

# World Geography

## Chapter 6

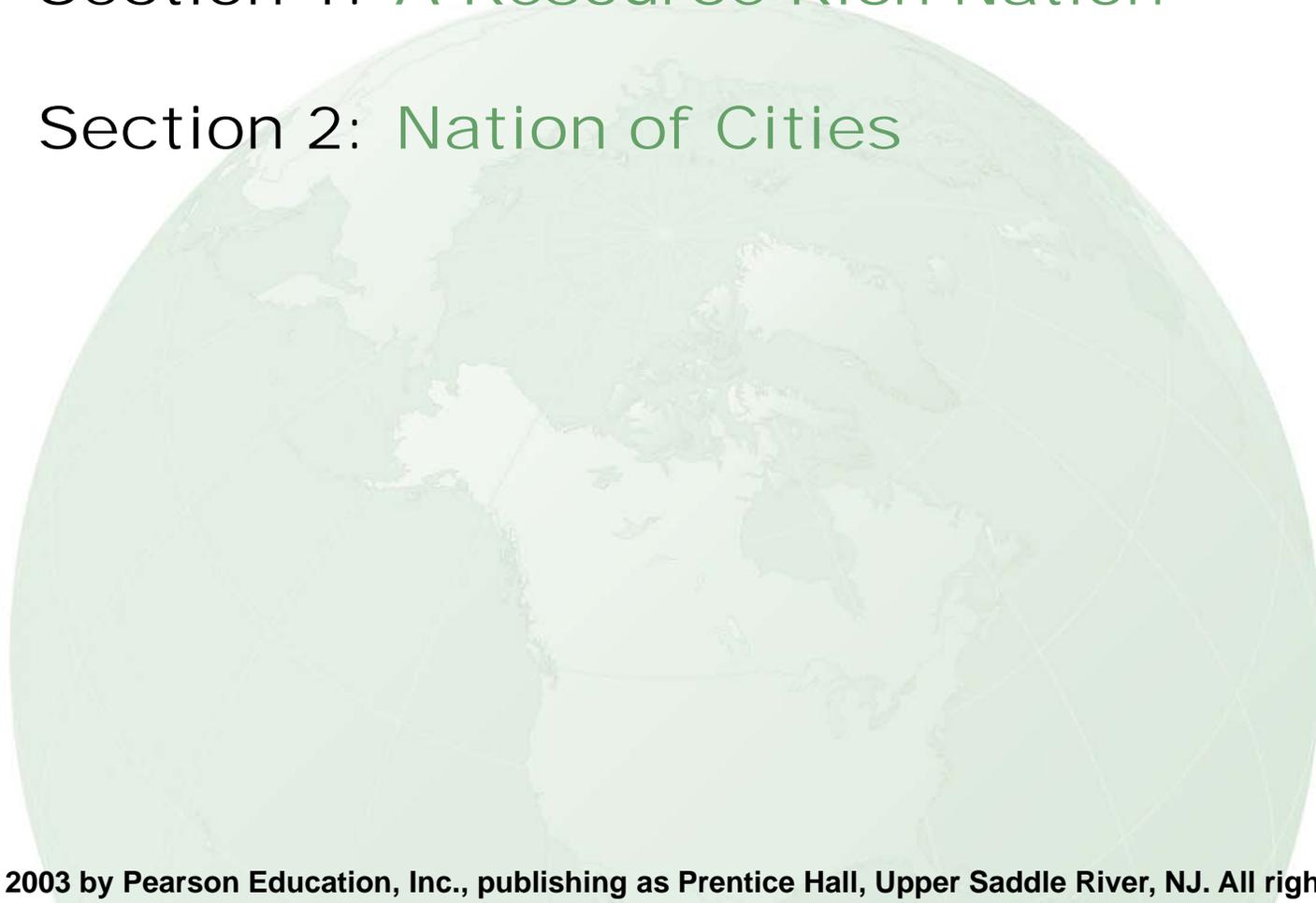
# A Profile of the United States

# World Geography

Chapter 6: A Profile of the United States

Section 1: A Resource-Rich Nation

Section 2: Nation of Cities



# A Resource-Rich Nation



- **How do natural resources promote the economic success of the United States?**
- **Why are transportation and communication the keys to economic development?**
- **How does respect for individual freedoms encourage economic growth?**



