

Discussion Questions

Slide 11

- Can you think of any physical changes you've noticed near your home or in a place you have visited more than once?

Slide 26

- Think about how technology affects places. How have human inventions and developments changed places in the past, and how do they continue to create change?
- For example, how did the development of the railroad across the United States affect the characteristics of the places through which the railroad went?
- Think about how a town might have changed once a railroad was built through or near it. Similarly, what happened to towns that the railroad builders decided to bypass?

Slides 27–28

- How does the presence of a factory or refinery affect a place's human characteristics?
- What effect does this type of industry have on the workforce and the economy?
- Who tends to live near factories and refineries?
- What do you think happens to a town's population when a factory or refinery is built there?
- How do you think these changes have affected the characteristics of the places where people work and live?
- How have they affected communities?

Slide 29

- How does technology affect land use?
- How does the advent of new technologies change the lives of people who work on a farm?
- How does farm technology change the economics of agriculture, such as the ability of farmers to produce a surplus and sell their goods at reasonable prices?
- How does technology affect the physical landscape in an agricultural region?

Slide 32

- Can you think of ways in which smog affects the human characteristics of a place? For example, how do people react to living in smoggy environments?

Slide 33

- In what ways does urbanization affect the physical and human characteristics of places?
- How does increasing population density alter people's lives?
- In what ways does the physical landscape change?

Slide 34

- What factors change the physical and human characteristics of places?
- Consider the impact of things such as migration, economic development, climate change, and earthquakes. How has immigration changed the U.S.?
- How has it changed other countries?
- How does an influx of capital investment (money) into a region change the way people live and alter the environment?
- How do physical factors (such as climate change and seismic activity) affect the way people live and change the physical environment?

Slides 35, 39, 41

- What comes to your mind when you think of a region?
- How is your city or town divided into regions?
- Think of as many divisions as you can. What are the reasons for these divisions?
- What purposes do they serve?
- How do they impact your life?
- How do you divide the United States into regions?

Slide 42

- What region is your state in?
- Is there more than one region into which your state could conceivably be placed?
- Do you think your state can be easily divided so part of the state is in one general region and another part is in another region?

Slide 43

- What comes to your mind when you think of the regions of the United States?
- For example, what do you think of when you hear the term “Northern California”?
- Why do you think you have these impressions?
- Why are people attracted to Northern California as a travel destination or a place to live?
- How does this region differ from other parts of the country?

Slide 44

- What do you think of when you hear “New England”?
- Why do you think you have these impressions?
- Why are people attracted to New England as a travel destination or a place to live?
- How does this region differ from other parts of the country?
- Are you aware of the stereotypes associated with your region of the country?
- In what ways are these stereotypes true?
- In what ways are they untrue or exaggerated?

Slide 47

- Give some examples of formal, functional, and perceptual regions.

Slide 51

- How does transportation development contribute to other types of development?
- How do these developments in turn contribute to overall changes to regions, such as the changes that have occurred in the South?

Slide 53

- How might the increased communication, trade, and travel that the railroads allowed have affected the character of specific regions such as New England or the Upper Midwest?

Slide 54

- Think of a place you've never been to, and then consider what you think it would be like there. Why do you have this impression of a place you've never actually visited?

Slide 59

- Why do you think car companies set ads in the mountains?
- How do you think this practice affects people's impressions of the vehicles?
- How do you think it affects people's impressions of the mountains?
- Think about the geographical settings of ads or commercials you've seen recently. How does this advertising influence the viewer's perceptions of the places shown?

Slide 60

- Many people have an immediate reaction to seeing the Statue of Liberty. What does it mean to you?
- What does it mean to other people in the United States?
- To foreigners?

Slide 61

- What does the Golden Gate Bridge make you think?

Slide 62

- Is your town represented by any widely recognized symbols?
- If so, what impressions do you think these symbols give to residents and visitors?