

CHAPTER

6

The Cultural Geography of the United States and Canada

GeoJournal

As you read this chapter, use your journal to note specific examples of the role the geography of North America has played in the history, arts, and lifestyles of people in the United States and Canada.



Chapter Overview Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at tx.geography.glencoe.com and click on Chapter Overviews—Chapter 6 to preview information about the cultural geography of the region.

CLICK HERE

CONTENTS

Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know

Think about news reports, movies, and songs you know that feature large, densely populated cities as topics or settings. What factors make urban living appealing to people?

Read to Find Out

- Who are the peoples of the United States and Canada?
- How are population patterns in the United States and Canada influenced by the region's physical geography?
- What geographic factors encouraged the industrialization and urbanization of the United States and Canada?

Terms to Know

- immigration
- Native American
- Sunbelt
- urbanization
- metropolitan area
- suburb
- megalopolis
- mobility

Places to Locate

- Washington, D.C.
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- Vancouver
- New Orleans
- Ottawa
- Houston
- Detroit

◀ The city skyline rises behind an outdoor ice rink in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Population Patterns

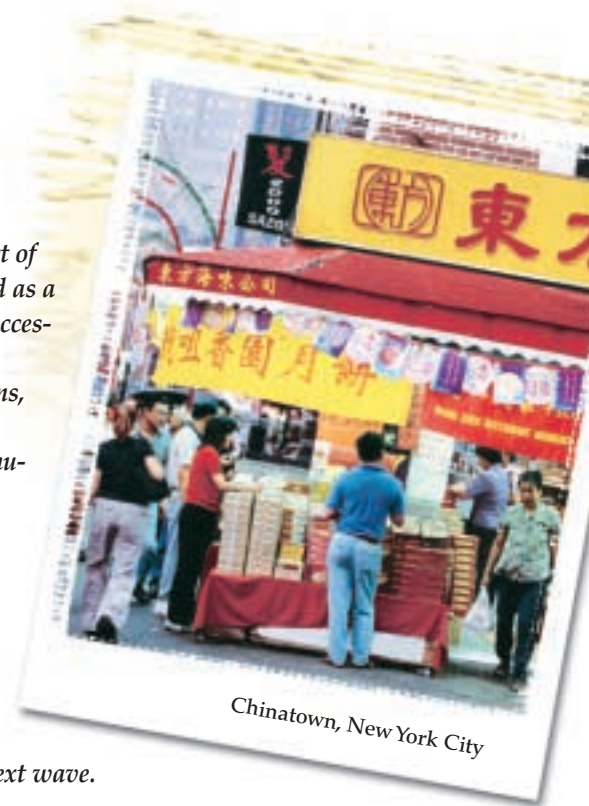


A Geographic View

The Next Wave

For a century and a half this part of lower Manhattan has functioned as a catchment [holding place] for successive waves of poor immigrants, including Irish, Germans, Italians, and East European Jews. Each enclave [separate cultural community] dissolved as second and third generations seized the opportunities that education afforded them and then moved on to better neighborhoods, greener suburbs, or distant cities. But lower Manhattan, with its inexpensive housing, remained, ready to absorb the next wave.

—Joel L. Sverdlow, "New York's Chinatown,"
National Geographic, August 1998

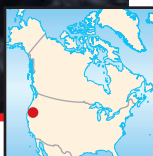
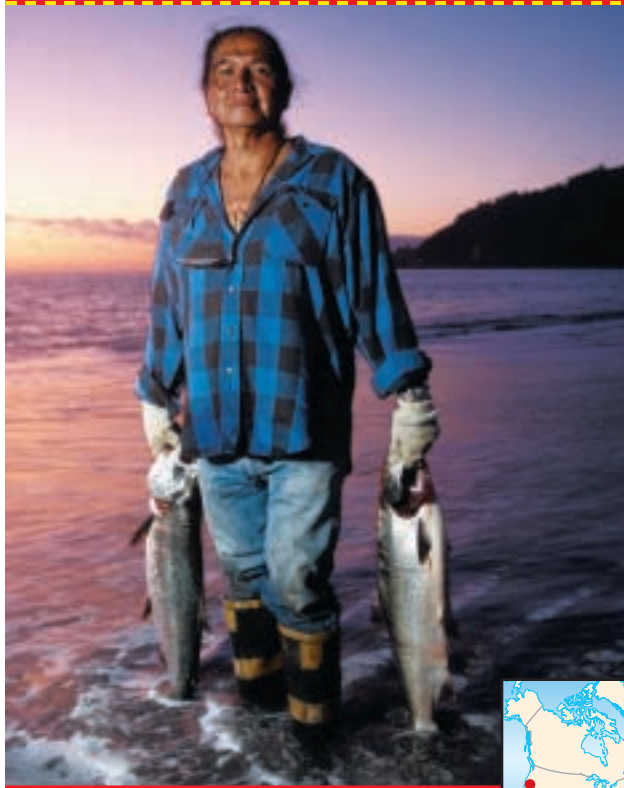


Chinatown, New York City

Lower Manhattan, a part of New York City, has a history that reflects population patterns throughout the United States and Canada. Both of these North American countries have been shaped by **immigration**, the movement of people into one country from another. In this section you will read about the peoples of the United States and Canada—who they are, why they came to the region, and where they live.

The People

About 5 percent of the world's population lives in the United States and Canada. The 285 million people of the United States and the 31 million people of Canada all are immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Some arrived only recently. Others belong to families whose ancestors came to North America centuries ago.



Geography Skills for Life

Northwest California The Yurok Native American group is only one of many groups that help define the populations of the United States and Canada.

Place About how many Native Americans are there in the United States? Canada?

History

Waves of Immigrants

North America's first immigrants probably moved into the region from Asia thousands of years ago. Today their descendants, known as **Native Americans**, number 2.5 million in the United States and 700,000 in Canada. Other peoples—Europeans, Asians, Africans, and Latin Americans—came later. As a result of these waves of immigrants, the populations of the United States and Canada are among the world's most diverse.

Some immigrants came to the United States and Canada to seek political and religious freedom

and to find better economic opportunities. Others fled wars or natural disasters. For example, the Irish potato famine of the 1840s caused about 1.5 million Irish people to immigrate to the United States.

Rich natural resources and the region's rapid industrial and economic development made the United States and Canada attractive destinations. Popular songs among European immigrants in the 1800s referred to the United States as the land "where the streets are paved with gold." Chinese immigrants nicknamed it "Gold Mountain." The rumors of gold were exaggerated, but the opportunities were real. Some immigrants faced discrimination at first, but they offered hard work, talent, enthusiasm, and diverse cultural practices. Throughout their histories, the United States and Canada have benefited from the contributions of immigrants.

Population Density and Distribution

Although the United States and Canada are "nations of immigrants," their populations differ in terms of density and distribution. Slightly larger than the United States in land area, Canada has an average population density of only 8 people per square mile (3 people per sq. km). Much of Canada's vast territory is inhospitable to human settlement because of rugged terrain and a bitterly cold climate. About 90 percent of Canadians live in a narrow strip of land along Canada's border with the United States. The poor soil of the Canadian Shield steered settlement toward the fertile land and industrial resources of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence lowlands. Other population centers include the farming and ranching areas along the southern sweep of the Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta and the Pacific coast of British Columbia.

Compared with Canada, the United States, with an average population density of 77 people per

GEOGRAPHY Online  **CLICK HERE**

Student Web Activity Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at tx.geography.glencoe.com and click on Student Web Activities—Chapter 6 for an activity about the history of immigration to the United States.

square mile (30 people per sq. km), may seem relatively crowded. Outside large urban areas, however, the population is widely distributed. The Northeast and the Great Lakes regions are the most densely populated areas and the historic centers of American commerce and industry. Another population cluster lies on the Pacific coast, where pleasant climate, abundant natural resources, and economic opportunities attract residents. More people live in California than in any other state.

