Population Patterns

Terms to Know

- **immigration** The movement of people into one country from another (page 133)
- **Native American** Descendants of the first immigrants to North America who probably came from Asia (page 134)
- **Sunbelt** The American South and Southwest, named because of its mild climate (page 135)
- **urbanization** The concentration of population in cities (page 135)
- **metropolitan area** A large urban center (page 135)
- **suburb** An outlying community located near a city (page 135)
- **megalopolis** A chain of closely linked metropolitan areas (page 136)
- **mobility** The ability to move from place to place (page 137)

**DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE**

Do you know how long ago your ancestors came to the United States? From what region or regions did they come? Where did they first settle when they came to the United States?

This section focuses on the population patterns of the people of the United States and Canada.

**ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS**

Use the web below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the reasons why immigrants have come to the United States and Canada.

**Reasons for Immigration**

(continued)
The United States and Canada have been shaped by immigration. This is the movement of people into one country from another.

1. Why are the populations of the United States and Canada very diverse?

All the people in the United States and Canada are immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Some came to the region recently. Others have ancestors who came many, many years ago. North America’s first immigrants probably came from Asia thousands of years ago. Their descendants are known as Native Americans. Other immigrants have come from all parts of the world. This makes the populations of the United States and Canada among the most diverse in the world.

There are many reasons that immigrants have come to the United States and Canada. Some reasons include:

A. People wanted religious or political freedom.
B. People were fleeing wars or natural disasters.
C. People wanted greater economic opportunities.
D. People sought the rich natural resources of the region.

2. Why are the populations of the United States and Canada very diverse?
densely populated areas. They are the historical centers of American commerce and industry. The fastest growing region is the South and Southwest United States, known as the **Sunbelt** because of its mild climate. This area has growing manufacturing, service, and tourism industries.

Some areas of the United States have difficult climate conditions and small populations. These areas include subarctic Alaska, the Great Basin, and dry areas of the Great Plains.

3. In what areas do most people in Canada and the United States live? Why are these areas centers of population?

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**The Cities (page 135)**

Both the United States and Canada have experienced **urbanization**, the migration of population into cities. About 75 percent of Americans and 60 percent of Canadians live in **metropolitan areas**—large cities together with outlying communities called **suburbs**.

Many population centers of the United States and Canada lie in coastal areas. Along the northern Atlantic coast of the United States a chain of closely linked metropolitan areas form a **megapopolis**. Four of the cities that make up this megalopolis—Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore—are important world trade centers because of their coastal or near coastal location. Along the Pacific coast, a developing megalopolis includes the port cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego in California. Vancouver is an important shipping center for western Canada.

Inland cities have developed near rivers, lakes, and other waterways. In Canada, ships use the St. Lawrence River, the Ottawa River, and the Great Lakes to reach Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto. A developing megalopolis links the U.S. Great Lakes cities of Chicago and Milwaukee. Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis, Memphis, and New Orleans are important Mississippi River cities. Winnipeg and Edmonton are important river cities in Canada.

The United States and Canada have low birth rates. Most population growth comes from immigration. **Mobility**, or the ability to move from place to place, is important to the people of the United States and Canada. Many people in the region frequently relocate.

4. Where do most people in the region live?
History and Government

Terms to Know

- **republic**: A government in which the people elect their own officials (page 142)
- **Underground Railroad**: An informal network of safe houses that helped escaping enslaved people make their way to freedom (page 143)
- **dry farming**: Cultivating the land so that it catches and holds rainwater (page 143)
- **Constitution**: The plan of government of the United States (page 144)
- **amendment**: A change in the Constitution (page 144)
- **Bill of Rights**: First 10 amendments to the Constitution guaranteeing the basic rights of citizens (page 144)
- **cabinet**: A group of special advisers to the president (page 144)
- **dominion**: A partially self-governing country with close ties to Great Britain (page 144)
- **Parliament**: The national legislature of Canada made up of the Senate and the House of Commons (page 145)

**DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE**

What do you know about the history of Canada? What part of Canada’s history is similar to that of the United States? How is its government different from the United States?

In the last section, you read about the geography of the United States and Canada. This section focuses on the history and government of these two countries.

**ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS**

Use the cause-and-effect diagram below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how industrialization changed life in the United States and Canada.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>transcontinental railroad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assembly line</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>automobile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued)
Native Americans once lived throughout North America. Then Europeans colonized the region. Finally, the region developed into the United States and Canada.

1. Who lived in North America before the Europeans came?

There are two theories about the first people to settle North America. One theory is that thousands of years ago, nomads crossed a land bridge from Asia to Alaska and settled North America. Another theory is that nomads from Central and South America may have settled North America at the same time as those people from Asia.

By the late 1500s, Europeans began to migrate to North America looking for farmland, valuable minerals, or trade. Others were searching for political and religious freedom. Three main European groups came to North America:

A. The Spanish controlled Florida and a large area west of the Mississippi River. They set up military posts, missions, farms, and large cattle ranches.

B. The French came for the fur trade along rivers. Some settled permanently along the St. Lawrence River and the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico.

C. The English had colonies or land along the Atlantic coast and around the Hudson Bay. The northern colonies made their living by shipbuilding, trade, and fishing. The middle colonies had level land and fertile soil, so English settlers raised cash crops. In the southern colonies the mild climate, rich soil, and open land encouraged plantation farming.

In 1763 France gave up much of its land in North America to Great Britain. English settlers migrated to the west, pushing out Native Americans and almost destroying their cultures. The United States was created in 1776 after the 13 British colonies fought a war for independence. The Americans set up a republic, a government in which the people elect their own officials.
Some American colonists who were loyal to Great Britain moved north to other British colonies. In 1867, four of the colonies united to form the Dominion of Canada.

