of goods around the country.

B. Label as many of these features as are drawn on the map.
- A. List two large plains in the central part of the nation that attracted settlers hoping to farm.

B. Label these plains on the map.
- A. List five freshwater lakes that form part of the country's northern boundary.

B. Label these lakes on the map.
- A. Identify the plateau region between the two westernmost mountain ranges.

B. Label this plateau on the map.

Read Section 2. Consider all the information in that section—including images, captions, graphs, tables, maps, and text—to answer the following question.

- How might physical features, such as lakes, rivers, and mountains, have shaped the development of the United States? Consider the movement of people and goods, size of the nation, and its settlement.

### Challenge 4

Use the population density map in Section 4 to complete the following tasks in your notebook.

1. A. List the three most populous cities in the United States.  
B. Label these cities using a large dot. Include this dot in the key.
2. A. List eight cities with populations between 4 million and 8 million people.  
B. Label these cities on the map using a medium-size dot. Include this dot in the key.
3. A. List five cities with populations of more than 1 million that are located near a major river.  
B. Label these cities on the map using a small dot. Include this dot in the key.
4. A. Identify the region of the United States that is the most heavily populated.  
B. Highlight this region on the map.

Read Section 4. Consider all the information in that section—including images, captions, graphs, tables, maps, and text—to answer the following question.

5. How might geography have shaped the location of major metropolitan areas in the United States? Consider where these large cities and suburbs tend to develop. (**Hint:** Compare the physical geography map in Section 2 with the population density map in this section.)

### Challenge 5

Use the regional map in Section 5 to complete the following tasks in your notebook.

1. On the map, use different colors to shade the seven regions of the United States and label each.
2. Within each region, label the following, using two-letter postal abbreviations:
  - 12 states in the Southeast region
  - 6 states in the New England region
  - 5 states in the Mid-Atlantic region
  - 12 states in the Midwest region
  - 5 states in the Pacific Coast region
  - 6 states in the Rocky Mountain region
  - 4 states in the Southwest region

Read Section 5. Consider all the information in that section—including images, captions, graphs, tables, maps, and text—to answer the following question.

3. How might the development of regions have shaped the development of the United States? Consider cultural and economic differences in your answer.



**Challenge 6**

Use the world map in Section 6 to complete the following tasks in your notebook.

1. A. List the two oceans that separate the United States from much of the rest of the world.  
B. Label these oceans on the map.
2. A. Identify the large body of water that sits along the southern border of the United States.  
B. Label it on the map.
3. A. List the two countries that share a border with the United States.  
B. Label these countries on the map.
4. A. List the seven continents.  
B. Label the continents on the map.

Read Section 6. Consider all the information in that section—including images, captions, graphs, tables, maps, and text—to answer the following question.

5. How might the location of the United States in the world have shaped its relationships with other countries? Consider U.S. relationships with the rest of the world and how they have changed over time.

