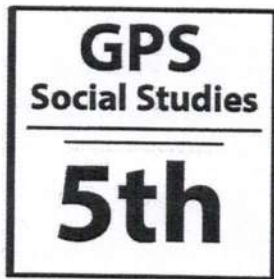


# Chapter 6

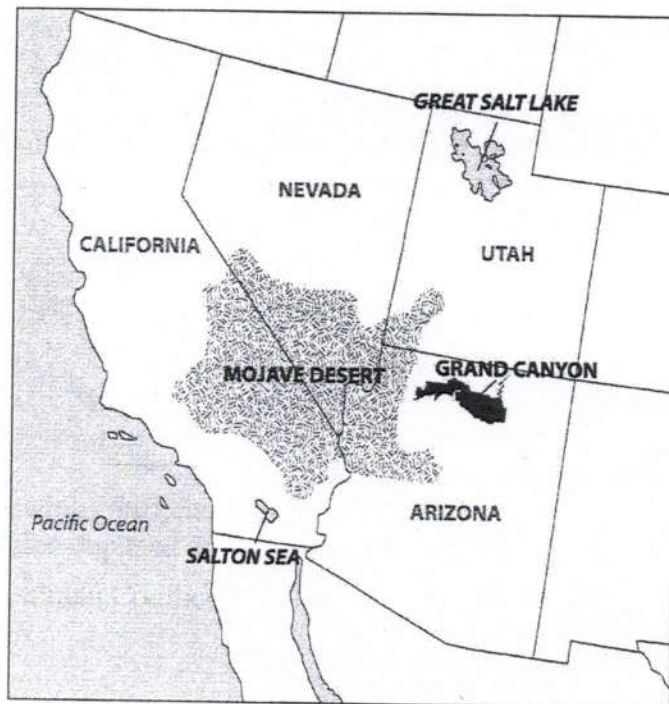
## Geographic Understandings



This chapter covers the following social studies standard(s):  
Standards: SS5G1, SS5G2

### 6.1 GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

#### PHYSICAL FEATURES



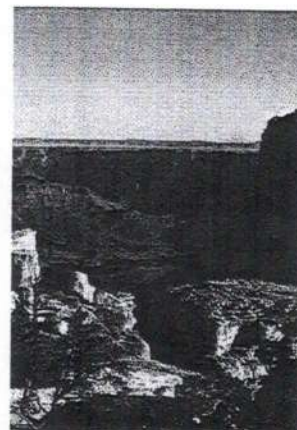
Physical Features of the United States

Geography is the study of land, physical features (mountains, waterfalls, gorges, and so on), bodies of water, climate, cultures, natural resources, and so on. **Physical geography** is the study of how specific physical characteristics define a region. Physical features include deserts, bodies of water, mountain ranges, and other land forms. The United States has many important physical features. Some of them are listed on the following page.

## Physical Features of the United States

### Grand Canyon

The **Grand Canyon** is a gorge located in northwestern Arizona. It is over two hundred and fifty miles long and over a mile deep at its deepest point. The Colorado River's flowing water carved out the canyon over millions of years. The Grand Canyon is one of the earth's greatest natural wonders. It attracts over five million visitors each year.



The Grand Canyon

### The Salton Sea

The **Salton Sea** is a salt lake and the largest lake in California. A **salt lake** is a lake that contains salt water rather than fresh water. The Salton Sea is located in the southeastern corner of the California and spans over three hundred and fifty square miles.

### Great Salt Lake

The **Great Salt Lake** is the largest salt lake in the Western Hemisphere. It is located in the northern part of Utah. The lake changes in size, depending on the amount of annual rainfall.