Since the 1970s the American South and Southwest, including California, have become the country's fastest growing areas. Nicknamed the **Sunbelt** for its mild climate, the southern United States draws employees to its growing manufacturing, service, and tourism industries. Retirees choose the Sunbelt for its mild winters. The area's geographic closeness to Mexico and the Caribbean also draws immigrants from those two regions.

The least densely populated areas of the United States include the subarctic region of Alaska, the parched Great Basin, and parts of the arid or semi-

arid Great Plains. These areas owe their sparse populations to difficult climate conditions.

The Cities

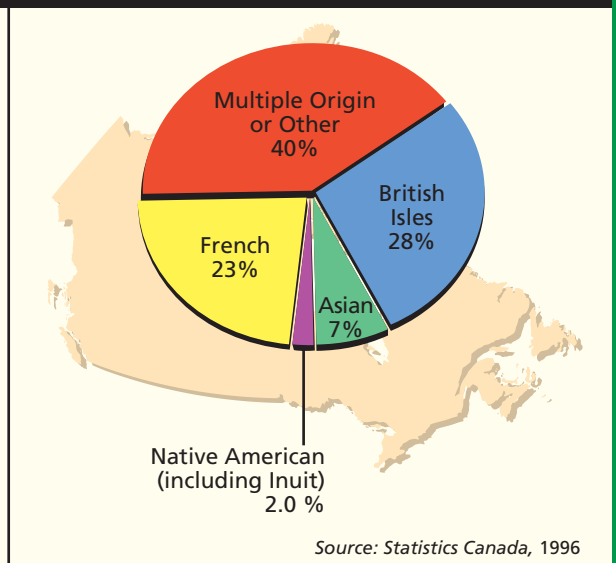
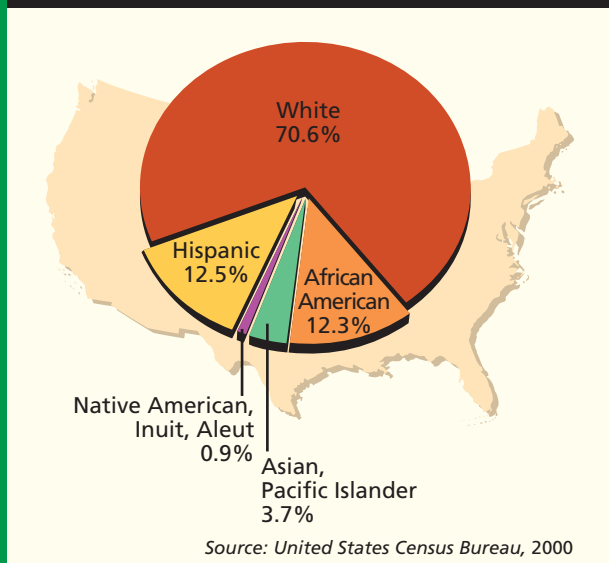
Although both the United States and Canada began as agricultural societies, they have experienced **urbanization**, the concentration of population in cities. Cities grew as the use of machines in agriculture gave rise to large commercial farms. As a result, fewer agricultural laborers were needed, sending people to urban areas to search for work. Jobs, education, health care, and cultural opportunities also have drawn people to large cities.

Today most people in the United States and Canada live in metropolitan areas. A **metropolitan area** includes a city with a population of at least 50,000 and outlying communities called **suburbs**. More than 80 percent of the population of the United States lives in the country's 276 metropolitan areas. Canada's 25 metropolitan areas are home to about 60 percent of the Canadian population.



GRAPH STUDY

Ethnic Origins in the United States and Canada



Geography Skills for Life

1. **Interpreting Graphs** What percentage of people in the United States are Hispanic?

2. **Applying Geography Skills** How does the percentage of Asians in the United States compare to the percentage of Asians in Canada?

Coastal Cities

Many population centers in the United States and Canada lie in coastal areas where healthy economies support large populations. Along the northern Atlantic coast of the United States, for example, a chain of closely linked metropolitan areas forms a **megalopolis**, or “great city.” Home to about 42 million people, this megalopolis—nicknamed Boswash—includes the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. Four of the cities—Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore—are important world trade centers because of their coastal or near coastal locations. The planned city of **Washington, D.C.**, established on the Potomac River near the Chesapeake Bay, is the country’s capital. On the capital’s 200th birthday, a native Washingtonian commended the city’s chief designer:

“Most American cities grew haphazardly... with little overall planning.... But our nation’s capital became one of the most

attractive low-rise cities... in the world... [because of] the vision of Pierre L’Enfant who conceived the plan for the capital....”

Gilbert M. Grosvenor,
“Washington, D.C., Reaches
Its 200th Birthday,” *National
Geographic*, August 1991

Other important U.S. coastal cities include the busy ports of **Miami**, on the Atlantic coast, and **New Orleans** and **Houston**, on the Gulf of Mexico. Houston, connected to the Gulf of Mexico by the Houston Ship Channel, is the southern end of a developing megalopolis that stretches north to the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area.

Pacific coast cities also provide important commercial links to the rest of the world, especially to the growing Asian economies of the Pacific Rim. A developing megalopolis stretches from San Francisco south through **Los Angeles** to San Diego. All three cities have major ports. Another western port city, Seattle, as well as San Francisco and the neighboring area nicknamed the Silicon Valley, fea-

tures innovative computer and Internet industries. These latter two areas also have developed aerospace industries, enterprises that design and manufacture airplanes, satellites, and space vehicles.

Vancouver is the largest city in the Canadian province of British Columbia and an important shipping center for western Canada. Despite its northern location, Vancouver’s harbor never freezes, so ships use the busy port year-round. Vancouver handles nearly all the trade between Canada and Asia.

Inland Cities

Rivers, lakes, and inland waterways promoted the growth of the region’s inland cities. North America’s waterways offered both natural resources and transportation routes that contributed to the region’s rapid industrialization, or the shift from agriculture to manufacturing and service industries as the basis of an economy.

In Canada, ships reach the cities of Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, and **Ottawa**

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

World Explorer



Geography Skills for Life

The United States

at Night City lights as seen at night from space reveal dense population clusters in the east and on the west coast.

Region What pattern do you observe in the distribution of cities in the United States and Canada?

through the St. Lawrence River, the Ottawa River, and the Great Lakes. **Detroit**, the center of the United States automobile industry, uses the Great Lakes for shipping goods. A megalopolis links the U.S. Great Lakes cities of Chicago, Milwaukee, and Cleveland with Pittsburgh, a freshwater port on the Ohio River. Other U.S. river cities include Cincinnati, on the Ohio River, and Minneapolis and St. Louis, on the Mississippi River. Winnipeg, on the Red River, and Saskatoon and Edmonton, on the Saskatchewan River, are inland population centers in western Canada.

Other inland cities, such as Atlanta, Denver, Dallas, and San Antonio in the United States and Regina and Calgary in Canada, grew from agricultural and trading centers.

Future Trends

Like most developed countries, the United States and Canada have low birthrates, which increase the population by only 0.5 percent annually. Immigration accounts for most of the region's population growth. In 1998 more than 9 percent of the population of the United States was born in another country. Like earlier immigrants, however,

the people of the United States and Canada cherish their **mobility**, the freedom to move from place to place. In a typical year, one in six U.S. residents of the United States relocates, often to cities. As immigration adds to population diversity, living with cultural differences and managing urban congestion are ongoing challenges.

TAKS Practice

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** immigration, Native American, Sunbelt, urbanization, metropolitan area, suburb, megalopolis, mobility.
- 2. Main Ideas** Create a word web like the one below, listing the various peoples of North America.



Critical Thinking

- 3. Comparing and Contrasting** How are the population patterns of Canada and the United States similar? How do they differ?
- 4. Making Inferences** What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of living in a megalopolis?
- 5. Categorizing Information** Select three coastal and three inland cities and indicate the economic activities important to each city.

