

North American
GEO QUEST
A 13 part Hist-ography Series



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Presents

North American
GEO QUEST
Series



A 13 Part Hist-ography Series

THE
MID-ATLANTIC
REGION

Delaware • Maryland • New Jersey
New York • Pennsylvania • West Virginia

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

The purpose of this video series is to provide students with a stimulating overview of both the history and the geographical regions of the United States, the Provinces of Canada, and Mexico. Specifically developed to enhance the social studies curriculum, **North American GeoQuest is a 13-part Histo-graphy series.**

Filmed on location, these videos present *spectacular photography* along with *dynamic computer graphics*. Other features include; important historical figures, commerce, capital cities, significant points of interest and more! These videos also inform students of the relationships between the geologic, geographical and historical effects upon a region's past and present developments. Some geologic and geographical developments include the formation of mountains, lakes, volcanoes and glaciers and how these strongly influence a region's culture and history.

By understanding the profiles of these regions, students will acquire the knowledge that will define a *balance between the past and present*. Furthermore, as students study these videos, they will learn the geography of North America and about their own *heritage and those of others*.

As a complementary device with the video, this instructional guide suggests exercises to help aid teachers, parents and students. These exercises will reinforce and further develop a students level of comprehension. The instructional guide provides:

DVDs Allow:

- students to actively participate in the learning experience
- for greater flexibility and interactive learning
- for custom user interfaces
- for a level of control over learning
- for the learner to become more engaged
- for the enhancement of the learning process by combining media and text

Vocabulary! ✓

Chronology! ✓

Discussion Points/Activities! ✓

13 videos
in the
GEOQUEST Series

Pacific Region
Mountain West Region
Midwest Region
Southwest Region
Mississippi River Region
New England Region
Great Lakes Region
Mid-Atlantic Region
Southeast Region
Washington D.C.
Eastern Canadian Provinces
Western Canadian Provinces
Mexico

Suggested Usage:

Geography, History, Social Studies,
Language Arts, Commerce, Environment

Intermediate, Jr. High, General
Approx. 22 minutes each video 1998

Permission granted to copy the following
exercises provided in this guide for educa-
tional use ONLY.

On the dotted line, list the name of the State and its Capital City.



1 _____ / _____

2 _____ / _____

3 _____ / _____

4 _____ / _____

5 _____ / _____

⊗ = Location of Capital City

THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Descendents of the Paleo-Indians, the Algonquian Indians, were the first known inhabitants to occupy this land. Later, the first European settlers, mostly English, Dutch and French, began to explore this region during the early 1600's.

Aboard ships, these early settlers arrived in the Mid-Atlantic region seeking religious and political freedom. Eventually, tensions grew between the new settlers and the British authorities in Europe. Those tensions led to the Revolutionary War in 1775. After the war, the Mid-Atlantic states began to form a Union, which eventually grew and is known today as the United States of America. Later, another war entered the Mid-Atlantic scene. The Civil war became known as the bloodiest war in U.S. history. Famous battles fought on Mid-Atlantic soil include; Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Antietam, Maryland. Also associated with this region are many significant historical figures like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison and more.

In addition to its rich history the Mid-Atlantic region also has geographical significance. Located along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes, this area is a major seaport for the fishing industry and the importing/exporting of consumer goods. From the robust skyscrapers in New York City, to the beautiful fall colors of Pennsylvania, each year millions of travelers visit the Mid-Atlantic region to capture both its natural and historic relevance .

As we study the Mid-Atlantic region, we begin to understand where we as a nation have been, and how far we have gone—as this region offers us a place of origin, a place of beauty and a place to learn.

VOCABULARY of MID-ATLANTIC Region

BATTLE OF TRENTON: On Christmas night, 1776, George Washington, who later became the first president of the U.S., led his troops across the Delaware River into New Jersey, and defeated the British and their German Mercenaries called "The Hessians".

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: As a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Franklin became known as one of the most important figures in U.S. history. As a scientist, Franklin flew a kite in a thunderstorm to prove lightning is electricity. Also a publisher, and a statesman, Franklin was a main supporter in the signing for the Declaration of Independence.

CIVIL WAR: From 1861-65 the Mid-Atlantic region becomes a heavy battleground between the Confederate states of the south seeking independence from the Union states of the north. This war attempted to resolve two major issues; 1) the distribution of power between the Federal Union and the states; and 2) the existence of black slavery.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: A document adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4th 1776. Its primary author Thomas Jefferson, proclaimed the reasons for the separation of the 13 colonies from Britain. This document eventually became the preamble for the U.S. Constitution.

GETTYSBURG: Located in Pennsylvania, this area in 1863 became known as the bloodiest battlefields in U.S. history. During this three day battle, 85,000 Union troops fought 75,000 Confederate Soldiers, and by the end of this battle 50,000 soldiers from both sides were dead and another 27,000 soldiers were wounded.

5. Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 8) of the Mid-Atlantic region, indicating significant points of interest. For example, the capital cities, i.e. Trenton, New Jersey; important events, i.e. Battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 1863; names of early explorers, i.e. Giovanni Da Verrazano etc..

