

Summary: What Is a Region?

Defining Regions

The world can be divided into regions. A region is an area that shares one or more features. These features make regions different from one another. People use regions to organize their ideas about places and people. For example, a farming region is different from a fishing region. A farming region in Europe may grow different crops than a farming region in Asia.

Countries and states are regions that have the same government. Other regions are based on landforms or the plants or animals that live there. Regions can be based on the population. People may share a religion or language.

Regions take up space or land. Some regions have borders to show exactly where they begin and end. Countries and states have borders that show exactly what land area they contain. Other regions have a boundary. Some boundaries, like rivers, are natural. Some are man-made, such as a road.

How Regions Are Used

Creating regions helps people to understand and organize large spaces. Governments divide their countries or states into regions. Government leaders gather facts about the people, environment, and natural resources in each region. They use this information to decide how to use resources and give services to people who need them.

People use regions to make decisions. Business leaders use information about regions to decide if they want to open a store or sell a product there. For example, a company that makes coats looks for regions with cold weather.

Regions can overlap. The same place can be in more than one region. For example, the city of Elizabeth is in the state of New Jersey. It is also in the New York metropolitan region, because it is close to that city. It is also in the East, a region of the United States.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

government *noun*, a system of making and carrying out rules and laws

population *noun*, the people who live in an area

religion *noun*, a system of faith or worship

boundary *noun*, the edge of a region



After You Read

REVIEW What kind of region has borders?

Underline the sentence that tells which regions have borders.

REVIEW In what ways do people use regions to make decisions? Draw a box around two sentences that tell how the government and business leaders use regions to decide what to do.