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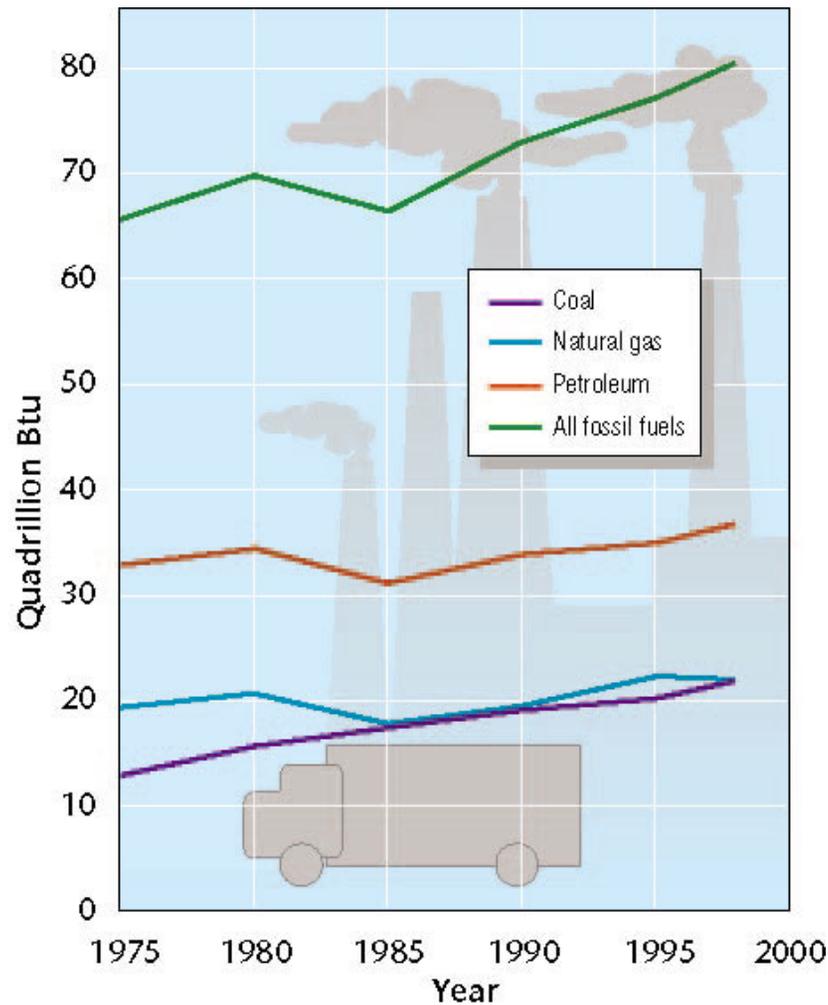
Section

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# An Abundance of Natural Resources



Source: *The World Almanac and Book of Facts*



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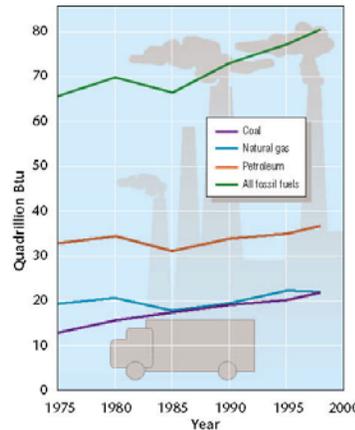
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# An Abundance of Natural Resources



- **The United States is a wealthy nation, with the world’s highest gross national product (GNP), or total value of a nation’s output of goods and services.**
- **Land is one of the United States’ most abundant natural resources. Nearly half of the land in the country, other than Alaska, is used for raising crops or animals.**
- **Forests provide material for a wide array of products.**
- **Oil, natural gas, and coal are vital to the energy supply and economy, but they are in limited supply.**



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# Transportation and Communication



- The development of steamboats, **canals**, and railroads made moving goods cheaper and quicker during the 1800s.
- The development of the automobile and diesel engine heralded the next revolution in transportation.
- In the 1950s, an interstate highway system began to be built to link major cities across the country.
- The telegraph revolutionized communication.
- The Internet, telephones, satellites, and other forms of **telecommunication**, or communication by electronic means, are becoming increasingly important to doing business.



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# Respecting Individual Freedoms



- **The political system of the United States has been vital to the economic success of the country.**
- **The government established in 1789 reflected a shared belief in individual equality, opportunity, and freedom.**
- **These ideals supported an economic system based on capitalism, or free enterprise.**
- **One of the notions behind free enterprise is the belief that any hardworking individual can find opportunity and success in the United States.**



Main

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# Section 1 Review



**The United States produces one fifth of the world's supply of**

- a) coal.
- b) zinc.
- c) petroleum.
- d) copper.

