

Extension Activities

1. Research the development of transportation in your town or region, focusing on how changes to transportation have affected the physical and human characteristics of the area. Create a presentation (including photographs or other visual aids) to show the history of the development of local or regional transportation and its effects on at least two physical and two human characteristics of the town or region.
2. On a blank map of the United States, draw the major regions of the country. Label the regions, and draw small pictures on the map showing some of the things you associate with each region. Compare your map to those of your classmates. Did everyone draw exactly the same regions? Did everyone have the same illustrations for each region? Why do you think there are some differences?
3. Use a biome map (such as the one at http://www.worldbiomes.com/biomes_map.htm) to locate two regions in different parts of the world that are in the same biome (e.g., the temperate deciduous forest of the American Pacific Northwest and Japan). Research these two regions to find out their similarities and differences in terms of human characteristics. For example, how do traditional housing styles resemble each other? How do traditional religions practiced in these areas relate to the natural environment? Write a report on your findings.
4. Interview at least ten people in your community to find out their impressions of one place you choose. Try to pick a place that some of them might have visited but others have probably not (e.g., Paris, Los Angeles, the Everglades), and try to interview people from a variety of cultural backgrounds and/or age groups. Write a short essay describing and analyzing your findings. Did everyone have the same impressions of the place, or did their answers vary considerably? Did the people who had visited this place say different things than people who hadn't been there? Do you think people's cultural backgrounds or ages affected their impressions of the place?