Analyzing Maps

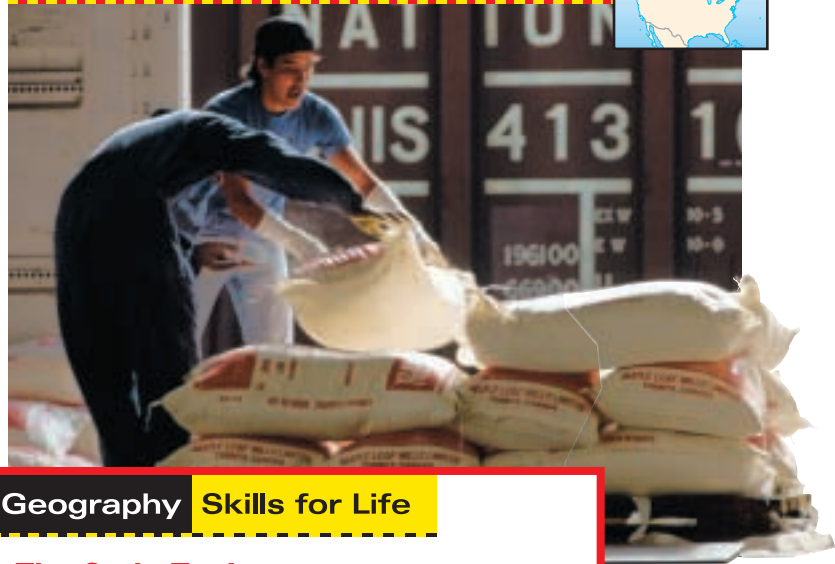
- 6. Human-Environment Interaction** Study the population density map on page 108. How many cities with populations over 1,000,000 lie along waterways? Explain.

Applying Geography

- 7. Choosing a Destination** Imagine that you are an immigrant writing a letter to relatives about your new home in the United States. Explain your reasons for settling where you live.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

World Explorer



Geography Skills for Life

The Grain Trade Workers load grain sacks for export from the port of Vancouver.

Movement How do port cities sustain an economy?

GIVE-AND-TAKE ACROSS THE BORDER

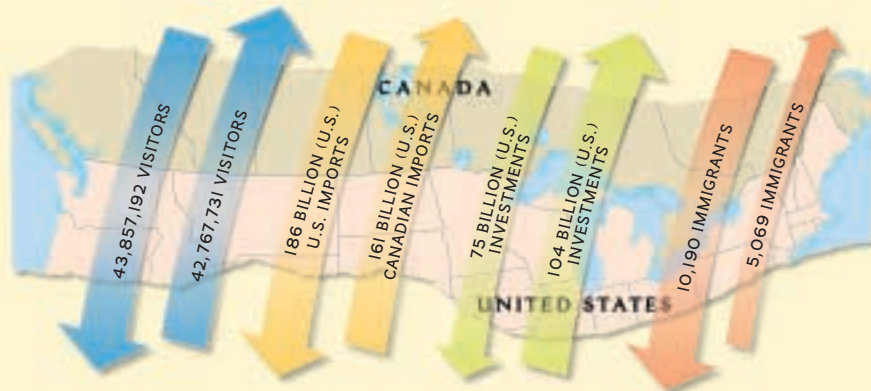
CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES share the longest undefended border in the world. The 3,987-mile (6,416-km) border runs through the middle of rivers and lakes, crosses fields and forests, and slices through towns and farms. Each year more than a hundred million tourists, truck drivers, sports fans, and other visitors pass through 96 official border crossings and thousands of unofficial ones. Even more impressive, though, is the value of goods and services that flow between the United States and Canada—a total that exceeds trade between any other two countries in the world.

A History of Trade

Trade has played an important role in the growth of both the United States and Canada. The fur trade in Canada began in the 1500s. Native Americans gave Europeans furs in exchange for such items as tools, weapons, and kettles. During the 1700s, colonists traded numerous raw materials—timber and furs—for Europe's manufactured goods. In the early 1800s, the quest for furs by American and Canadian companies pushed frontiers westward as trading posts sprang up in the wilderness.

Cars line up to enter Canada at Fort Erie, Ontario. ►





Each year, Canadians and Americans exchange products and people. Investors seek profits in real estate, mines, oil, and other ventures.

As the neighboring economies grew and prospered, so did cooperation. Since the late 1800s, trade has flourished between Canada and the United States. Most goods pass freely across the border, without tariffs of any kind. Two major agreements have sought to eliminate remaining tariffs and other trade barriers: the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in 1989 and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which includes Mexico, in 1994.

Cooperation and Conflict

Today each country has a major stake in the other's economy. Canadian companies operate plants in the United States and vice versa. Joint business ventures proliferate. The open border and long history of cooperation between the United States and Canada have led to good relations and a friendly give-and-take between neighbors.

Trade disputes do occur, however. Many Canadians dislike the effect free trade with the United States has on their culture and way of life. Canadians struggle to maintain a separate identity while they're bombarded by American music and movies. Moreover, differences arise over shared resources, such as fishing grounds, and over solutions to joint problems, such as pollution.

Looking Ahead

Will the spirit of cooperation between the United States and Canada prevail in this century? Or will trade disputes, disagreements over cultural issues, and other problems lead to conflict?



- 1500s** Fur trade starts between present-day Canada and Europe
- 1605** French explorers set up first trading post at Port Royal, Canada (photo above)
- 1608** French explorer Samuel de Champlain establishes settlement at Quebec
- 1700s** American colonists trade raw materials for Europe's manufactured goods
- 1800s** U.S.-Canada border (background photo) continues to be defined
- 1989** U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement takes effect
- 1994** North American Free Trade Agreement takes effect

Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know

You may know that the early history of Canada and the United States featured the movement of people from east to west. In what ways did that movement affect the place where you live?

Read to Find Out

- What was life like for the earliest Americans and for European settlers?
- How did industrialization and technology enable westward expansion in North America?
- How do the governments of the United States and Canada differ?

Terms to Know

- republic
- Underground Railroad
- dry farming
- Constitution
- amendment
- Bill of Rights
- cabinet
- dominion
- Parliament

Places to Locate

- Hudson Bay
- Quebec
- Ontario
- Nova Scotia
- New Brunswick
- Yukon Territory
- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut
- Texas
- Alaska
- Hawaii
- Pennsylvania
- Ohio

History and Government



A Geographic View

Personality and History

History has bred the caricatures. The United States was born of rebellion and the cult of independence. It spread west two hops ahead of the law. Canada was formed by consensus among public servants. On its way west the law went first. Canadians never had a Wild West.

—Prit J. Vesilind, "Common Ground, Different Dreams: The U.S.–Canada Border," National Geographic, February 1990



Monument Valley, Arizona

The United States and Canada share much in terms of geography, but they have taken different historical and cultural paths. In this section you will learn how the vast northern part of North America, originally inhabited by Native Americans, then colonized by Europeans, eventually developed into these two independent countries. You also will discover the key role physical geography played in the emergence of the United States and Canada and their development as industrialized countries.

History

Archaeologists generally believe that nomads crossing a land bridge from Asia to Alaska first settled North America thousands of years ago. Recent evidence suggests, however, that nomads from Central and South America may have populated North America at the same time as—or even before—those from Asia. Whatever theory proves correct, we know that as of 10,000 years ago, people lived in almost every part of what is now the United States and Canada.

Native Americans

Location and climate shaped the various cultures later known as Native American. For the peoples of the cold Arctic tundra, scarce resources and lack of farmland prompted them to hunt caribou and other animals for food and fur. By contrast, Pacific Coast peoples enjoyed a mild climate and abundant resources. They harvested salmon with fiber nets and used stone and copper tools to split cedar, fir, and redwood trees into planks for building houses and canoes.

In the high deserts of the Southwest, Native Americans used irrigation to farm the dry land. On the Great Plains, other groups hunted the buffalo, parts of which were used for food, clothing, shelter, and tools. Native Americans in the woodlands east of the Mississippi River built ceremonial mounds, hunted game, grew crops, and traded for shells and freshwater pearls. In the northeastern woodlands, Native American peoples hunted deer, turkeys, geese, and squirrels. These northeastern peoples lived in closely knit villages,

developed systems of government, and traded throughout the region.

