

# An Outline of American Geography

## Reading

The area of the United States covers 9,372 thousand square kilometres. Its population is about 240 million. Washington, D.C. with the White House is the capital of the United States and the major cultural and political centre. The U.S. is a country of great diversity. It consists of 50 states and stretches 4,500 km from east to west and 3,500 km from north to south. It offers almost every variety of climate and physical contrasts. To understand some of its differences, it can be divided into 6 regions: the Northeast, the Central Basin, the Southeast, the Great Plains, the Mountains and Deserts and the West Coast Valleys. The new states, Alaska and Hawaii, must be viewed separately.

The Northeast is the major industrial area with several big cities such as New York – the largest city and the main financial and commercial centre in the country, Boston – an important sea port, Detroit – the centre of the motor industry and Chicago – the second largest city in the US and a very important railway center. The Northeast is famous for its lakes – Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario.

The Central Basin is a prairie land. The states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska are known as The Corn Belt. This is a very important agricultural area, "the farmers' paradise", where corn is grown and cattle is bred. The fields there are fertile and summers are long, hot and rainy. Three big rivers traverse the region of the Central Basin – the Mississippi, Ohio and Missouri.

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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