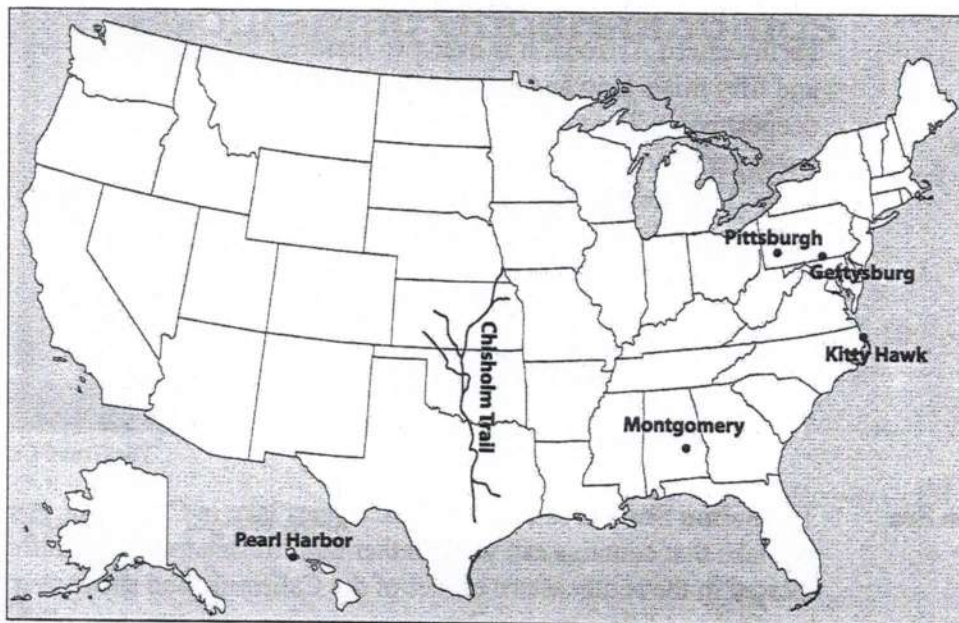


The Great Salt Lake

### Mojave Desert

A **desert** is a land area that receives fewer than ten inches of rain a year. The **Mojave Desert** covers over twenty-two thousand square miles and is one of the country's major deserts. Most of the Mojave lies in southern California, but portions of it run through Arizona, Nevada, and Utah.

## MAN-MADE FEATURES



Cities with Man-Made Features

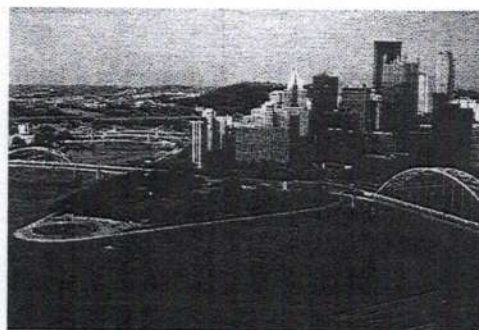
Geography includes the study of **man-made places** (places or features constructed by humans). Examples of man-made features include farms, cities, canals, and roads. For centuries, the geography of the United States has been impacted by humans. Some of these geographical places are listed below and on the following page.

### Man-Made Places in the United States

**Chisholm Trail** The **Chisholm Trail** was a route used in the late nineteenth century to move cattle from Texas to Kansas. The journey could take up to two months. It was often very dangerous. Cattle drives often encountered harsh weather, wild animals, hostile Native Americans, and outlaws.

**Pittsburgh, PA** **Pittsburgh** is the second-largest city in Pennsylvania after Philadelphia. It is located where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers come together to form the Ohio River. Due to these massive rivers, Pittsburgh relies on a number of bridges to deal with traffic and transportation.

Pittsburgh has so many bridges that it is often called the “Bridge Capital of the United States.” The city’s location has made it a key industrial center. The Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers provide key water routes for transporting industrial resources and goods. During the early 1900s, Pittsburgh manufactured almost half of the nation’s steel. Today, Pittsburgh is still known as the “Steel City.”

