

.North America Study Guide

Vocabulary

climate - average weather of a place over many years

temperate - moderate in terms of temperature

migration - movement of people from one place to another

metropolitan area - urban areas which are geographically close to each other

population density - measure of the number of people per unit of land

market economy - economy in which individual consumers and producers make all economic decisions

export - good or service produce within a country and sold outside the country's borders

import - good or service sold within a country that is produced in another country

economic region - place where people do particular kinds of work

diplomacy - managing communication and relationships between countries

precipitation - water that falls to the ground as rain, snow, sleet, or hail

tundra - area with limited vegetation, such as moss and shrubs

permafrost - permanently frozen soil

mixing zone - an area where warm and cool water combine and stir nutrients from the ocean floor; fish feed on these nutrients

cultural mosaic - place where people from different areas retain their cultural identity

constitutional monarchy - system of government in which the laws in the constitution limit the monarch's or emperor's powers

plural society - society in which distinctive cultural, ethnic, and racial groups are encouraged to maintain their own identities and cultures

Questions

What two states are not included in the Lower 48?

Alaska and Hawaii

What is the most common natural disaster in the United States?

flooding

What is one reason people live near rivers and other waterways?

Waterways were used as transportation routes.

How have people tried to minimize their impact on the environment?

People have tried to minimize their impact on the environment by managing energy resources more efficiently.

Do most people in the United States live in rural areas or in the cities?

Most people live in cities.

What is NAFTA?

NAFTA is a free trade agreement among Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

What is one way American culture spreads throughout the world?

American culture spreads through the Internet.

How do trade agreements like NAFTA increase trade?

Trade agreements like NAFTA increase trade by reducing taxes on goods, therefore making the goods cost less.

What are some recent examples of the United States influencing world events through its foreign policy?

The United States has influenced world events by helping to stop conflicts in Africa.

What is the Canadian Shield?

The Canadian Shield is a rocky area dotted with lakes that extends from the Hudson Bay to the Canadian Cordillera.

What is a mixing zone?

A mixing zone is a zone where warm and cold waters mix and stir up nutrients from the ocean floor.

What has Canada done to reduce pollution and improve air quality?

Canada has created a climate change plan.

Why is Canada known as a peacekeeping nation?

Canada has been a leader in supporting UN peacekeeping missions and is its fourth largest contributor to the cost of UN peacekeeping efforts.

What is a plural society? How has immigration affected Canada?

A plural society is one in which ethnic groups maintain their identities. Immigration has made Canada more diverse and contributed to the labor force.

What position does the British monarch play in Canada's government?

The British monarch serves as head of state.

Why is international trade important to Canada's economy?

International trade accounts for one-third of Canada's economy.

What accounts for the uniqueness of Canada's cultural diversity?

Canada is a plural society.