Chapter 5

Regional Atlas: Introduction to the United States and Canada
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By the early 1500s, Native Americans were joined by Europeans and Africans as inhabitants of North America.

- Spanish, French, and English settlers founded colonies in North America.
- French Quebec came under British rule, and the British colonies gained independence as Canada and the United States of America.
- Both Canada and the United States expanded westward through annexation, wars, and treaties in the 1800s.
- Regional differences led to civil war in the United States.
- The new technology of the Industrial Revolution fueled economic growth.
- The United States and Canada assumed roles of world leadership in the 1900s, and common interests forged close ties between the two countries.
Canada and the United States share a number of physical characteristics:

- High mountains in the west that form the **continental divide**
- Plains in the central area
- Lower mountains in the east
## Climate Conditions of Selected U.S. Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Average Monthly Temperature (°F)</th>
<th>Average Annual Precipitation (in.)</th>
<th>Average Annual Precipitation (days)</th>
<th>Average Annual Snowfall (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>January 21, July 73</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>40.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas–Ft. Worth, TX</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Latitude, elevation, and distance from the oceans affect the climates of the United States and Canada.

- **Tropical wet**—covers southeast region of United States
- **Humid continental**—surrounds the area of the Great Lakes
- **Subarctic**—stretches across northern North America (Canada and Alaska) from the Atlantic to the Pacific
- **Western parts of North America** are comprised of many climates such as Highlands, Semiarid, Marine west coast, and Mediterranean.
Chapter 5, Section 4

Ecosystems
The variety of ecosystems found in the United States and Canada includes arctic tundra, forests, grasslands, and desert scrub.

- Temperate grasslands exists in the central plains region.
- Desert scrub and chaparral cover parts of the southwest and west of the United States.
- Coniferous, deciduous, and mixed forests cover much of North America.
- Tundra stretches across parts of Alaska and northern Canada.
While the population of the United States is much larger than Canada’s, there are many similarities.

- Both countries emerged from large English colonies.
- Both countries have become home to large numbers of immigrants.
- While most people now live in urban, not rural, areas, both countries have seen a rise in their suburban populations.
- The populations of both countries have long life expectancies.
- The educational systems of both countries contribute to high rates of literacy.
Chapter 5, Section 6
Economies, Technology, and Environment
Both the United States and Canada have a wide variety of resources and economic activities.

- The people of both countries enjoy a high **standard of living**.
- Manufacturing and trade are important to large parts of both countries.
- Commercial farming and livestock raising are also very important.
Chapter 5, Section 7

Database

• Canada and the United States are two of the world’s largest energy producers and consumers.
• While the United States relies on mostly fossil fuels, Canada’s main source of power is hydroelectricity.
• Although total electricity consumption is higher in the United States, Canada uses more electricity per capita, or per person.
• Since 1969, Canada has exported more energy than it has imported.
• The United States purchases more than 90 percent of the energy Canada sells.