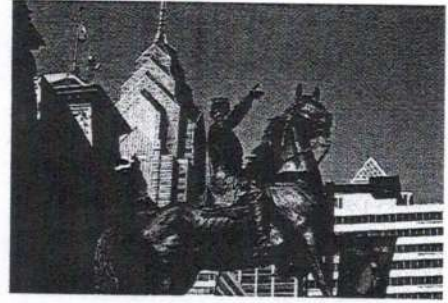


Pittsburgh

## Chapter 6: Geographic Understandings

### Gettysburg, PA

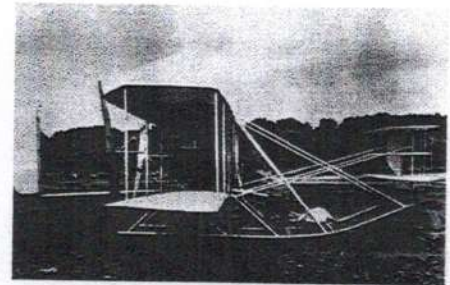
**Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**, is most famous for the Battle of Gettysburg, one of the key battles of the American Civil War. The Union's victory at Gettysburg ended the Confederates' hopes of invading the North and marked a key turning point in the war. Before Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln felt a lot of pressure to make peace with the South. After the battle, however, the Union decided to continue fighting—a decision that kept the Union together. Today, the population of Gettysburg is around eight thousand citizens.



Modern Gettysburg

### Kitty Hawk, NC

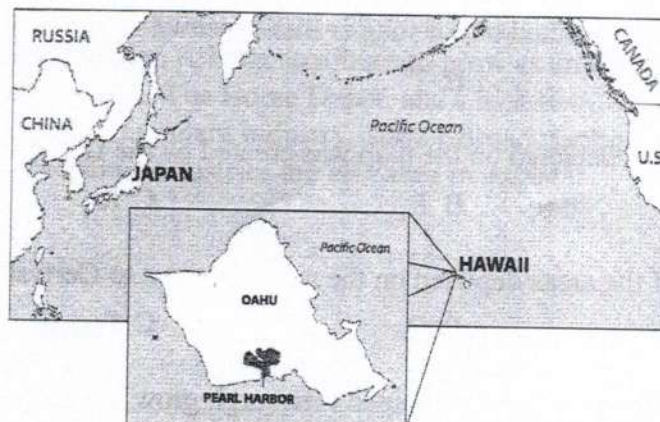
**Kitty Hawk, North Carolina**, is a town on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The Outer Banks is a series of small islands that line North Carolina's coast. Kitty Hawk became famous as the site of the Wright brothers' first powered airplane flight in 1903.



Wright Brothers' Flight

### Pearl Harbor, HI

**Pearl Harbor, Hawaii**, is located west of Honolulu on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Its harbor serves as a U.S. naval base. On December 7, 1941, Japanese forces bombed Pearl Harbor in a surprise attack. Japan chose to attack Pearl Harbor because it wanted to expand its empire. Japan's leaders felt that Pearl Harbor was too close to Japan. It feared the U.S. Pacific Fleet would sail for Japan and try to stop Japan's expansion. The attack badly damaged the U.S. fleet, but failed to destroy it. The United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II in response to the Pearl Harbor attack.



The Island of Oahu

## Chapter 6: Geographic Understandings

**Montgomery, AL** Montgomery, Alabama, is the capital of Alabama. It is located in the southeast region of the state and has a rich history. Montgomery served as the first capital of the Confederacy after Southern states seceded from the Union in 1860. The city also became well known during the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s. The Montgomery bus boycott led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision ending segregation on public buses. It also made Martin Luther King Jr. a national figure and the recognized leader of the civil rights movement.



Montgomery, Alabama, during the Civil Rights Movement

### Practice 1: Geographic Features

Look at the map below, and answer questions 1–3.



- 1 Which area depicted on the map is BEST known for its industrial production?  
A P                      B T                      C Q                      D S
- 2 Which area depicted on the map was created by the flow of a major river?  
A Q                      B P                      C R                      D U
- 3 Which of the areas depicted on the map is closest to Gettysburg?  
A Q                      B R                      C S                      D T
- 4 What geographic features helped Pittsburgh grow and become an important U.S. city?
- 5 How did geography contribute to what happened at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941?