European Colonies

European migration had begun by the late 1500s. Europeans came to North America in search of land to farm, valuable minerals, and political and religious freedom. Most European migrants came from Spain, France, and England and settled in colonies.

The Spaniards controlled Florida and a large area west of the Mississippi River. Many Spanish settlements were founded as military posts or as missions—religious communities founded to convert Native Americans to Christianity. Spanish colonists also set up farms and huge cattle ranches.

The French came to North America primarily for the fur trade. French trappers canoed down rivers such as the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi. They set up trading posts, collecting beaver pelts and other furs from Native Americans to ship to Europe. Those who settled permanently lived along the St. Lawrence River and the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico.

By the 1700s England had colonies or controlled land along much of the Atlantic coast and around **Hudson Bay**. The settlers in the northern English colonies found that the thin, rocky soil and short growing season made farming difficult. The area, however, had excellent harbors as well as good timber and fishing. Shipbuilding, trade, and fishing became important industries in this region. The middle English colonies had wide river valleys, level land, and fertile soil. They also had mild winters; long, warm summers; and an extended growing season. Many settlers there raised cash crops to be exported. The southern English colonies had mild climates, rich soils, and open land that encouraged plantation agriculture. Most



Geography Skills for Life

Fort Ticonderoga

French, British, and American forces fought over Fort Ticonderoga from 1758 through the American Revolution.

Human-Environment Interaction How did the physical geography of the United States influence settlement in the colonies?

plantation owners used enslaved Africans to provide the labor such large-scale farming required.

Two New Countries

In 1763 France was forced to give up much of its North American empire to Great Britain (formed by the union of England and Scotland in 1707). Conflicts soon arose between Native Americans and colonial settlers. Occupying the land, many settlers pushed out Native American communities and nearly destroyed their cultures.

During the 1760s the British government aroused the American colonists' anger by imposing new taxes and limiting their freedoms. Beginning in 1775, the thirteen British colonies, all of them along or near the Atlantic coast, fought a war for independence. The outcome was a new country—the United States of America. Rejecting monarchy, the Americans set up a **republic**, a government in which people elect their own officials, including their head of state. They elected George Washington as the first president of the United States.

Some American colonists, however, did not want to break ties with the British monarch. As many as 100,000 of these people, known as Loyalists, left the new country. Most settled in French-populated **Quebec**, which Great Britain controlled. During the early 1800s, English- and French-speaking communities in British North America constantly feuded about colonial government policies, but fears of a United States takeover forced them together. In 1867, under Prime Minister John A. Macdonald, four of the colonies—**Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick**—united as provinces of the Dominion of Canada, a new country within the British Empire. Neighboring areas—Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan in the west and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland along the Atlantic coast—became provinces of Canada during the next 100 years. Today Canada encompasses these 10 provinces and 3 additional territories, the **Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut** (NOO•nuh•vut).

From Sea to Shining Sea

During the 1800s the United States and Canada expanded into western North America. In 1803, for example, the United States bought from France

nearly all the land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. This agreement, known as the Louisiana Purchase, nearly doubled the size of the country and gave the United States control of the Mississippi River and access to the Far West.

The western lands were rich in natural resources. **Texas**, a former Mexican territory that became an independent republic in 1836 and joined the United States in 1845, was valued for cotton production and cattle ranching. In the late 1840s, as a result of a war with Mexico, the United States gained all of the present-day states of California, Utah, and Nevada and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, and New Mexico. The discovery of gold and silver boosted settlement in the region. A traveler on the California Trail during the Gold Rush of 1849 captured the attraction of the West in his journal:

“On, on, stay not for those who linger,
on, on, look not for those behind. . . .
America with one heave throws her life
toward Sacramento!”

C. B. Darwin, quoted in “The Way West,” *National Geographic*,
September 2000

By trade or treaty, the United States eventually gained control of land from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts, and from the Canadian border in the north to the Rio Grande in the south. In 1867 the United States purchased its last great frontier, **Alaska**, from Russia. Later it acquired **Hawaii** and some other islands located in the Pacific and the Caribbean. During this period Canada also acquired western lands, spreading from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean and from the Arctic region in the north to the United States border to the south. For Native Americans, however, westward expansion by both countries signaled the steady loss of their lands and restrictions on their traditional ways of life.

Economics

Growth, Division, and Unity

In the 1800s industrialization transformed the United States and Canada. The first factories in North America arose in the northeastern United

States, which had many waterfalls that could be harnessed to produce power to run machines. Because waterpower was limited to a few places, people in industry later used steam as a source of power. Large supplies of coal in **Pennsylvania** and **Ohio**, which were used to power steam engines, made steam power cheap and manufacturing very profitable. The Midwestern United States and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec became leading centers of industry and business. The many rivers and lakes in these areas, improved by the building of canals, were used to transport goods from factories to port cities.

A growing demand for cotton by the textile industry in the northeastern United States made cotton production highly profitable. Cotton became the South's major cash crop. Swamps were drained and pine forests cleared for more cotton plantations. For plantation owners, the labor of enslaved Africans became more important than ever before.

Other people, however, worked to end slavery by enabling enslaved people to escape from bondage. The **Underground Railroad**, an informal network of safe houses, helped thousands of escaping enslaved people make their way north to freedom. Many escapees found shelter in Canada, which never practiced slavery and refused to honor U.S. laws that punished those who escaped.

Disputes over slavery, along with economic and political differences between Northern and Southern states, led to the American Civil War of 1861–1865. Under President Abraham Lincoln, the Northern states defeated the Southern states that had left the Union. After the war the United States abolished slavery and gave formerly enslaved African Americans citizenship, equal protection



Geography

Skills for Life

Underground

Railroad Harriet Tubman (inset) helped enslaved people escape through the Underground Railroad. This was a system of safe houses like John Rankin's home in Ripley, Ohio.

Place How did geographic and economic factors help lead to the Civil War?

under the law, and the right to vote. Reunited, the United States set about rebuilding itself.

Technological and Social Change

During the late 1800s, the United States and Canada both encouraged settlement of the Great Plains. The United States and Canadian governments wanted to ease the crowding in eastern cities caused by immigration from Europe. They also wanted people to farm the region, thus providing more food for urban populations. Thousands of people from Atlantic coastal areas, as well as immigrants from eastern Europe and Scandinavia, started farms on the Great Plains.

Because of dry conditions, settlers on the Great Plains developed a special farming method, called **dry farming**, cultivating the land so that it caught and held rainwater. Strong steel plows, better able to break the hard prairie sod, soon replaced iron plows. Steam tractors made it possible to plant and harvest large areas of land faster and easier.

The late 1800s also saw the completion of transcontinental railroads in the United States and Canada. These made it possible to transport manufactured goods from east to west, as well as food products—especially beef cattle—from west to east. Immigrants from China, Ireland, Mexico, and other countries were recruited to help build the railroads.

During the early 1900s, the introduction of assembly lines for mass production cut the cost and the time needed to make many industrial products. Perhaps the most influential mass-produced item was the automobile. At this time people were becoming increasingly mobile, and more of them lived in urban areas than in rural areas.

Two world wars during the 1900s spurred economic growth in the United States and Canada. After 1940 both countries were linked in a close partnership that included increased trade between them. By the 1990s certain economic activities,

mining and steel production, for example, were less important than rising high-tech industries. Social changes also took place. Immigration increased from Latin America and Asia. Women, African Americans, Hispanics, and other groups began to participate in business and the political process. In both Canada and the United States, Native Americans have negotiated with governments over land claims, mineral rights, and other issues. In 1999 the Inuit, one of Canada's native peoples, won the right to their own territory, called Nunavut, carved from the eastern half of the Northwest Territories.

Government

The United States and Canada both are democracies with federal systems, in which the national government shares power with state or provincial governments. To create a strong national government while preserving the rights of individual states and citizens, United States leaders in 1787 drafted a plan of government called the **Constitution**. Over the years, changes in the Constitution, called **amendments**, have been made to meet the country's changing needs. The first 10 amendments, called the **Bill of Rights**, guarantee the basic rights of citizens, including the freedoms of speech, religion, and the press.

