Chapter 7: The United States, Answer Key

Chapter Opener
Page 142-143

MAP ZONE

1. Canada and Mexico border the United States.
2. Maryland is small and located on the eastern coast, on the Atlantic Ocean, while California is quite large, and located on the Pacific Ocean on the west coast.

Section 1
Page 145

MAP ZONE

1. The highest elevation in the United States is in the Rocky Mountains, which span the northern to southern borders in the western part of the country.
2. Answers will vary. Because of their rise in elevation, people have settled in the areas on either side and the Appalachians have influenced settlement in the United States.

Page 146
Answers will vary. Student answers may include some, or all of the following physical features. Some of the major physical features of the United States are the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the Piedmont, the Appalachian Mountains, the Great Plains, the Interior Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Cascade Range and the Sierra Nevada, the Great Lakes, the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio Rivers, the islands of Hawaii, and the Continental Divide.

Answers will vary. People living in the Mississippi Delta might experience flooding.

Page 147
MAP ZONE

1. The climate of the southeastern part of the United States is mostly Humid Subtropical.

Page 147, continued

2. Utah, Arizona and California each have 3 climate zones, the greatest diversity of climates in the United States.

Page 148
The United States has an extreme diversity in climate. Some of these include humid tropical, tropical savanna, desert, steppe, Mediterranean, humid subtropical, marine west coast, humid continental, subarctic, tundra, and highland climates.

Some of the most important natural resources in the United States include oil and coal. Finally, some of the most important resources include forests and farmland.

Page 149

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

Practice

- This map shows the United States, Canada and Mexico.
- The map indicates the differences between state boundaries and national boundaries with thin gray versus bold, thick black lines.
- Ottawa is the capital of Canada.

Apply – Using an atlas or the internet, students should choose an appropriate map to reference for this assignment.

1– 3 Student answers will vary depending on which state they live in but should accurately name the information asked for on page 149, including the state capital and where it is located, which states or countries border this state, and two other cities located in the state, not including the capital or the city the student lives in.

CASE STUDY

Page 150-151

1. Hurricanes are formed by the warm waters of the Atlantic or the Caribbean Sea and the collision of strong winds.
2. There are many possible risks and rewards in the activity of storm chasing. Answers will vary. Students may or may not be interested in such an activity and should list some of the risks and rewards and if he or she would be interested in trying this adventure and why or why not.
3. Students' charts should accurately portray the differences between tornadoes and hurricanes, including specific information about how each type of storm begins, where and when each tends to occur in the United States and the wind strength of each kind of storm.

Section 2-

Page 153

George Washington was admired for his heroism and leadership as a commanding general during the Revolutionary War and as a leader in the meetings of the Constitutional Convention. These successful leadership roles were one of the major reasons Washington was elected president.

Page 154

MAP ZONE

1. The United States acquired the Oregon Territory in 1846.
2. Most of Louisiana was acquired as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, with the final part being acquired in 1812. The Alaska purchase was made later, in 1867.

Page 155

Answers may vary. Some major events in the history of the United States include:

- Initial European settlement by the British Empire
- Independence from Britain and the establishment of the Declaration of Independence
- Western expansion and a rise in immigration
- Involvement in WWI and II
- The Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union
- The Korean, Vietnamese and Persian Gulf Wars
- Membership and leadership roles in the UN

Answers may vary. Students should appropriately apply the ideas in the Preamble to their daily lives, accurately referencing the passage on page 155.

Page 157

MAP ZONE

1. The highest percentages of African Americans live in the southeastern United States.
2. Answers will vary. Students should articulately give their opinions about why many Hispanic Americans live in the southwestern United States, referencing the map on page 157 where necessary.

Page 158

Answers will vary. Students should give examples of how the United States has been enriched by cultural diversity in many ways. The blending of many unique cultures has resulted in an American culture that is diverse and unique as well.

Page 159

1. The first paragraph provides details that Cloyd feels happy and at home in these mountains with statements like: “shining new world”, “fierce and splendid”, and the eagle being a good sign. Other details about the physical features of the mountains in this paragraph include peaks covered with snow, their ruggedness and sharpness, and how they are fierce and splendid.
2. Cloyd’s grandmother thought he shouldn’t feel bad about going to Durango because Colorado hadn’t always been the home of the Weminuche Utes.

Section 3-
Page 161

MAP ZONE

1. The west is the region located on the Pacific Ocean.
2. The region that doesn’t border Canada is the south.

Page 162

MAP ZONE

1. The major natural resource that is found in Pennsylvania is coal.
2. Land use in the northeast differs from use in the West. In the Northeast, the economic focus is forests and commercial farming, while in the West the focus is on forestry, but primarily on livestock in the form of ranching.

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The economy of the West focuses on forestry, fishing, farming, technology, ranching, and deposits of coal, oil, gold, silver, copper, and other minerals, while the economy of the South focuses on farming cotton, tobacco and citrus fruit. Changes over time have brought high-tech companies, oil refineries, petrochemical plants, and universities to the area. Finally, because of its beautiful beaches, the tourism industry is important to the region.

Page 166

The United States has established itself as a military and economic power in the world, a position which brings both great opportunities and great challenges. This place as a superpower, unfortunately, invites unwanted threats from groups such as terrorists. Fortunately, this superpower position also allows the United States the ability to prepare against future attacks and appropriately punish those who intend harm against the United States or its people.