

*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  
**SOUTHWEST**  
REGION

Arizona • New Mexico  
Oklahoma • Texas

*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:**

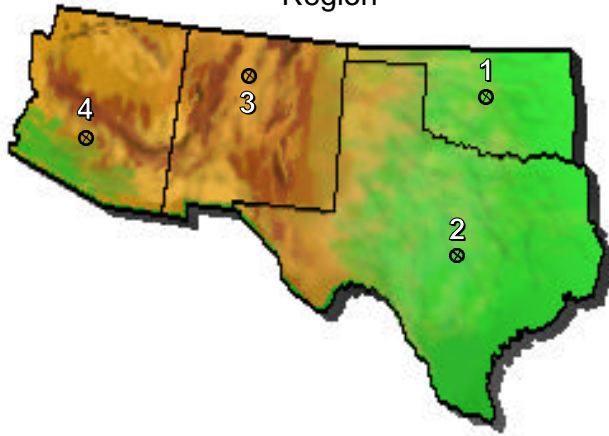
Geography, History, Social Studies,  
Language Arts, Commerce, Environment

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.

The  
SOUTHWEST  
Region



1 ..... /

2 ..... /

3 ..... /

4 ..... /

⊗ = Location of Capital City

## THE SOUTHWEST REGION

Descendants of the ancient Indian cultures, the Anasazi meaning “Ancient Ones”, were the first known inhabitants to occupy this land. Later, the first European settlers, mostly from Spain, began to explore this region during the mid 1500’s.

On horseback, Spanish explorers, like Francisco Coronado, entered the southwest region after establishments in Mexico. While others, like pioneers from Missouri, chose to follow the Santa Fe trail. Each anxiously seeking great expectations of wealth and fortune. Regardless of either intent or purpose these early settlers were experiencing rapid changes as the Union continued to expand from east to west. The discovery of this region resulted in the growth of old and new industries such as oil, timber, mining and cattle ranching. Since this land lies along the U.S./Mexican border it became the scene to many battles. In 1836, 187 Texans fought 5,000 Mexican soldiers in the famous battle cry known as the “Alamo”. Later, in 1846-48 the Mexican War was declared as U.S. and Mexican forces again disputed over territorial grounds.

Along with its rich history the southwest region also has geographical significance. From its colorful sunsets, mystical deserts, grandiose canyons/mountains, and ancient Indian ruins, the southwest region offers the ultimate diversity in natural wonders. Each year, millions of travelers visit this region to capture its unique artistry .

As we study the Southwest Region, we not only begin to witness the results 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 SOUTHWEST Region

**ALAMO:** Located in San Antonio, Texas—this mission house became a fort in 1836, when Americans, seeking independence for Texas, defended this region from the control of Mexico. After two weeks of heavy fighting, the 5,000 man Mexican army prevailed over just 187 Texans, but not without losing 1,600 Mexican soldiers. However, just 4 months later Gen. Sam Houston’s army eventually defeated the Mexican army and Texas won its independence.

**ANASAZI:** Means “the Ancient Ones”, referring to the Ancient Indian cultures who lived in the southwest region over 10,000 years ago. These cultures are believed to have built the famous cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde, Colorado and other locations.

**DUST BOWL:** After the Southwest region experienced a robust economy during the late 1800’s to early 1900’s, an economic disaster, known as the “Dust Bowl”, occurred when in the 1920’s to 30’s unsound farming practices and a prolonged drought dramatically effected the production of oil, agriculture, and cattle ranching.

**FOUR CORNERS:** The only place in the United States where the border of four states come together. The four states are: Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.

**FRANCISCO CORONADO:** First European explorer to view the Grand Canyon in 1540.

**GADSDEN PURCHASE:** After the Mexican War in 1848, Arizona became part of the U.S.. However, some of the Arizona territory remained part of Mexico. Therefore, in 1853 the U.S. bought the remaining Arizona territory from Mexico—this agreement has become known as the “Gadsden Purchase”.

5. Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 8) of the Southwest region, indicating significant points of interest. For example, the capital cities, i.e. Santa Fe, New Mexico; important events, i.e. The Alamo 1836 in San Antonio, Texas or the names of early explorers, i.e. Francisco Coronado for the Grand Canyon in Arizona etc..

6. The southwest region is well known for its Mexican and Indian influence. Name some of these cultural influences, i.e. architecture, and explain why these influences remain so vital to the growth of this region?

7. 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 of the Southwest 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 to those used during the time the Southwest 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, dealing with foreign policy issues 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 Southwest 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. Since tensions must have existed between the early American settlers, the Indian tribes, and Mexico (*i.e. The Alamo, Pueblo Revolt*) assemble the students into small groups to debate the interests of these groups.

**GRAND CANYON:** Located in Arizona and formed by the waters of the Colorado River, this Canyon is 277 miles long, 10 miles wide and 1,200 to 5,700 feet deep—and is considered one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

**LINCOLN COUNTY WAR:** In 1878, a conflict between cattle ranchers and homesteaders occurred because of competition for land in New Mexico after the Civil War. William Bonny better known as “Billy the Kid” was most notably involved in this conflict.

**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.

**MARCOS DE NIZA:** Franciscan Friar who first explored the Arizona Region in 1539.

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

**PUEBLO REVOLT:** In 1680, an uprising occurred in Arizona between the Hopi Indians, who by burning Spanish missions wanted to resist Spanish inculturation, and the Spanish missionary priests, who wanted to reform the Indians.

**POWELL, JOHN WESLEY:** First American to travel through the Grand Canyon in 1869.

**SOUTHWEST Region:** Term used to describe the South Central portion of the United States. The states included in this region are; Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

**TRAIL OF TEARS:** A term used to describe an event in 1828, when over an 18 year period, the U.S. government relocated five Indian tribes to Oklahoma. In 1838, over one fourth of the tribe died when a rival tribe, the Cherokees from Georgia, attacked these resettled tribes.

## Chronology of SOUTHWEST Region

**10,000 years ago:** Ancient Indian cultures known as the Anasazi meaning “Ancient Ones”, inhabit the southwest region.

**1540:** A Spaniard, Francisco Coronado becomes the first European to explore the southwest region.

**1539:** Franciscan Friar Marcos De Niza first to explore the Arizona region.

**1680:** Pueblo Revolt occurs.

**1803:** Oklahoma comes into the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

**1821:** Pioneers travel from Missouri on the Santa Fe Trail.

**1821:** The control of Texas is passed from Spain to Mexico.

**1828:** U.S. government begins to relocate five indian tribes from the southeastern woodlands to Oklahoma. Years later, the results of this action become known as the “Trail of Tears”.

**1836:** At the Alamo, 187 Texans, while seeking Texas independence, battle 5,000 Mexican soldiers.

**1845:** Texas becomes the 25th state to join the Union.

**1848:** Mexican War begins.

**1853:** The Gadsden Purchase between the U.S. and Mexico was agreed upon.

**1861:** Texas seceded from the Union.

**1870:** Texas readmitted to the Union.

**1878:** The Lincoln County War begins between the homesteaders and cattle ranchers.

**1897:** Oil discovered in the southwest region, resulting in a boom economy until the dust bowl occurs in 1920's and 30's.

**1907:** Oklahoma becomes the 46th state of the Union.

**1912:** New Mexico becomes the 47th state and Arizona becomes the 48th state of the Union.

**1920's and 30's:** The Dust Bowl occurs causing the southwest region to enter a bust economy.