The national government of the United States has three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch includes the president, the vice president, and the executive departments that administer various divisions of the national government. The heads of these departments form the president's **cabinet**—a group of special advisers. Congress, consisting of elected state representatives to both the Senate and the House of Representatives, is the legislative branch. The Supreme Court and lower federal courts make up the judicial branch.

Canada was created as a **dominion**, a partially self-governing country with close ties to Great Britain. It gained full independence in 1931, but the British government kept the right to approve changes to Canada's constitution. In 1982 this legislative link to Great Britain finally ended. Canada at its founding had a strong central government with only minor powers given to the individual

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

World Explorer



Geography Skills for Life

Growth of Railroads Thousands of Chinese workers, such as these on the Northern Pacific Railway, helped build the railroads across western North America in the late 1800s.

Movement How did the completion of transcontinental railroads affect the United States?

 **CONTENTS** 

provinces. Over the years, the power of the provinces has increased.

Today the executive part of Canada's government includes the governor-general, the prime minister, and the cabinet. The British monarch still serves as the head of state, appointing a governor-general to act in his or her place. The national legislature, called **Parliament**, is made up of the Senate and the House of Commons. Canada's prime minister, who is leader of the majority political party in Parliament, is the actual head of government. Nine judges sit on the Supreme Court of Canada, the country's highest court.

In the next section, you will learn about the culture and lifestyles in the United States and Canada as they enter the new millennium.



Geography

Skills for Life

House of Parliament

Ottawa's location on the border between Quebec and Ontario helped determine its role as Canada's capital city.

Place How does Canada's prime minister derive his or her position?

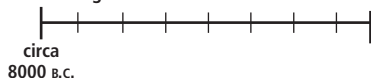
TAKS Practice

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

1. **Define** republic, Underground Railroad, dry farming, Constitution, amendment, Bill of Rights, cabinet, dominion, Parliament.
2. **Main Ideas** Create a time line like the one below, and label major events in the settlement and development of the United States and Canada.

Native Americans
settled in region



Critical Thinking

3. **Identifying Cause and Effect** How did physical geography influence the cultures of the region's first settlers?
4. **Drawing Conclusions** Why is the influence of French culture more pronounced in Canada than in the United States?
5. **Making Generalizations** Trace the spread of railroads in the United States and Canada. Describe the effects of the railroad on cultural sharing and national unity in both the countries.

Analyzing Maps

6. **Region** Study the political map on page 107. Then, without looking at this map, label the U.S. states and Canadian provinces/territories on an outline map.

Applying Geography

7. **Effects of Technology** How did people meet the challenges of settling the West through innovation and change? Write a brief essay describing these changes and how they affected the region's physical and human geography.

Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know

The arts and popular entertainment of the United States and Canada influence other culture regions of the world. What cultural trends can you think of that began in this region and spread to other parts of the world?

Read to Find Out

- How do the religious practices and languages of the region reflect the immigrant history of the United States and Canada?
- How do the arts of the United States and Canada reflect the region's colonial past?
- What kinds of educational and health care systems serve the people of the region?

Terms to Know

- bilingual
- jazz
- socioeconomic status
- literacy rate
- patriotism

Places to Locate

- New Mexico
- Hollywood

Cultures and Lifestyles



A Geographic View

The Art of Everyday Life

Such attention to reality was at odds with artistic convention in [painter Winslow] Homer's time, as was his choice of subjects—barefoot boys, farm girls, working men, freed slaves, North Woods guides, ordinary soldiers, and women of leisure, all of whom represented everyday life in America. Early critics complained about it. . . . But like other American originals of his time—Walt Whitman and Mark Twain—Homer kept to his own path.

—Robert M. Poole, "Winslow Homer: American Original,"
National Geographic, December 1998



Winslow Homer, known for his naturalistic style, was one of the greatest American painters of the 1800s. His paintings express the independent thinking and the enthusiasm for new frontiers that mark the cultures of the United States and Canada. The immigrant roots of these countries also gives them a respect for diversity. In this section you will read about the cultures and lifestyles of the United States and Canada.

Cultural Characteristics

The United States and Canada are countries of many cultures. Like the threads of a brightly colored blanket, the cultures of these countries blend into a new pattern without losing their individual qualities.

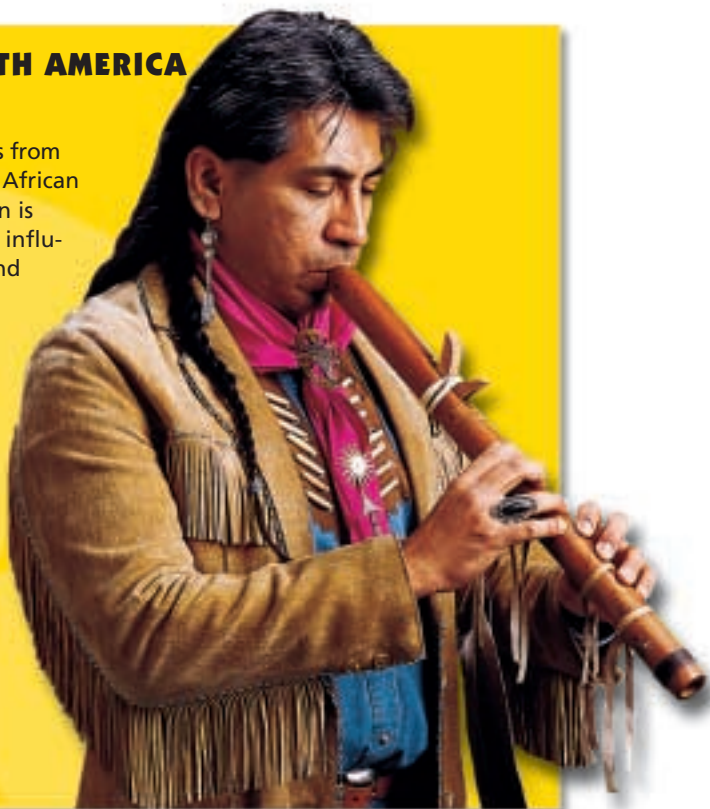


music of NORTH AMERICA

The music of North America stems from Native American, European, and African influences. Music from this region is extremely varied and has greatly influenced other types of music around the world.

Instrument Spotlight

The **Native American flute** originated among the peoples of the Great Plains, and it was often played by men to express their feelings of love to women. Each flute, made individually by hand, has its own unique look and sound. Traditional flutes are made from a piece of cedar, cut the same length as the distance between the armpit and the longest finger of the musician. In addition to five or six playing holes, four “direction” holes are added to send the sound in all directions.



World Music: A Cultural Legacy Hear music of this region on Disc 1, Tracks 1–6.

History

Religious Freedom

Freedom of religion has always been valued in the United States and Canada. Many of the people who migrated to the region did so to worship freely. As early as 1774, the British Parliament passed a law recognizing the religious rights of Roman Catholic French Canadians. In 1791 the Bill of Rights, which became part of the United States Constitution, guaranteed Americans religious freedom in addition to a number of other rights.

Today most Americans and Canadians who are members of an organized religion are Christians. In the United States, the majority of Christians are Protestant, while in Canada most Christians are Roman Catholic. Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism are among other religions practiced in the United States and Canada.

