HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

3rd Grade | Unit 7
## 1. Midwestern Geography

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LIFEPAC Test | Pull-out
North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa

The next region of the United States you will study is the Midwestern region. As you look at the map below, you will see the area of the Midwestern region in green. The Midwestern states are located in the north and central part of the United States. The country of Canada is north of these states. The Great Lakes states are to the east. The Southern states are to the south while the Mountain states are to the west. The states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa are Midwestern states.
Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Locate the Midwestern states.
2. Know the geography of the Midwestern states.
3. List natural resources found in the Midwestern states.
4. State the types of businesses and employers found in the Midwestern region.
5. Know some of the Midwestern settlers.
6. Recognize the importance of Native-American history in the Midwestern states.
7. Identify the pastimes of the people living in the Midwestern states.
1. MIDWESTERN GEOGRAPHY

You will begin this LIFEPAC by studying the geography of the Midwestern states. You will learn the names of some of the Midwestern states’ land features. You will also learn the names of the Midwestern states’ major cities. The Midwestern states’ location impacts the types of food people grow, the places they live, and the activities they do.

Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Locate the Midwestern states.
2. Know the geography of the Midwestern states.

Vocabulary

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

- **irrigate** (ĭr’ĭ-gāt’). To put water on land to help a crop grow.
- **strategic** (str ĕ-tē’jĭk). A plan of action.
- **treaty** (trē’tē). A peace agreement between two groups.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, căre, făr; let, ēqual, tērm; īt, īce; hot, ēpen, ārder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rūle; child; long, thin; /TH/ for then; /ZH/ for measure; /u/ or /a/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.
Ask your teacher to say these vocabulary words with you.

Teacher check:
Initials _____________________  Date ____________________

States in the Midwestern Region

Before you study the Midwestern states, look at the map below. The map will introduce you to the Midwestern area.
Answer the questions based on the map of the Midwestern region.

1.1 List the capitals of the Midwestern states:
   a. North Dakota ________________________________
   b. South Dakota ________________________________
   c. Nebraska ________________________________
   d. Kansas ________________________________
   e. Iowa ________________________________
   f. Missouri ________________________________

1.2 Through which states does the Missouri River run or border?
   _____________________________________________

1.3 Through which states does the Mississippi River run or border?
   _____________________________________________

1.4 Through which states does the 100 degree line of longitude run?
   _____________________________________________

1.5 Which is the most eastern state? ________________________________

1.6 The 40 degree line of latitude forms the border between which two states?
   _____________________________________________

1.7 Which country is north of North Dakota? ________________________________

1.8 Which is the southernmost state? ________________________________

1.9 Which state is south of Minnesota? ________________________________

1.10 Which state capital is the farthest north? ________________________________
Geographical Features

The Missouri River plays an important role in the geography of the Midwestern states. The river flows through all of the states of the region and serves as a border for many. The Missouri River begins in Montana and flows north through North Dakota and then on through South Dakota. Eventually, the Missouri River empties into the Mississippi River in the state of Missouri. The Missouri River is the longest river in the United States at over 2,500 miles. It provides water for much of the region. Dams have been placed on the river at strategic places. This allows farmers to use the water for irrigation. Additionally, the southern part of the river is used to transport goods across the region.

Much of the Midwestern region is flat or slightly hilly. The land is particularly suited for farming. The soil is rich in nutrients. Because the land is relatively flat, farmers are able to plant large fields of crops. The Midwest region provides much of the food for the United States.

There are two small mountain ranges in the Midwestern region. The Black Hills are in western South Dakota. The Ozark Mountains, are located in southern Missouri. The Black Hills in South Dakota are the tallest mountains east of the Rocky Mountains. The land is sacred to Native-American tribes in the region. However, once gold was discovered in the region in the mid 1800s, settlers flocked to the area. The United States broke its treaty agreement with the Native-American tribes and took the land. Today, the Black Hills are home to mining, timber, and tourism industries.
The Ozarks are primarily located in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. They are the most extensive mountain range between the Rocky and Appalachian Mountains. The Ozarks are a popular tourist destination. They are also a source for lead. Lead is used in making batteries and other products.

| The Ozark Mountains are popular for vacations and lead mining.

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**Fill in the blank.**

1.11 The Missouri River is the __________________ river in the United States.

1.12 The Missouri River begins in the state of __________________ .

1.13 The __________________ are the tallest mountains east of the Rocky Mountains.

1.14 The __________________ are the largest mountain range between the Rocky and Appalachian Mountains.
Weather

A winter blizzard is a type of strong Midwestern storm. Blizzards have strong winds and often heavy amounts of falling snow. The strength of the wind turns a snowstorm into a blizzard. Because the winds are so strong, travel becomes dangerous. Drivers are unable to see the road because of the way the snow is whipped around by the wind. The incredibly cold temperatures also make being outside dangerous. Blizzards can shut down roads, businesses, and schools. The winds cause the snow to drift, making huge banks on the sides of buildings and roads. Some blizzards cause power outages. Because the temperature is so cold, people need to put on many layers of clothes and blankets when the power is not working. All the northern states in the United States can experience blizzards.

The winters are cold throughout the region. In January, temperatures are often below freezing. Of course in the southern states of the region, the average temperature is warmer. While there are significant snowfalls, they are not as great as those in the Great Lakes region. The Midwestern region is largely sunny. Even during the cold winters, the sun shines brightly.

Midwestern summer months are generally hot. In July, most of the states in this region have average temperatures around 85 degrees.
The Midwestern region is known for the temperature extremes in the winter and summer months. The summer months can produce violent thunderstorms. Some of these storms create tornadoes. Most of Kansas and Nebraska along with parts of South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri are part of what is called the “Tornado Alley.” Tornadoes form more frequently in these areas than in others.

Answer true or false.

1.15 ___________ Blizzards are only dangerous because of the amount of snow they bring.

1.16 ___________ Blizzards can close down schools, businesses, and roads.

1.17 ___________ The Midwestern region has very cold winters and very hot summers.

1.18 ___________ The Midwestern region is generally sunny.

1.19 ___________ Iowa is not a part of “Tornado Alley.”

Teacher check:
Initials _____________________  Date ____________________

For this Self Test, study what you have read and done. The Self Test will check what you remember.
SELF TEST 1

Each answer = 1 point

Choose the correct answer.

1.01 The longest river in the United States is the _____________________.
   a. Missouri      b. Mississippi    c. Ohio

1.02 The capital of North Dakota is ____________________.

1.03 The Missouri River begins in the state of ____________________.

1.04 The Ozarks are located in the state of ____________________.

1.05 The Midwestern weather is often ________________.
   a. cloudy        b. rainy          c. sunny

Answer true or false.

1.06 The Missouri River joins the Mississippi River in the state of Missouri.

1.07 The Ozarks are the highest mountains west of the Rocky Mountains.

1.08 The state of North Dakota is not in “Tornado Alley.”

1.09 Much of the Midwest is relatively flat making it suitable for farming.

1.010 The state of Iowa is the most eastern of the states in this region.
Fill in the blank.

1.011 The Black Hills are located in the state of ________________________ .
1.012 A snow storm that can close down schools and businesses is called a(n) ________________________ .
1.013 Lincoln is the capital of ________________________ .
1.014 Iowa is bordered by the Missouri and ________________________ Rivers.
1.015 The Midwest has ________________________ winters and hot summers.