6. America was founded on many principles originating from the early Mid-Atlantic settlers, *i.e. religious freedom*. What are those principles, and how do they differ from those originating in other countries throughout history? What impact do these principles have on past and future generations?

7. Many battles during the Civil War were fought on the soil of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Discuss the issues involved with this conflict and the profiles of the two groups represented in the North and South (the Union and Confederates). Then assemble the students into two groups to have a political debate on the issues. Perhaps have each group nominate a leader to represent President Abraham Lincoln for the Union and President Jefferson Davis for the Confederates.

8. If possible, arrange a trip near your community to visit museums, cultural centers, state parks, etc., to stimulate your imagination to explore the beautiful history and geography of the Mid-Atlantic region.

Discussion Points/Activities

1. Today such conveniences as computers, telephones, automobiles, electricity, etc. are used to enhance our modern day lives. Explain how these enhancements differ from those used during the time the Mid-Atlantic was being discovered. Use this information for the following study points/activities.

2. Imagine what it would be like to be an early explorer. Discuss issues which may have concerned these early settlers: weather conditions, commerce, regional terrain, food/vegetation, dealing with homeland authorities in Britain, France, or Spain etc..

3. Both geographical and historical information have been documented throughout the world. Explain why this type of information is important when studying the Mid-Atlantic region and how it relates to our everyday lives? Furthermore, how do the disciplines of geography and history interact or relate with other areas of study in your school's curriculum?

4. Tensions leading toward the Revolutionary War existed between the early American settlers and the British authorities, *i.e.*, *Battle of Trenton*. Assemble the students into small groups to negotiate or debate the interests of these two groups. (similar to discussion point #7 for the Civil War.)

ICE AGE: A period approx. 10,000 years ago, during which glacier ice, due to global cooling, moved from the polar ice caps into the Mid-Atlantic region.

MID-ATLANTIC Region: Term used to describe the area between the Great Lakes of Erie and Ontario and the Atlantic Ocean. The states included in this region are: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

NIAGARA FALLS: An area located in New York, where the Niagara River drops 160 ft. into Lake Ontario. Located on the U.S.-Canadian border, thousand of travelers visit Niagara Falls each year to witness its power and beauty. This waterfall is also a tremendous source for electrical power.

NORTH AMERICA: The third largest continent in the world consisting of Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central America.

PALEO - INDIANS: *Nomadic Hunters and gatherers* whose descendents, the Iroquois, were the first known inhabitants to live in the Mid-Atlantic region.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR: 1775-81 The colonies revolted against the British parliament's right to tax. This became a key issue for liberating the colonies from British authority, which eventually led toward a war for American independence.

STATUE OF LIBERTY: As a gift, this monument was given to the U.S from France. Located in New York Harbor, Lady Liberty measures 306 feet tall while greeting millions of immigrants and visitors each year.

THOMAS EDISON: As a New Jersey resident, Edison, considered one of the most foremost U.S. inventors, invented the light bulb, the phonograph and the motion picture projector. Throughout Edison's career he patented over 1,000 inventions.

Chronology of MID-ATLANTIC Region

- **25,000 years ago:** Paleo-Indians migrate from Asia into North America by using a land bridge which at one time connected Asia with Alaska.
- **10,000 years ago:** Last Ice Age begins moving from the Arctic into Mid-Atlantic Region.
- **1524:** French explorer Giovanni Da Verrazano is the first European to arrive in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- **Early 1600's:** More Europeans arrive in the Mid-Atlantic region. Descendants of the Paleo-Indians, the Iroquois Indians occupy the region during their arrival.
- **1682:** William Penn, an English Quaker, founded Philadelphia, a word meaning "Brotherly Love".
- **1775:** The War for Independence begins, better known as the Revolutionary War, between the early American settlers and the British.
- **1776:** In Philadelphia, the Declaration of Independence is adopted by congress.
- **1776:** Battle of Trenton
- **1787:** Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the U.S Constitution.
- **1787:** Pennsylvania becomes the 2nd state to join the Union.
- **1787:** New Jersey becomes the 3rd state of the Union.

- **1788:** Maryland becomes the 7th state of the Union.
- **1788:** New York becomes the 11th state to join the Union.
- **1789:** George Washington is inaugurated as the first U.S. president.
- **1792:** As a gift to the entire nation, Maryland donates the land that is today the District of Columbia and home of Washington, D.C. the U.S. capitol
- **1812:** War of 1812 begins.
- **1814:** Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner which eventually became the National Anthem of the United States.
- **1825:** The Erie canal is completed after 8 years of building allowing the transportation of goods, from Buffalo, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y. in only six days rather than six weeks.
- **1859:** The world's first oil well is drilled in Titusville, Pennsylvania.
- **1861-65:** Civil War
- **1863:** During the Civil War, the bloodiest battle in U.S. history occurs at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
- **1863:** West Virginia becomes the 35th state of the Union.
- **1886:** Statue of Liberty begins greeting millions of immigrants and visitors entering the New York Harbor.