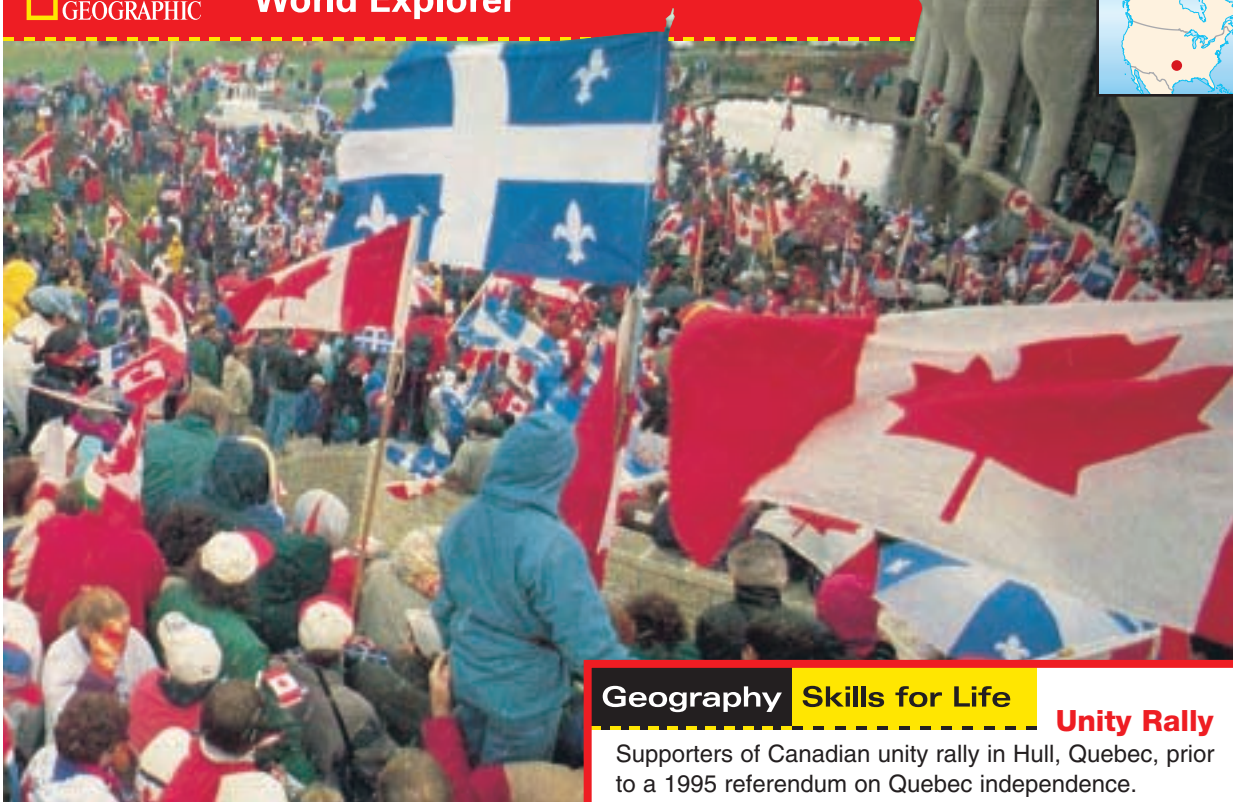
Languages

English is the main language in the United States. In Canada, English and French are the official languages. Because of immigration from all over the

world, however, people in the United States and Canada also speak or use various words and phrases of other languages. For example, street signs in ethnic neighborhoods of the region's port cities—New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Vancouver—may be printed in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, or Hindi. A writer describes this mix of cultures and languages in New York:

“Store owners [on Third Avenue] are often Asian. Corner groceries are run by families from the Dominican Republic . . . Arabs operate the candy stores . . . Koreans run vegetable stands. . . . [Near 118th Street] Robert Kosches finished talking in Spanish to a young couple. . . . ‘My grandfather, who came from Austria, started this [furniture] business,’ he said, switching to English. . . .”

Jere Van Dyk, “Growing Up in East Harlem,” *National Geographic*, May 1990



Geography

Skills for Life

Unity Rally

Supporters of Canadian unity rally in Hull, Quebec, prior to a 1995 referendum on Quebec independence.

Place Why do some Quebecois desire independence?

Immigrants from Great Britain brought the English language to the United States and much of Canada. In the Canadian province of Quebec, however, French is the official language because most of the province's population are descended from French settlers who arrived from the 1500s to the 1700s.

French-speaking Canadians in Quebec and some other provinces want greater protection for their language and culture. To achieve this goal, many Quebecois (kay•beh•KWAH) want Quebec's independence and support a movement for *separatism*—the breaking away of one part of a country to create a separate, independent country.

The Southwestern United States since colonial times has had a large Spanish-speaking population. In **New Mexico**, any communications with the state government or with local governments may be in Spanish or English. Thus, New Mexico is **bilingual**, meaning “having two languages.” In California the presence of Asian communities is evident in the signs written in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and other Asian languages.

The Arts

The arts of the United States and Canada go back to the first Americans, who interwove art and music into daily life. Native Americans made detailed carvings from shell and stone, used clay to produce pottery, and wove baskets, sandals, and mats from local plants. After European settlement the arts of the region were dominated by European traditions. By the mid-1800s, however, Americans and Canadians had begun to create art forms that reflected their own lives as North Americans.

Music

In their music Native Americans used drums, flutes, whistles, and vocal chanting. Europeans later brought European folk and religious music to the region. At the beginning of the 1900s, a distinctive form of music known as **jazz** developed in African American communities throughout the United States. Jazz blended African rhythms with

European harmonies. By the end of the century, country music and rock 'n' roll had become popular musical forms, not only in North America but around the world. In classical music, dancers and choreographers created a modern form of ballet.

The Visual Arts

Painting and sculpture in the United States and Canada moved away from their European roots and explored new themes. In the early 1900s, a group of American artists known as the Ashcan School painted the grim realities of urban life. A group of Canadian painters called the Group of Seven showed the rugged landscape of Canada's far north in bright, dynamic colors. American artist Georgia O'Keeffe gave the world new visions of the American West. In the mid-1900s many artists in the region adopted from Europe the abstract style, which expresses the artist's emotions and

attitudes without depicting recognizable images.

Architects in the United States and Canada also developed innovations. The skyscraper, a tall building with many floors, first appeared in the United States. The architects Frank Lloyd Wright in the United States and Arthur Erickson in Canada were noted for designing buildings that harmonized with the region's natural environments.

Literature

Literature in the United States and Canada at first dealt mainly with European historical and religious themes. Later writers, such as James Fenimore Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Edgar Allan Poe, wrote stories about life in North America. Since the late 1800s, many American and Canadian authors have written about different parts of the region. Mark Twain described life on the Mississippi River, Margaret Laurence focused on the prairies of central Canada, and Willa Cather described life on the Great Plains.

More recently, writers have concentrated on highlighting aspects of the region's cultures. For example, writers such as Richard Wright and Toni Morrison depict the African American experience, Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan write about the experience of Asian immigrants, Isaac Bashevis Singer's stories reflect the world of Jewish Americans, and Rudolfo Anaya and Sandra Cisneros focus on Hispanic American lives and issues.

