**The regions of the USA**

The United States consist of fifty states, and are divided into six different regions: New England, Middle Atlantic States, the South, the Midwest, the Southwest and the West.   
The land has an enormous land area, and therefore there are bound to be differences between the regions.

**New England** is a region in the northeastern corner of the United States. It consists of six states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.   
It’s the smallest region in The USA, and it got its name from the English Protestants settlers who came to the new world looking for religious freedom and settled in this area. It`s also the oldest defined region of the United States. The most famous teaching institution in the United States, Harvard, is situated in Massachusetts in New England.

Industry: Earlier the most important industries were clothing and rifles. Now the most important industry is microelectronics.

Area: 186,458.8 km²

Population: 14,429,720 (2009 est.)

Largest city: Boston

Climate: Mostly warm summers and cold winters.

**Middle Atlantic States** form a region generally located between New England and the South. Five states make up this region: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. The Middle Atlantic States has played an important role in the development of American culture, commerce, trade and industry. This region is known as “the typically American region”. Important elements of the region have been religious pluralism and ethnic diversity. It comes from its settlement by Swedes, English Catholics, Dutch and Quakers. The region is the most important trading and industrial center in the United States. New York City, where you can find the headquarters of the United Nations, is looked upon as an icon of American economic and cultural power. The region has one of the world’s most important concentrations of media, communications, finance, education, medicine and technology.

Industry: Earlier the region had a lot of heavy industry related to iron, glass and steel. Now most of it has been replaced with drug manufacturing and communications.

Area: 495,486.74 km²

Population: 57,303,316 (2008 est.)

Largest city: New York City. This city is also the largest city in the United States

Climate: Same climate as New England, warm summers and cold winters

**The South** stretches from Virginia south to Florida, west to central Texas and north to parts of Missouri and Oklahoma. The area was first settled by English Protestants. After 1800 the differences between the north and the south became more and more pronounced. The south states raised cotton and tobacco on plantations. They were therefore depending on the slave labour to have enough workers. In the north they had no use for slaves, and they did not think that slavery should be allowed. The difference between the southern states and the northern states became so great, that eleven southern states left the Union. They formed The Confederate States of America. The civil war (1861-1865) was fought to preserve the Union. The south states lost. After the civil war the socially and economically recovery was slow. Today the South is a dynamic economic region. This region has an unique culture and history, because of the Native Americans, European settlers from Spain, France, England, Ireland, Scotland and Germany and because of its importation of many African slaves, that is the reason why this region has a lot of African Americans in its population. This mix of different culture forms the regions music styles, literature, customs and varied cuisines.

Industry: Tourism, farming, energy production

Population: Florida is the state with the highest population: 18 million, then follows Georgia with 10 million and North Carolina with 9 million people.

Largest city: Jacksonville, but Atlanta is looked upon as the most important city in the region.

Climate: Hot and humid. The area is often referred to as the “Sun Belt”

**The Midwest** stretches west from Ohio to eastern Colorado and north up to North Dakota. The region consists of the twelve states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. This region has a lot of immigrants from Germany, Sweden and Norway.

Most of the landscape of the Midwest is flat enormous areas of fertile soil which has made it possible to harvest large amounts of cereal crops such as wheat, oats and corn. That’s why The Midwest is often known as the nation’s “breadbasket”. The Mississippi River running through the region has been important for transportation. A lot of railways are also built in the region.

Industry: Transportation and farming

Population: 66,217,736 (2006 est.)

Largest city: Chicago

Climate: Hot humid summers, cold winters

**The Southwest** covers western Texas, parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and southern California. This area is much drier than the rest of the regions, and therefore it`s less densely populated. There are large dessert areas and wide open spaces, which make the geography different from the other states.

The region has a different ethnicity than the rest of the United States, because it has a lot of citizens with Mexican heritage. There has always been immigration from Latin America, and it increased after 1960, when the immigration laws were changed. You can also find many Native American reservations here.

Together with the South, this area is the most fast growing area in the United States. Air-conditioning has made it ok to live in this warm area. Dams along the rivers has brought water to regions that used to be desert towns, like Las Vegas and Nevada, and have made it possible to grow crops in areas that earlier were too dry.

Industry: Science, farming and energy production (oil, gas)

Population: 19 000 000

Largest city: Houston

Climate: Dry and hot desert

**The West** stretches from Colorado to northern California in the west and up to Washington and Montana in the north. All the states have many mountains. The region also including the two states Alaska and Hawaii. Alaska is vast land with a lot of wilderness. In Hawaii most of the citizens are Asian-Americans.

Population: This region has a sparse population, except from California, which is the most populous of all the states in America.

Largest city: Los Angeles, which is the second largest city in the US, and is famous for its film industry.

Climate: Most of the region has dry desert climate, but parts of the West get high amounts of rain or snow. The climate is unstable, and areas that normally are dry can suddenly be very wet and vice versa. The temperature varies a lot. This region has tornadoes every spring.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_England>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Atlantic_states>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_United_States>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southwestern_United_States>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midwestern_United_States>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_United_States#Climate_and_agriculture>