

## The Economy of the West

### Fun Facts:

- Idaho is #1 for growing potatoes.
- More fish and shellfish come from the Pacific Coast states than from other regions.
- California is #1 for many fruits and vegetables including: lettuce, broccoli, cantaloupes, grapes, strawberries, peaches, almonds, figs, nectarines, lemons, and plums.
- Washington state is the home to Microsoft, the largest computer software company in the world.
- Japanese farmers were the first to grow strawberries in the western states.

The West has many valuable resources. In the Rocky, Sierra Nevada, and Cascade Mountains, there are many mineral deposits. These minerals are very valuable and have been mined by the earliest of man living in the area. The minerals include: gold, salt, silver, copper, and molybdenum. Gems that are found in the West are: jade, turquoise, opal, amethyst, beryl, sapphire, topaz, and jasper. Also in the mountainous areas, large areas of forests can be found. The forests contain pine, spruce, aspen, oak, and fir trees. Some western states like Oregon are known for producing Christmas trees.

The West also had large expanses of land for ranching. Ranches raise cattle and sheep which are later sold as beef and lamb. The cattle also provide leather hides and the wool of the sheep can be used for cloth.

California alone has over 70,000 farms. Over a third of our vegetables and two-thirds of our fruits and nuts are grown there. Farms in the west produce a wide variety of food crops. Here are just some of these food crops: grapes, dairy products, almonds, strawberries, lettuce, walnuts, tomatoes, pistachios, beans, sugar beets, potatoes, pineapples, macadamia nuts, peppermint and spearmint oil, lentils, chickpeas, cherries, peaches, apples, sugarcane, and apricots. Farms also produce chickens and turkeys for their meat. The fishing industry provides salmon, tuna, crab, octopus, oysters, and numerous other kinds of fish eaten by many Americans.

There is also manufacturing in the West. Because of the forests, there is the lumber industry as well as paper, plywood, and cardboard manufacturers. Because of the minerals and gems, there is a large mining industry. Other large industries produce aircraft, computer parts and software, ships, and weapons,

Other natural resources that are sold to consumers are water and oil. Water is not only essential for plants and animals but it also used to produce electricity. Oil was discovered in Alaska in the 1960s and is pumped into supertankers to be taken to refineries. Oil is an important energy source.

States in the region of the West are: Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Alaska and Hawaii.

### Sources:

National Geographic Society Reading Expeditions Series: *Travels Across America* (all five titles: *The West*, *The Southeast*, *The Southwest*, *The Midwest*, and *the Northeast*) Order #JB41237

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## The Economy of the Southwest

### Fun Facts:

- One of the largest ranches in the United States is the King Ranch that covers 825,000 acres in South Texas. This ranch is bigger than Rhode Island!
- The deepest natural gas well is in Oklahoma. It is six times deeper than the Grand Canyon.
- Two states produce blue corn: Arizona and New Mexico. Native Americans have grown this crop since ancient times and still grow it today.
- Texas produces 14 million beef cattle. This amount of beef will make billions of hamburgers.
- Albuquerque is known as “Silicon Mesa” because of the computer industries centered there.

The Southwest has many valuable resources. One of the most valuable mineral resources found in Oklahoma and Texas is oil or “black gold.” Many of the oil pumps work day and night. A refinery turns the oil into gasoline or heating oil. Oil is also used in making plastics, crayons, and medicines. But oil is not the only energy resource produced in the Southwest. There is also uranium, coal, and natural gas. Other mineral resources for this region include: silver, gold, and copper. Arizona produces about two-thirds of the copper we use for pennies, wiring, and pipes.

One resource that the Southwest does not have enough of is water. Water is used for irrigating crops and for human consumption. Drought is often a problem in the Southwest so rivers are dammed to create large lakes or reservoirs to retain the water. The dammed water can also be used to generate hydroelectric power.

The Southwest does produce some food crops. These are: lettuce, cabbage, spinach, cantaloupe, peanuts, rice, chilis, corn, wheat, potatoes, lemons, sorghum, tangerines, onions, pinto beans, and grapes. Cattle and sheep are also raised for their meat. Other farm products include cotton used for cloth and hay and alfalfa used to feed cattle and other animals. Crabs, oysters, shrimp and lobster are all caught off the eastern coast of Texas.

The higher elevations of Arizona and New Mexico have forests of pine, spruces, and firs. These trees can be harvested for their wood and made into lumber or wood chips.

Tourism is one of the biggest industries in Arizona and New Mexico. Besides oil and mining production, the Southwest has electrical, communications, aeronautical, automobile assembly, and aluminium industries.

The states in the region of the Southwest are: Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma.

### Sources:

National Geographic Society Reading Expeditions Series: *Travels Across America* (all five titles: *The West, The Southeast, The Southwest, The Midwest, and the Northeast*) Order #JB41237

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## The Economy of the Midwest

### Fun Facts:

- The second tallest building in the U.S. is in Chicago. It is the Willis Tower or also known as the Sears Tower, 110 stories or 1,450 feet tall.
- Kansas is the nation's top producer of wheat. It is called the "Breadbasket of America." North Dakota is ranked second in the production of wheat.
- The area around Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska are known as tornado alley because this area has more tornadoes than anywhere else in the U.S.
- The largest cities in the Midwest are Chicago, Minneapolis, Des Moines, and Cincinnati.