Popular Entertainment

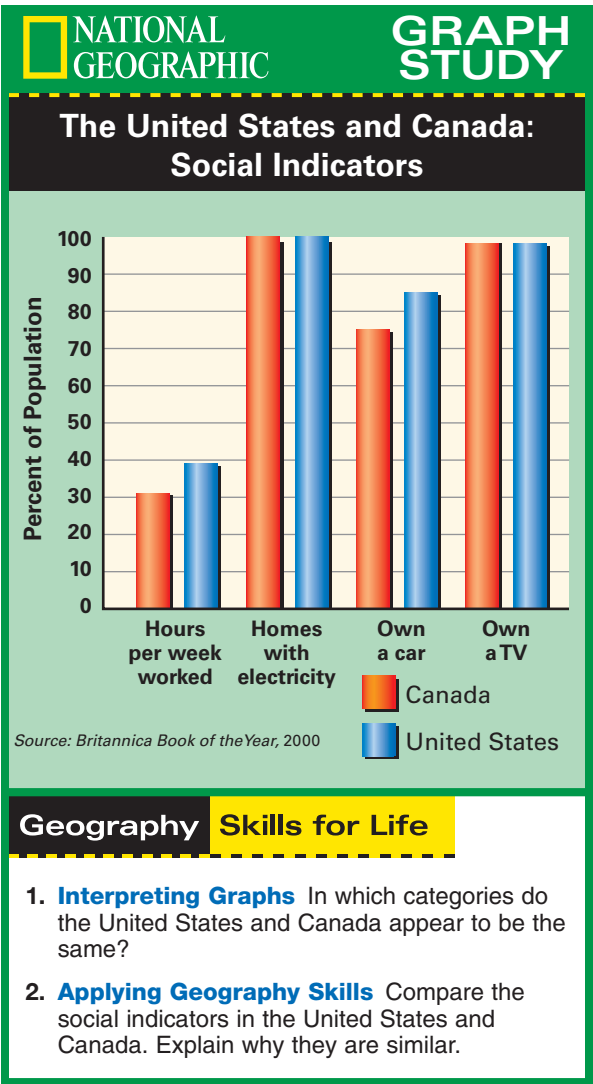
The cultural influence of the United States and Canada on the rest of the world is strongest in the area of popular entertainment. During the 1900s the United States became the world's dominant source for entertainment and popular fashion, from jeans and T-shirts to rock stars, movies, and television programs. The motion picture industry began in New York City and later moved to southern California. Today the name of a Los Angeles district, **Hollywood**, has become synonymous with the movie business. Canada's film industry, supported by the government, is known for its innovative documentaries. In the performing arts, Canada is noted for its Shakespeare Festival, held annually in Stratford, Ontario. Broadway, a New York City street name, is internationally identified with popular theater. The musical, combining elements of



drama with music, became a popular form of theater in the United States.

Lifestyles

As citizens of two of the world’s wealthiest countries, most people in the United States and Canada enjoy a high standard of living. Their **socioeconomic status**, or level of income and education, means having the advantage of many personal choices and opportunities. Because the region has an agricultural surplus, foods are relatively inexpensive. Housing varies to suit the needs of individuals and families, whether it be high-rise apartments, multifamily row houses, or suburban houses in a variety of styles.



Economics

Health Care

People in both the United States and Canada can expect to live longer, generally healthier lives than people in many other parts of the world. The region’s high level of economic development enables governments to devote substantial resources to health care. Health care is administered differently in the two countries. In Canada, the government pays for health care. In the United States, most people are expected to pay for their own health care through health insurance provided by employers or other organizations. Federal and state governments, however, pay for some health insurance for people who are older, people with disabilities, or low-income families. Still, many people in the United States are unable to purchase insurance, and others cannot afford health care even with insurance. In the United States, the role of the government in providing health care for all citizens, regardless of their socioeconomic status, is currently under debate.

Education

The United States and Canada have similar educational systems, including networks of public and private schools. Both countries maintain compulsory education requirements. In the United States and most Canadian provinces, school systems have 12 grades. Colleges and universities exist in every state and province. In the United States, the **literacy rate**, the percentage of people who can read and write, is 97 percent; Canada’s literacy rate is also 97 percent.

Sports and Recreation

Although a strong work ethic is woven into the culture of both the Americans and Canadians, they also enjoy plenty of leisure time. Some of the most popular activities involve watching and participating in sports. Most people associate baseball and football with the United States and ice hockey with Canada. Fans and players of these sports, however, come from both sides of the border. Basketball, soccer, golf, tennis, and competitive ice skating also have their supporters in both countries.

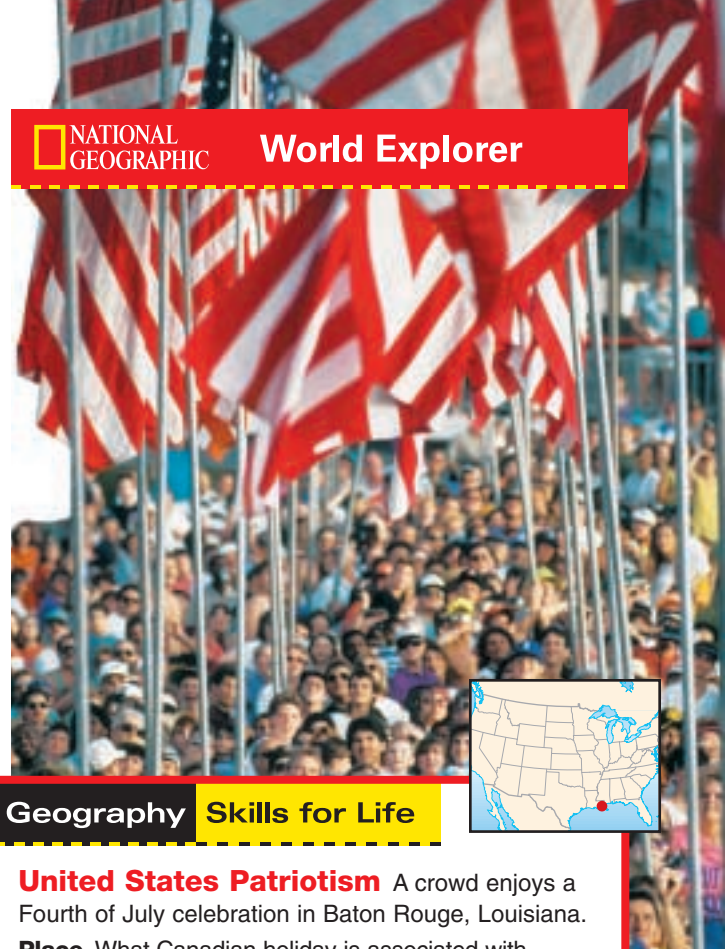
Television transformed sports during the late 1900s. Many people in the United States and Canada share in exciting sports telecasts throughout the

year: baseball during the spring and summer and its World Series in the early fall; football during the fall, capped by the Super Bowl in January; and the National Basketball Association (NBA) championships in the spring. As a result, sports heroes, such as baseball's Derek Jeter, football's Brett Favre, and basketball's Michael Jordan, have become household names.

The vast North American landscape is ideal for camping, canoeing, and hiking. The first U.S. national park was created in 1872. Located in parts of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, Yellowstone National Park covers more than two million acres, and dazzles visitors from around the world with its spectacular physical features. Since then, the United States and Canada have set aside millions of acres as national parks for conservation and recreation.

Celebrations

Holiday celebrations in the United States and Canada are essentially similar. Both countries celebrate many of the same religious holidays, and many civic observances are similar although held on different dates. Celebrations such as American Independence Day (July 4) and Canada Day (July 1) are occasions for public displays of **patriotism**, or loyalty to one's country.



Geography

Skills for Life

United States Patriotism A crowd enjoys a Fourth of July celebration in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Place What Canadian holiday is associated with patriotism?

TAKS Practice

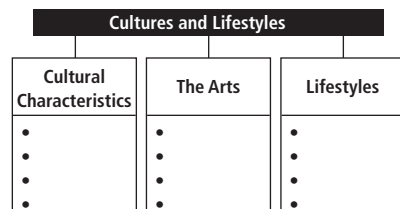
SECTION

3

ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** bilingual, jazz, socioeconomic, literacy rate, patriotism.
- 2. Main Ideas** Create a diagram like the one below, listing aspects of the cultures, arts, and lifestyles of the region.



Critical Thinking

- 3. Making Generalizations** What challenges are created for government, education, and business when a country has two official languages?
- 4. Making Inferences** Why do you think immigrants to the United States and Canada did not develop new styles of art, music, and literature at first?
- 5. Identifying Cause and Effect** How has the region's history of religious freedom contributed to the development of culturally diverse societies in the United States and Canada?

Analyzing Maps

- 6. Place** Study the physical map in the Regional Atlas on page 106. Why does the physical geography of California make it ideal for both surfers and mountain climbers?

Applying Geography

- 7. Sports as Culture** Think about the popularity of various sports in the region. Write a paragraph explaining how sports can increase cultural understanding among the peoples of Canada and the United States.



**TAKS
Practice**

Understanding GIS and GPS

A Global Positioning System (GPS) can accurately determine a position on the earth to within .08 inches (2 mm). Geographic information systems (GIS) are computer tools for handling, processing, and analyzing geographic data. Both systems help us understand information about location.