**Which invention revolutionized communication in the 1800s?**

- a) steam engine
- b) telegraph
- c) printing press
- d) Internet

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# Section 1 Review



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# A Nation of Cities



- **How have metropolitan areas in the United States been affected by changes in transportation technology?**
- **Why have many Americans migrated to the South and West?**
- **How do cities interconnect with smaller towns based on function and size?**



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# Metropolitan Areas and Transportation



- A **metropolitan area** comprises a major city and its surrounding suburbs, and it might also include nearby smaller communities.
- The value of a city's location is affected by changes in transportation.
- Canals and railroads provided new links between cities, and cities along railroads grew as a result.
- Automobiles gave Americans new freedom to travel anyplace where there were roads.
- The increased availability of automobiles and public transportation such as trolleys, subways, and railroads allowed people to travel longer distances to work.
- Suburbs grew as people and businesses moved to the fringes of cities.



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# The Impact of Migration



- **Advances in transportation technology allowed people more freedom to select where businesses would operate and where they would live.**
- **Many people now choose locations they feel have the best possible surroundings.**
- **Cities in the South and West, where winters are less severe, have flourished.**
- **Other large population centers have maintained their positions because they offer many jobs and varied activities.**



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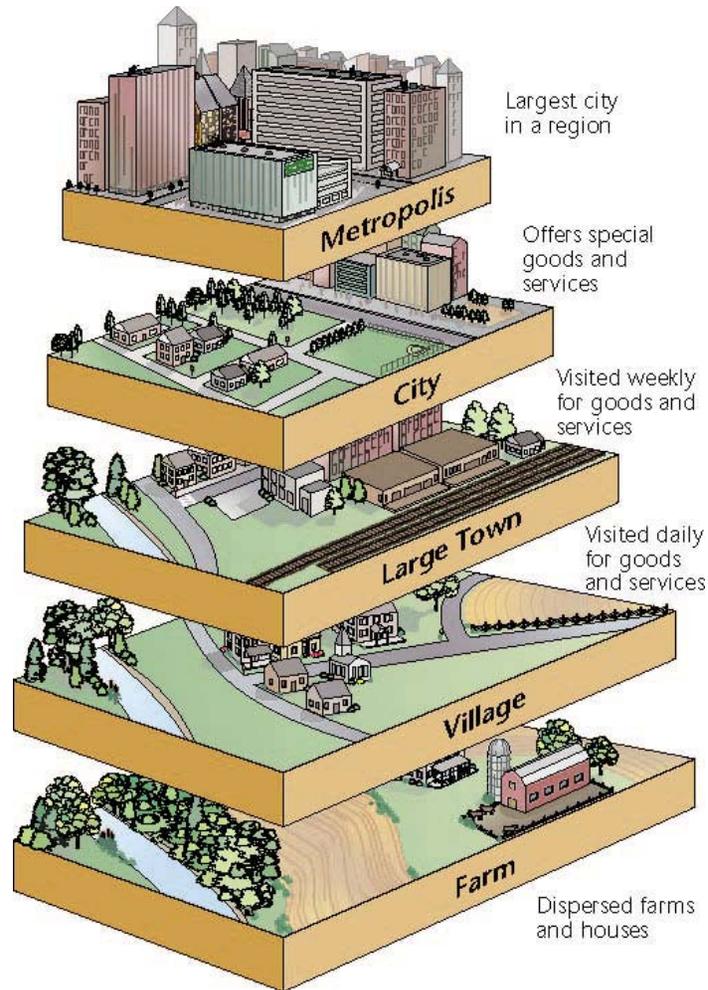
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# Cities and Towns



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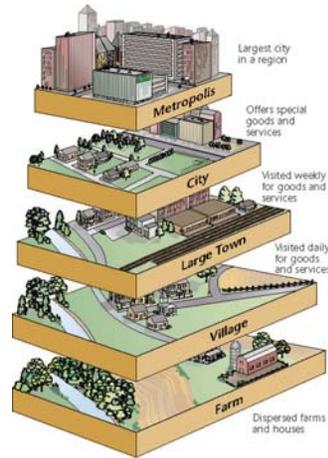
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# Cities and Towns



- Urban places are often discussed in terms of **hierarchy**, or rank, according to their function.
- A large city is called a metropolis and has large **hinterlands**, or areas of influence.
- A metropolis provides many cultural and economic services to its hinterlands.
- Smaller cities have a more limited range of activities and smaller hinterlands.
- Small towns and villages provide limited, basic services.



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# Section 2 Review



**What transportation technology has promoted the growth of suburbs?**

- a) railroads
- b) canals
- c) automobiles
- d) steamboats

**The area of influence of a city is called its**

- a) region.
- b) hierarchy.
- c) hinterland.
- d) metropolitan area.

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# Section 2 Review



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