

Regions illustrated in North America

12

Very approximate grade level

K/1

2 a big geographic idea
(and a good place to study it)

Region
is a useful "tool" in North America because it can help students organize their prior knowledge of "home" in order to make comparisons with other places.

Delimit complex regions based on multiple criteria, including connections

Delimit simple regions based on presence of identifying features

Describe environments by making inferences from thematic maps

Learn position words: in the area with these traits (in the region)
(clearly identified as geography)

History: tracing major patterns of immigration

History: comparing native American cultures
(previous classes or collaboration with other disciplines)

Map skill: estimate density/homogeneity

Map skill: interpret shaded-area map
(map skills)

3 some important consequences of the big idea

Regional differences mean that one-size-fits-all policies are often unsuccessful (if not damaging).

Exceptions to regional patterns often suggest hypotheses for future inquiry.

Regional maps can change if the factors that we use to delimit regions change.

Many regional maps are similar, because identifying criteria may be causally linked (e.g. temperature, cotton, secession, education, poverty).

Different regions have different histories, languages, settlement patterns, etc..

Different regions have different weather, terrain, plant cover, resources, etc. (positioned where appropriate in the curriculum)

Native Americans in different regions lived in different kinds of houses.

A discussion question:
What are some strategies to help us figure out how to adapt "one-size-fits-all" national policies to fit regional differences?



1 a scaffold of thinking skills and background knowledge that supports the big idea