The Midwest has many valuable resources. Billions of tons of iron have been mined in Minnesota. The iron ore is put on train cars and travel to Lake Superior. There the iron ore is put on ships that cross Lake Superior, Lake Huron, and Lake Michigan to Chicago. In Chicago's huge mills, the iron ore is made into steel. The steel is used for buildings, cars, and bridges. Because steel was produced in the area, Detroit became known as "Motor City." Here Fords, Oldsmobiles, Cadillacs, and Lincolns were all made.

The Midwest is also known as the "Dairy Belt." There are dairy cows in every state in the Midwest, and Wisconsin is the leading producer of milk. From the milk, cheese and other products can be made like ice cream, butter, and yogurt.

If the Midwest has a "Steel Belt" and a "Dairy Belt," let's add another belt: the "Corn Belt." This includes corn on the cob and corn turned into tortillas, corn chips, popcorn, and cereal. People eat many corn products, but the corn is also used as food for cattle and pigs that are raised in the Midwest.

Are you ready for a final belt? It is the "Wheat Belt." The wheat growing area of the Midwest is generally from Kansas north to North Dakota. Kansas produces enough wheat to feed the world for about 2 weeks. Wheat is used to make pasta, bread, cereal, cakes, cookies, and tortillas.

The land of the Midwest is general thought of as being flat. But there are areas of rugged hills. The farther west you go in the Midwest, the less rain falls. This makes a big difference in what kind of crops can be grown.

The Midwest is also a transportation hub with many highways and railroads for transporting people and goods across our nation from the East to the West.

The states in the region of the Midwest are: North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas, and Missouri.

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midwestern\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midwestern_United_States)

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Middle-West>

## The Economy of the Southeast

### Fun Facts:

- Tobasco sauce was created in Louisiana. It is made from hot peppers.
- Crater of the Diamonds State Park in Arkansas is the only place in the world where you can keep any diamonds you find.
- New Orleans has the world's longest wharf (where boats can load and unload). It can handle 15 ships at the same time.
- Scattered throughout the Southeast are numerous historical sites like Arlington National Cemetery, Monticello, and Mount Vernon.

The Southeast has many valuable resources. One of its most valuable resources is its waterways. In the Gulf of Mexico, you will find many container ships (coming from all over the world) carrying goods to be off-loaded and transported by trucks or trains to other U.S. destinations. In the Gulf, you will also find oil rigs drilling for oil found below the ocean floor. The Mississippi River is another important waterway. Barges from the Midwest bring wheat and other products down the Mississippi River to the port of New Orleans where those container ships will be loaded with American products to be exported round the world.

The Southeast produces a wide variety of crops. Some of these crops are: cotton, tobacco, rice, corn, fruits, hay, sugar cane, peanuts, sweet potatoes, beans, squash, and citrus (especially oranges).

Tourism is part of the Southeast's economy. Disney World in Orlando, Florida, is the most visited theme park in the world. Also popular with tourists are visiting New Orleans, Nashville, and Austin for their music and food. Atlanta and Charleston are known for their historical sites and food.

Several major industries are located in the Southeast. These include automakers like Toyota, Mercedes-Benz, General Motors, and Hyundai. North Carolina has some excellent research parks. These are centers where people look for advancements in science, medicine, and space technology. The Southeast is the leading producer of textiles (cloth) and furniture.

In the mountainous areas of the Southeast, there are coalfields. Long ago coal miners used picks and shovels to get the coal from a mountainside. Now they use explosives and machines to pick up the coal. Coal is used in the making of steel and as a way to produce electricity.

The states in the region of the Southeast are: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeastern\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeastern_United_States)

## The Economy of the Northeast

### Fun Facts:

- Massachusetts is number one in growing cranberries. Maine is number one in catching and selling lobsters.
- The first pretzel maker in the U.S. was opened in Pennsylvania in 1861.
- The biggest underground marble quarry in the world is in Vermont.
- The highest mountain in the Northeast is Mount Washington. It is 6,288 feet high. Arizona's highest mountain is Humphreys Peak (12,637 feet high)!

The Northeast has many valuable resources. Some of its most valuable resources are due to its waterways. From the Atlantic Ocean come lobsters, fish, crabs, oysters, and clams. There are seaports where large and small ships carrying people and cargo can dock. The St. Lawrence Seaway links the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. Thousands of ships go through this waterway each year. The ships carry wheat, corn, iron, and coal as well as manufactured goods like stoves, refrigerators, and cars.

The Northeast produces a wide variety of crops. Some of these crops are: cranberries, tomatoes, potatoes, corn, cabbage, green beans, onions and squash.

