

## Life across the United States

### Let's get started...

As a group, make a list of what you like about living in Washington State. What kinds of things do you appreciate about living here? Where else in the United States do you think would be a nice place to live?

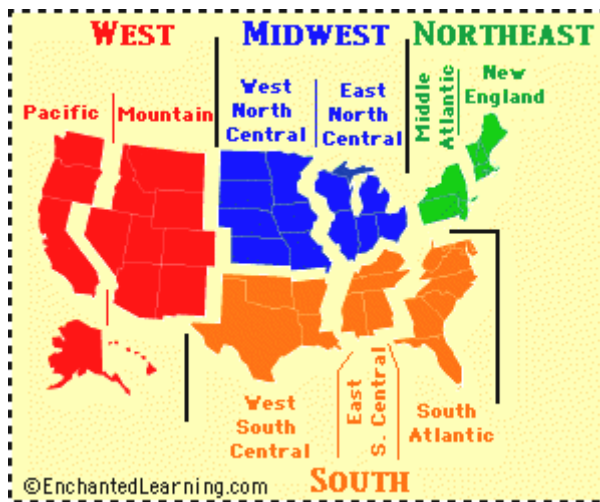
### New words and Idioms:

Region, economy, climate, temperature, unique, custom, pop culture (popular culture), geography, influence, distinct, mild, humid, fusion, various, typical, transportation, "broken down," "be on the road," "now and the," "on the dot" etc.

### Background:

As in most countries, all parts of the United States are not the same. Each of the 50 states that make up America has its own *unique style* and *customs*. Things such as history, *economy*, *geography*, *climate*, *pop culture*, fashion, music, food, etc., can be very different depending on the particular state or *region*.

The United States can be "broken down" into many different regions to describe the similarities between states. But the four most popular region descriptions are: Northeast, South, Midwest, and West.



The **Northeast** includes some of the oldest American states. People there enjoy four distinct seasons of the year. If you visited the New England States, you might eat a lot of corn ponies, hush puppies, corn bread or johnnycakes.

The **South** also includes some of the oldest states and has a rich American history. It is where the Civil Rights movement started. Foods that are popular in the South include BBQ, cornbread, grits, jambalaya, gumbo, and rice. Most Southern states have *mild* temperatures year round.

The **Midwest** is home to the Great Lakes and the Great Plains. The well known American diet belief of meat and potatoes was made popular here. Corn and dairy products, such as cheese, are also well-liked. Like the South, the Midwest can have very hot and *humid* summers. Winter time can be extremely cold.

The **West** is the home of our beloved Washington state! People in the west generally enjoy good outdoor weather, and a *fusion* of foods from people of *various* cultures. Winter time is usually mild, and summer can be hot and dry.



**In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:**

What region of your native country are you from? What kinds of things are different there compared to the rest of your native country?

**Share your partner's answers with the group.**

**Discussion Questions:**

Is your native country divided up into regions?

How many regions in your native country can you name?

What are the most distinctive things about each region?

What are some popular things, such as food and climate, which you can remember about each region?

In the US, if you are traveling by airplane within the 50 states, you are only required to show your identification card (ID), such as your driver's license. In your native country, are you required to provide certain information in order to travel?

Is it easy to travel between each region in your native country? Why or why not?

What are some ways of transportation that are popular? What is the best way of transportation? The easiest? The cheapest? The most expensive?

We talked earlier about some places you thought would be nice to live in, in the United States. What things about those places, or regions, do you like? Why?

If you were given the chance to move there, would you take up the opportunity to do so? Would you be comfortable if your family moved there?

Before you came to the United States, what ideas did you have about living here?

How did you think America was going to look? What things were you expecting?

What did you think the people, weather, food, etc. would be like?

Think about your thoughts before moving here. How closely did your ideas about life in America compare to your real experience of now?

Do you think your experience living here has been better, or not better, from what you had imagined?