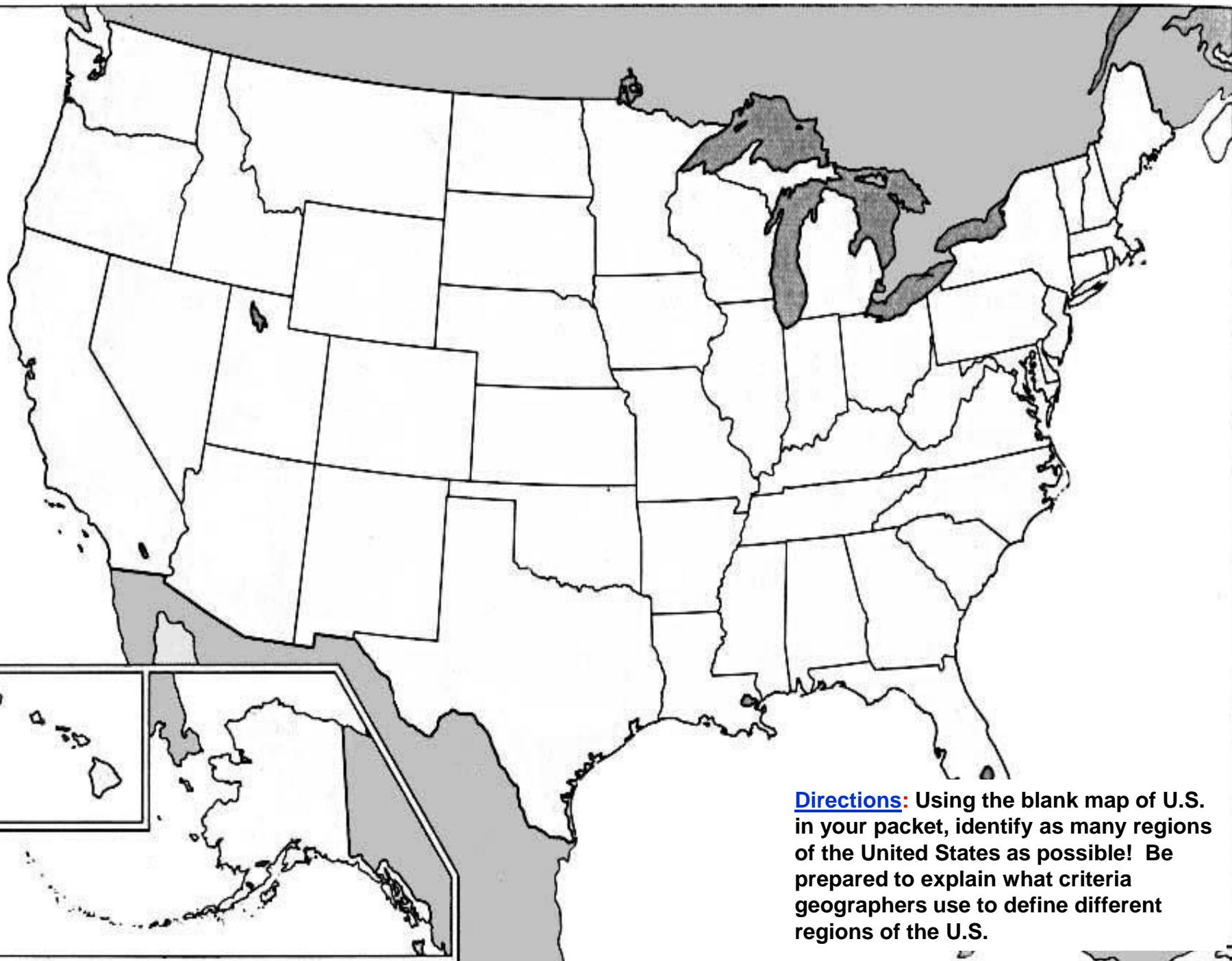


Assignment: Defining regions of the U.S.

- **Directions—Read “Student Guide for Cultural Regions of the United States Activity”:**
 - 1) Using the physical, cultural, or geographical characteristics of the U.S., list as many regions of the United States as you can. If needed, we’ll do this together as a class.
 - 2) Using your blank outline maps of the U.S., label the regions you have listed, using your best judgment as to the regional boundaries. Once finished, you will compare maps in groups. Do all the regions look the same, or have they been drawn differently? Why are there differences?
 - Do you agree or disagree with the following statement and why: Geographic definition of a region: Places that have "one or more common characteristics that give them a measure of unity and make them distinct from surrounding areas." Regions are created by people to more easily define places that share similar characteristics. The actual geographic boundaries of a region can be difficult to describe and are frequently open to debate.
 - 3) List words that they think define each of the regions on the list. Lists might include types of food, music, or accents. Discuss their lists as a class, and ask students whether they think these regional definitions are accurate or if they represent stereotypes that are not necessarily correct.
 - 4) Discuss and debate the region that we live in. How do we define our own region? What stereotypes do they think people from other regions have about their region?
- **Student Assessment/Homework:**
 - Write a 200-word essay answering the following questions: How do regional definitions help us organize and understand the country and the world? On the flip side, how do they contribute to stereotypes?



Directions: Using the blank map of U.S. in your packet, identify as many regions of the United States as possible! Be prepared to explain what criteria geographers use to define different regions of the U.S.