During the 1800s the United States and Canada expanded into western North America. Westward expansion caused Native Americans to lose land and their way of life.

In the 1800s, industrialization changed the United States and Canada. The northeastern United States developed many textile factories, because its waterfalls and coal deposits could be used to generate power. United States and Canadian cities expanded along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to transport factory goods. Cotton was needed for northern textile mills, so it became the major cash crop in the southern United States.

Enslaved Africans provided most of the labor on southern cotton plantations. Many people objected to the practice of slavery. The Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses, helped many escaped enslaved people make their way north to freedom. Disputes over slavery between Northern and Southern states led to the American Civil War. The Northern states defeated the Southern states, and the practice of slavery ended.

During the late 1800s, the United States and Canada encouraged settlement of the Great Plains. Settlers on the dry lands of the Great Plains developed dry farming. This was a method of preparing the land so that it caught and held rainwater. Transcontinental railroads were completed in the United States and Canada during the late 1800s. The railroads transported goods and people from east to west.

During the early 1900s assembly lines allowed the mass production of goods. This cut the cost and time of making goods. The automobile made it easier for people to travel from place to place. Two world wars in the 1900s led to economic growth in the United States and Canada. After 1940 the two countries developed a close trade partnership. By the 1990s high-tech industries were important in both countries.

2. How did technology and industrialization affect the United States and Canada?

Government (page 144)

The United States and Canada are both democracies with federal systems. The national government shares power with state or provincial governments. The United States’ plan of government is called the Constitution.
Changes in the constitution are called **amendments**. The first 10 amendments, called the **Bill of Rights**, guarantee the basic rights of citizens. The United States government has three branches—the executive, legislative, and judicial. The President heads the executive branch. The heads of the executive departments make up the president’s **cabinet**—a group of special advisers. Congress 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. Canada gained full independence in 1931. Canada’s government includes a governor-general, appointed by the British monarch who still serves as head of state. The head of Canada’s government is the prime minister. The national legislature is called **Parliament**. Canada’s highest court is the Supreme Court.

3. What are similarities and differences between the governments of Canada and the United States?
Cultures and Lifestyles

**Terms to Know**

- **bilingual** Having two languages (page 148)
- **jazz** A form of music that blends African rhythms with European harmonies (page 148)
- **socioeconomic** Based on level of income and education (page 150)
- **literacy rate** The percentage of people who can read and write (page 150)
- **patriotism** Loyalty to one's country (page 151)

**DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE**

What kind of art, music, and clothing do you like? Do you think everyone in the United States and Canada likes the same kind of art, music, and clothing as you? Why or why not?

In the last section, you read about the history and government of the United States and Canada. This section focuses on the types of cultures and way of life of people in these two countries.

**ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS**

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the cultures and lifestyles of people in the United States and Canada.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>The Arts</th>
<th>Entertainment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canada</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 6, Section 3

READ TO LEARN

Introduction (page 146)
The immigrant roots of the United States and Canada give them a respect for diversity.

1. Why do the people of the United States and Canada respect diversity?

Cultural Characteristics (page 146)
The United States and Canada share some cultural characteristics, but differ in others.

Freedom of religion has always been important in the United States and Canada. Many of the people who migrated to the region came in search of religious freedom. This right is guaranteed in both countries. Today most Americans and Canadians are Christians, but a variety of religions are practiced in both countries.

The major language in the United States is English. Canada has two official languages—English and French. Immigrants from Great Britain brought English to the United States and much of Canada. French is the official language of Quebec because most of the province’s population are descendants of French settlers.

Many people in the Southwestern United States speak Spanish. In New Mexico, communication with the government can be in Spanish or English, so the state is bilingual.

2. Why are there many different religions practiced and languages spoken in the United States and Canada?

The Arts (page 148)
The arts of the United States and Canada reflect the culture and traditions of Native Americans, Europeans settlers, enslaved Africans, and present-day North Americans. Native American music used drums, flutes, whistles, and voices in chant. Europeans brought folk and religious music to the region. African Americans developed jazz in the early 1900s by blending African rhythms with European harmonies. By the late 1900s, country music and rock and roll were popular.

By the early 1900s, painting and sculpture in the United States and Canada moved away from European themes to new ideas. A group of American artists known as the Ashcan School painted the realities of city life. Canadians called the Group of Seven painted landscapes of Canada’s

(continued)
far north. Architects in the United States and Canada developed new ideas such as the skyscraper and buildings that blend with their surroundings.

   Early literature in the two countries had European historical and religious themes. Later writers wrote about life in North America. More recently, writers have focused on the region’s cultures and on the experiences of immigrants.

   Today the United States and Canada strongly influence the rest of the world in the areas of popular entertainment. This includes popular fashions, movies, theater, and television programs.

3. What themes are used in the arts of the Untied States and Canada?

@ Lifestyles (page 150)

Most people in the United States and Canada enjoy a high standard of living. Their socioeconomic status, or level of income and education, is high. This allows them many choices and opportunities. Food is plentiful and inexpensive.

   Most people in the United States and Canada can expect to live long lives. In Canada the government pays for all health care. In the United States, most people pay for their own health care through private health insurance programs. Some people who do not have health insurance are able to get help from federal and state governments. Still, many people cannot purchase insurance or cannot afford necessary care even with insurance.

   Both the United States and Canada have public and private schools. The literacy rate, or the percentage of people who can read and write, is 97 percent in the United States and 96 percent in Canada.

   People in the United States and Canada enjoy watching and participating in sports such as baseball, football, hockey, tennis, and golf. The landscape of North America is ideal for camping and hiking. Both the United States and Canada have large national parks.

   Both countries celebrate holidays and occasions for public display of patriotism, or loyalty to one’s country.

4. What kinds of health care and education systems do the United States and Canada have?