

TEACHER TIP

Purpose: I designed this tip to help students learn geographical terms as well as get to know the geography of the United States of America.

Materials: This worksheet, possibly a larger map on an overhead, markers or crayons

Time needed: 60-minute class

How to modify the activity: the activity can be easily modified to include more tasks than the two mentioned. The map can be filled with colorful pencils to show different regions, the text of the article can be simplified for lower levels. The words in the article can be omitted for students to guess or choose from a word bank.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States of America is the world's third largest country in size and nearly the third largest in terms of population. Situated in North America, the country is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean and to the east by the Atlantic Ocean. Along the northern border is Canada and the southern border is Mexico. There are 50 states and the District of Columbia.

More than twice the size of the European Union, the United States has high mountains in the West and a vast central plain. The lowest point in the country is in Death Valley which is at -282 feet (-86 meters) and the highest peak is Denali (Mt. McKinley) at 20,320 feet (6,198 meters).

The country is divided into six regions: New England, the mid-Atlantic, the South, the Midwest, the Southwest, and the West. European settlers came to **New England** in search of religious freedom. These states are located in the northeastern part of the USA.



The **mid-Atlantic region** is industrial areas where big cities are located. These are: New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. **The South** is the region located in southeastern part of the USA. These countries are more agricultural and traditionally poorer than the rest of America.

The Midwest is home to the country's agricultural base and is called the "nation's breadbasket." This region is in the central part of America. **The Southwest** is a beautiful landscape of prairie and desert. This region is home to beautiful natural parks, including the Grand Canyon and Carlsbad Caverns.

The American West, home of rolling plains and the cowboy, is a symbol of the pioneering spirit of the United States. The West is diverse, ranging from endless wilderness to barren desert, coral reefs to Arctic tundra, Hollywood to Yellowstone.

1. Find and underline the comparative and superlative adjectives
2. How many regions are there in the USA?
3. Which region is the breadbasket of the USA?
4. Where is America is there a desert?
5. What is the lowest point in the country?

Write down the geographical terms from the text:
