

## Physical and Cultural Regions

Geographers seek to divide the earth into regions. A region is an area that has similar characteristics or shares unifying characteristics. These characteristics can be landforms, language, religion, economics, or political unions to name a few. In order to understand culture we must first examine the types of regions that can be found around the world.

### Examples of Regions

#### Physical Regions

**Landforms:** Some examples of regions based on landforms and topography are the Great Plains in the United States, the Canadian Shield in Canada, or areas of the Andes Mountains in South America.

**Vegetation:** Some examples of regions based on vegetation are rainforests, savannas, and the Taiga.

**Climate:** An example of a region based on climate is the Sahara Desert.

#### Cultural Regions

**Religion:** Some examples of cultural regions based on religion are Latin America, which is unified by Catholicism and the Middle East and North Africa, which is unified by Islam.

**Language:** Some examples of cultural regions based on language are the Middle East and North Africa, which is unified by the Arabic language and the Francophone World. The Francophone World is unified by the French language.

**Ethnicity:** Some examples of cultural regions based on ethnicity are areas of China, where most people are ethnically Chinese, and the Kurds in the Middle East, who do not have a country of their own but live in several adjoining countries.

#### Economic or Political Regions

Some examples of economic or political regions are the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Okay, class!  
Replicate this chart.  
For Part I, define  
regions in this  
classroom. For Part  
II, use an atlas to list  
examples of the  
different types of  
regions that can be  
found throughout the  
world. For Part III,  
define region in your  
own words.



### Part 1. Classroom Regions

Location	Boundaries	Characteristics

### Part 2. List Example of Regions

Physical	
Cultural	
Global	
Local	

### Part 3. Define Region in a complete sentence or two.

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# IDENTIFY!

## Regions

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| A. Sahara Desert  | I. Francophone World |
| B. Taiga          | J. Latin America     |
| C. Wheat Belt     | K. Kurdistan         |
| D. European Union | L. Chinatowns        |
| E. Rust Belt      | M. Muslim World      |
| F. Sun Belt       | N. Rainforest        |
| G. Low Countries  | O. Great Plains      |
| H. NATO           | P. African Union     |

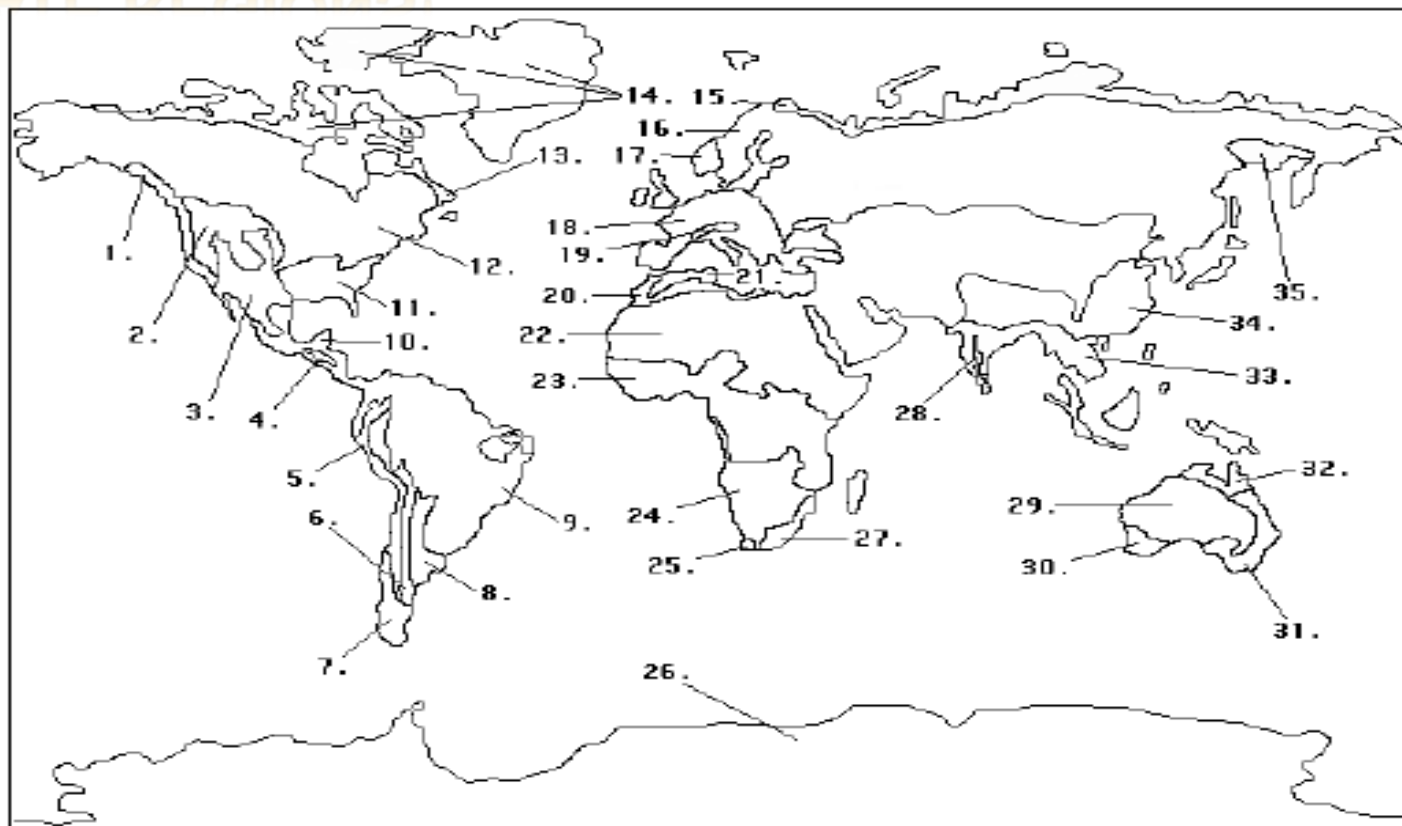
I. Directions: Put the letter of the spatial division next to all of the sentences below that apply. More than one spatial division can be put next to each sentence but some sentences may only refer to one spatial division.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical region.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cultural region.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Economic region.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Political region.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cultural region based on language.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Region with coniferous trees located in Northern Russia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Region located near the equator in tropical wet climate zones.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unifying characteristic of this region is the religion of Islam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ French speaking countries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Region where people have similar ethnicities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Region where wheat and other grains are grown.
- \_\_\_\_\_ More people migrated to this region when air conditioning was invented.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Region in the U.S. that used to be the center of heavy industry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Region located in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parts of this region are in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran.
- \_\_\_\_\_ These regions are normally small neighborhoods in large cities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Netherlands and Belgium are in this region.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Many people retire in the United States and move to this region.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Region located in the Central United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo are located in this region.

# IDENTIFY THE CLIMATE REGIONS!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## CLIMATES



Directions: Next to each number below, tell whether the climate region is dry, tropical, temperate, polar, continental or highland. The first two are done for you to help you get started. After you finish, write a brief description of the type of weather commonly found in each region. You can use the space below the numbers.

1. <i>Temperate</i>	2. <i>Highland</i>	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.
22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.