Tourism is part of the Northeast's economy. Boston is near many Revolutionary War sites. Here, people visit the Paul Revere house and walk the Freedom Trail. New York City is famous for Broadway plays and the Statue of Liberty. And many tourist come to the Northeast to see the fall leaves when they are red, orange, and yellow. The beaches of the Northeast are also famous for attracting tourism.

Several major industries are located in the Southeast. These include chemical companies, drug manufacturers (for medical uses), and communications centers like national television networks and large newspapers.

In the mountainous areas of the Northeast, there are forests. The timber is used for making paper, furniture and pencils. Trees also provide sap that is made into maple syrup and candy. The Appalachian Mountains stretch from Georgia to the tip of Maine. There is an Appalachian Trail that people can hike. It goes for 2000 miles.

The states in the region of the Northeast are: Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

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## **Answer Key for Map Work**

### **Regions and Their States**

**West**-Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, California, Alaska, and Hawaii

**Southwest**-Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico

**Southeast**-Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida

**Northeast**-Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Maine, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire

**Midwest**-Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota

### **Answer Key for Regions and Their Foods**

**West**-potatoes, fish, shellfish, fruits, vegetables, lettuce, broccoli, cantaloupes, grapes, strawberries, peaches, almonds, figs, nectarines, lemons, plums, beef, lamb or mutton, dairy, walnuts, tomatoes, pistachios, beans, sugar, potatoes, pineapples, macadamia nuts, peppermint, spearmint, lentils, chickpeas, cherries, apples, apricots, chicken, turkey, salmon, tuna, crab, octopus, and fish

**Southwest**-blue corn, beef, water, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, cantaloupe, peanuts, rice, chilis, corn, wheat, potatoes, lemons, sorghum, tangerines, onions, pinto beans, grapes, lamb or mutton, crabs, oysters, shrimp, and lobsters

**Southeast**-Tobasco sauce, hot peppers, rice, corn, fruits, sugar, peanuts, sweet potatoes, beans, squash, and citrus

**Northeast**-fish, lobsters, crabs, oysters, clams, cranberries, tomatoes, potatoes, corn, cabbage, green beans, onions, and squash, maple syrup, pretzels, and maple candy

**Midwest**-milk, cheese, ice cream, butter, yogurt, corn, corn chips, tortillas, popcorn, cereal, wheat, pasta, bread, cakes, cookies, beef, and pork

**Supermarket Sweeps Assessment**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



\$ 6.99 each  
Lobster Tails



\$ .89 a pound  
Potatoes



2 for \$ 3.00  
Pretzels



\$ 3.88 a pound  
Ground Beef



2 for \$ 7.50  
Cereal

- 1) If one pound of potatoes cost \$ .89, how much would 3 pounds cost?
  
- 2) How much would 2 1/2 pounds of ground beef cost?
  
- 3) Cereal is on sale 2 for \$ 7.50. How much would 3 boxes cost?
  
- 4) Lobster tails are on sale for \$ 6.99 each. How much would 5 cost?
  
- 5) Pretzels normally sell for \$ 1.89 each bag. They are on sale at 2 for \$ 3.00. How much would you save buying two bags?

Name 3 products from each region. Do not use the items listed above.

Northeast	Southeast	Midwest	Southwest	West

## **Answer Key**

1) If one pound of potatoes cost \$ .89, how much would 3 pounds cost?

**\$2.67**

2) How much would 2 1/2 pounds of ground beef cost?

**\$9.70**

3) Cereal is on sale 2 for \$ 7.50. How much would 3 boxes cost?

**\$11.25**

4) Lobster tails are on sale for \$ 6.99 each. How much would 5 cost?

**\$34.95**

5) Pretzels normally sell for \$ 1.89 each bag. They are on sale at 2 for \$ 3.00.

How much would you save buying two bags? **\$.78**

Name 3 products from each region. Do not use the items listed above.

**West**-potatoes, fish, shellfish, fruits, vegetables, lettuce, broccoli, cantaloupes, grapes, strawberries, peaches, almonds, figs, nectarines, lemons, plums, beef, lamb or mutton, dairy, walnuts, tomatoes, pistachios, beans, sugar, potatoes, pineapples, macadamia nuts, peppermint, spearmint, lentils, chickpeas, cherries, apples, apricots, chicken, turkey, salmon, tuna, crab, octopus, and fish

**Southwest**-blue corn, beef, water, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, cantaloupe, peanuts, rice, chilis, corn, wheat, potatoes, lemons, sorghum, tangerines, onions, pinto beans, grapes, lamb or mutton, crabs, oysters, shrimp, and lobsters

**Southeast**-Tobasco sauce, hot peppers, rice, corn, fruits, sugar, peanuts, sweet potatoes, beans, squash, and citrus

**Northeast**-fish, lobsters, crabs, oysters, clams, cranberries, tomatoes, potatoes, corn, cabbage, green beans, onions, and squash, maple syrup, pretzels, and maple candy

**Midwest**-milk, cheese, ice cream, butter, yogurt, corn, corn chips, tortillas, popcorn, cereal, wheat, pasta, bread, cakes, cookies, beef, and pork