

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
MIDWEST
REGION

Iowa • Kansas • Nebraska
North Dakota • South Dakota

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 MIDWEST REGION

Descendants of the Paleo-Indians were the first known inhabitants to occupy this land. Later, the first European settlers, mostly from France and Spain, began to explore this region during the mid 1500's.

On horseback, Spanish explorers, like Francisco Vazquez, entered the Midwest region after establishments in Mexico. As part of the Louisiana Purchase, Thomas Jefferson bought the Midwest region from the French for only three cents an acre. Afterwards, this purchase proved to be a tremendous asset for the U.S. economy, trade and national security, as the Union continued to expand from east to west. Seen as a gateway between the east and west, the Mid-west region eventually became the center for railroad transportation and other developments such as agriculture, manufacturing and mining. However, because of a prolonged drought during the late 1930's, the area experienced an economic bust known as the Dust Bowl. Following hardship the region once again flourished. Due to its nutrient rich soil and mixed weather conditions, this region is one of the most productive farm areas in the entire world. Among its most productive crops are corn at approx. 1.5 billion bushels a year and wheat at approx. 600 million bushels a year.

Along with its robust history the Midwest region also has geographical significance. With the rapid pace of today's modern society, the Midwest with its carved granite rock at Mount Rushmore—to the rolling grass prairies of Iowa—offers much needed tranquillity. Each year, millions of travelers visit this region to experience its unique solitude.

As we study the Midwest region, we not only begin to witness the subtleties of nature but also the birth of a nation. Embedded in rich tradition, this region cultivates the knowledge from the past, which re-examines the present, to further inform the future.

VOCABULARY of MIDWEST Region

BATTLE OF LITTLE BIGHORN: In 1876, gold was discovered near the Black Hills of South Dakota. An Indian tribe led by Chief 'Sitting Bull', and his war leader 'Crazy Horse' refused to leave this area as demanded by the U.S government. Therefore, Col. George Custer, as commanded by the government, led 265 U.S. soldiers against the tribe—whereby all 265 men died in this battle otherwise known, as "Custer's Last Stand".

BLACK HILLS: Located in South Dakota, gold was discovered in 1874 resulting in a population explosion. Also the site where Mount Rushmore was created and the Battle of Little Bighorn occurred.

DUST BOWL: After the Midwest region experienced a robust economy during the late 1800's to early 1900's, an economic disaster occurred. Known as the "Dust Bowl" in the late 1930's, unsound farming practices and a prolonged drought dramatically affected the production of oil, agriculture, and livestock holdings.

FRANCISCO VAZQUEZ DE CORONADO: A Spanish explorer who in 1542 was one of the first Europeans to explore the Midwest

GOLD RUSH: In 1874, word about the discovery of gold in the Black Hills erupted—pioneers from many different parts of the Union, then rushed into South Dakota to seek their fortunes.

LEWIS & CLARK: First explorers to map and survey the newly acquired land agreed upon in the Louisiana Purchase. These land holdings included the midwest region as well as other territorial boundaries.

4. Agriculture is vital to the Midwest region. Explain why this region has such a vibrant agricultural tradition and how it became so well suited for a variety of farming methods.

5. Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 8) of the Mid-west region, indicating significant points of interest. For example, the capital cities, i.e. Lincoln, Nebraska; important events, i.e. The Battle of Little Bighorn, 1874 in the Black Hills of South Dakota, or the names of early explorers, i.e. Lewis and Clark etc..

6. The Midwest region is well known for its grass plains. Explain how this terrain was created by using maps, scientific illustrations, clay models, pieces of limestone or shale etc. Perhaps use a computer to illustrate your project.

7. If possible, arrange a trip near your community to visit museums, cultural centers, state parks etc. to stimulate your imagination to explore the rich history and geography of the Midwest 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 Midwest Region 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, issues on foreign policy with Mexico, Spain, France, etc..

3. Both geographical and historical information has been documented throughout the world. Explain why this type of information is important when studying the Midwest 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?

LOUISIANA PURCHASE: In 1803, U.S. President Thomas Jefferson negotiated a land purchase agreement for 3 cents an acre with Napoleon, the emperor of France. The agreement included land west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, and south to New Orleans, Louisiana.

MIDWEST Region: Term used to describe the northwest central part of the United States. The states included in this region are; North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa.

MOUNT RUSHMORE: Located in the Black Hills of South Dakota and designed by artist Gutzon Borglum, this famous rock sculpture stands 60 feet high and took 14 years to carve. Described in granite stone are U.S. presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt who each symbolically represent the United States' Founding, Philosophy, Unity and Expansion.

NOMADIC INDIANS: *Nomadic meaning, "wandering from place to place". Hunters and gatherers* who migrated from Asia and were the first known inhabitants to live in the mid-west region.

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

OREGON TRAIL: Beginning In 1843, many settlers traveled through the Midwest region by using the route known as the Oregon trail. This route started in Independence, Missouri and ended at Oregon City, just south of Portland.

SAUK SEA: Existing 500 million years ago, this inland sea covered the midwest region prior to the ice age. This slow moving body of water housed fine soil and various marine sediments which created thick layers of rock. The rock eventually became limestone and shale which lies under the present day farm soil used today.

Chronology of MIDWEST Region

500 million years ago: The midwest region is covered by a great inland sea called the Sauk Sea.

30,000-40,000 years ago: Paleo-Indians/Nomadic Indians migrate from Asia into North America by using a land bridge which at one time connected Asia with Alaska.

1542: A Spaniard, Francisco Vazquez de Coronado is the first European to explore the Midwest.

1803: U.S. President Thomas Jefferson negotiates the Louisiana Purchase with French Emperor Napoleon for 3 cents an acre.

1804-06: Lewis and Clark lead an expedition to map and survey the newly acquired lands of the Louisiana Purchase.

1840's: Large numbers of settlers begin to travel through the Midwest Region by way of the Oregon Trail.

1846: Iowa becomes the 29th state of the Union.

1848: Mexican War begins.

1861: Kansas becomes the 34th state of the Union.

1865: The Union Pacific railroad allows transportation to the west via Omaha, Nebraska.

1867: Nebraska becomes the 37th state of the Union.

1874: Gold is discovered in the Black Hills of South Dakota and the Battle of Little Bighorn occurs.

1876: The Homestake gold mine located in South Dakota was founded and becomes one of the largest gold mines in the United States.

1889: North Dakota becomes the 39th state of the Union.

1889: South Dakota becomes the 40th state of the Union.

1890's: Omaha, Nebraska becomes one of the largest rail centers in the U.S.

Late 1930's: Dust Bowl occurs causing the region to go from economic boom to bust.

1947: Artist Korczak Ziolkowski carves the world's largest sculpture at 560 feet high and 640 feet long known as the "Crazy Horse" memorial.