Learning the Skill

GPS satellites in space continually broadcast signals to Earth. By tracking the signals from several satellites, a GPS receiver on the ground can determine its current latitude, longitude, and altitude. GPS measurements showed that Mt. Everest is actually 7 feet (2.1 m) higher than its official recorded height! The receiver can also report current time and the direction and speed of travel. The unit even has a feature that tells exact sunrise, sunset, and moon phase based on location and time.

Originally developed by the United States military, GPS is now available for many different uses:

- **Hikers** use GPS receivers with physical maps that show an area's surface features and elevations.
- **Drivers** use GPS receivers in cars to obtain digital street maps and plot travel routes.
- **Sailors** use GPS technology to plot a ship's course.

GPS receivers often feed data into geographic information systems (GIS). GIS are computer tools that gather, combine, and display information relevant to a specific geographic location. After information about an area is entered into the GIS database, the computer can create maps showing any combination of the data.



▲ *Soldier using GPS receiver*

Businesses use GIS to find prime locations to open franchises. Creating a database with information such as traffic patterns, competitors' locations, average income, and vacant lots for sale helps pinpoint the best location for a new store. Using data from various sources, GIS technology might display a map that shows the factories, air pollution count, and cancer rates in a particular neighborhood. GIS aid in information analysis by visually presenting the interaction among various factors in a given location.

GPS allows people to locate themselves inside the map, while GIS creates maps that highlight the elements affecting a location. GPS and GIS technology represents the state of the art in geography and mapmaking.

Practicing the Skill

Using the data you have read, answer the following questions.

1. What do GPS receivers use to plot exact locations?
2. Why was the military the original developer of GPS?
3. How does seeing various factors on a map help people make decisions?
4. How is GPS information used with a GIS database?
5. How could GPS and GIS improve traffic safety?

Applying the Skill

Your community is planning to build a recreation center. If you have access to a GIS program, use the program to help determine the best location. Use three types of data—such as roads, housing estates, and high school gyms—to create maps. Then analyze the maps and write your proposal.



SECTION 1

Population Patterns (pp. 133–137)

Terms to Know

- immigration
- Native American
- Sunbelt
- urbanization
- metropolitan area
- suburb
- megalopolis
- mobility

Key Points

- Both Canada and the United States are home to various groups of native peoples and descendants of immigrants.
- Physical geography impacts the distribution and density of population in the U.S. and Canada.
- North America's settlements and its largest cities developed along waterways.
- Natural resources and waterways for transportation helped North America industrialize.

Organizing Your Notes

Use a table like the one below to help you organize your notes about the region's population patterns.

Peoples	Population Patterns

SECTION 2

History and Government (pp. 140–145)

Terms to Know

- republic
- Underground Railroad
- dry farming
- Constitution
- amendment
- Bill of Rights
- cabinet
- dominion
- Parliament

Key Points

- Native Americans are North America's earliest people.
- Europeans set up colonies in North America for trading, conquest, and religious freedom.
- The thirteen British colonies won their independence from Britain in 1776 and formed their own republic, the United States of America.
- In 1867 the eastern provinces combined to form the Dominion of Canada. Canada today encompasses 10 provinces and 3 territories; it became an independent country in 1931.
- Industrialization and technology enabled westward expansion and spurred social change.

Organizing Your Notes

Create an outline using the format below to help you organize your notes for this section.

History and Government	
I. History	
A. Native Americans	
1.	
2.	
B. European Colonies	
1.	
2.	

SECTION 3

Cultures and Lifestyles (pp. 146–151)

Terms to Know

- bilingual
- jazz
- socioeconomic status
- literacy rate
- patriotism

Key Points

- The immigrant roots of the United States and Canada make these two countries diverse.
- Both countries have a heritage of religious freedom.
- Musical and artistic expression began with immigrants and gradually became uniquely North American.
- Health care is supported by the governments of both countries but in different ways.
- Both countries in the region have high standards of living.

Organizing Your Notes

Use a cluster map like the one below to help you organize your notes for this section.



Reviewing Key Terms

On a sheet of paper, write the key term that matches the definition. Refer to the Terms to Know in the Summary & Study Guide on page 153.

1. level of income and education
2. loyalty to one's country
3. percentage of people who can read and write
4. the movement of people into one country from another
5. a central city and outlying communities
6. a government in which people elect their own officials
7. a chain of closely linked urban areas and suburbs
8. partially self-governing country with close British ties
9. ability to use two languages
10. cultivating land so that it catches and holds rainwater

Reviewing Facts

SECTION 1

1. Most settlers in the United States and Canada came from what region of the world?
2. Where is most of Canada's population concentrated?

SECTION 2

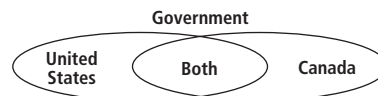
3. Explain how the Underground Railroad helped enslaved African Americans escape to freedom.
4. What three technological innovations led to the expansion and development of the United States?

SECTION 3

5. What is the most widely practiced religion in Canada? In the United States?
6. How did the literature of the United States begin to change in the late 1800s?

Critical Thinking

1. **Making Generalizations** How did physical features influence population patterns and urbanization in the United States and Canada?
2. **Drawing Conclusions** Explain how diverse ethnic groups influenced the development of the region's arts.
3. **Comparing and Contrasting** Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the governments of the United States and Canada.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Locating Places

The United States and Canada: Physical-Political Geography

Match the letters on the map with the places and physical features of the United States and Canada. Write your answers on a sheet of paper.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Texas | 5. Alberta | 9. Detroit |
| 2. Great Salt Lake | 6. New Mexico | 10. Nunavut |
| 3. Nova Scotia | 7. Miami | 11. British Columbia |
| 4. Quebec | 8. Pennsylvania | 12. Hudson Bay |





Self-Check Quiz Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at tx.geography.glencoe.com and click on Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 6 to prepare for the Chapter Test.

Using the Regional Atlas

Refer to the Regional Atlas on pages 106–109.

- 1. Human-Environment Interaction** Compare the political map to the economic activity map. What commercial crops are grown in the southern United States?
- 2. Place** Compare the population density map to the political map. What states and provinces have the highest population density?

Thinking Like a Geographer

Describe the effects of cultural diffusion between the United States and Canada and other parts of the world in recent decades. Trace this process, using specific examples, such as films, music, foods, and American slang.

Problem-Solving Activity

Group Research Project Research U.S. voting patterns and the distribution of political power. Study a map showing the outcome of the latest congressional election, district by district. Then compare it to a map of a previous race. Write a report explaining the political changes from one election to the next as well as the factors shaping the formation of congressional voting districts.

GeoJournal

Expository Writing Using your GeoJournal data, write an essay analyzing the effects of processes, such as migration, on the territorial growth of the United States and Canada.



Technology Activity

Developing Multimedia Presentations

Choose one Native American or immigrant group and describe its influences on the region's cultures and lifestyles. Include contributions such as religion, language, the arts, food, clothing, and celebrations. Create a multimedia presentation that displays examples of these contributions and explains their origins. To enhance your presentation, play music appropriate to the group you choose for the class.



TAKS Test Practice

Choose the best answer for each of the following multiple-choice questions. If you have trouble answering the questions, use the process of elimination to narrow your choices.

- 1. Researchers using GIS and GPS technology to correlate water quality indexes, zoning maps, census figures, and maps of area rivers and aquifers are most likely trying to determine which of the following?**
 - A The relationship between the location of industrial plants and water quality
 - B The water pressure for new fire hydrants for a developing community
 - C The location of scenic hiking trails
 - D The lung disease rates for various areas in the region



Several of the data elements correlated by the researchers relate to water. Eliminate those answers that do not relate to water.

- 2. Ships at sea use GPS technology**
 - F as a communication device.
 - G as a navigational aid.
 - H for inventory control.
 - J to maintain personnel files.



If you know that GPS technology deals with precise positioning data, you can eliminate choices H and J, and choose the best answer from the answer choices that remain.