



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 11.8.6**

# *Environmental Regions of North America*

**Specific Objective:** Understand the diverse environmental regions in North America, their relationship to local economies, and the origins and prospect of environmental problems in those regions.

**Read the map and summaries to answer the questions on the next page.**

**Northeast**

- Densely populated
- History of industrial production
- Acid rain damage from coal-burning power plants and auto pollution
- Air pollution (“smog”) from heavy concentration of autos

**South**

- Heavily populated urban areas among sparsely populated rural areas
- History of agriculture, textile and paper mills, and chemical plants
- Soil pollution from use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture
- Air pollution in urban areas
- Florida and other coastal development includes building in sensitive areas

**North Central**

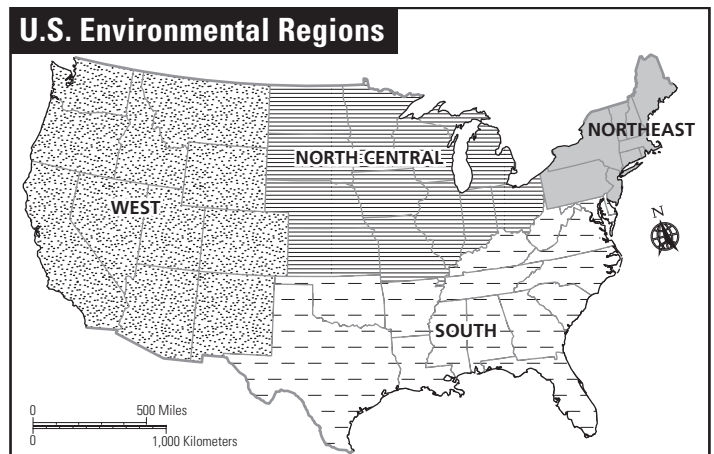
- Heavily populated urban areas among sparsely populated rural areas
- History of agriculture and heavy industry (This region and the Northeast are referred to as the Rustbelt because of aging factories and power plants.)
- Industry and power production facilities depend on coal, which produces acid rain and smog.
- Soil pollution from use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture.

**West**

- Heavily populated urban areas among very sparsely populated areas; rapid increase in population
- History of ranching, agriculture, mining, and oil production
- Water usage important; most of the area is arid, but water is needed for population growth and industrial development
- Soil pollution from use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture
- Conflicts over timber resources and protection of old forests
- Air pollution (smog) from heavy concentration of autos, especially in southern California

**National and International Issues**

- Acid rain affects many areas; pollutants are created in North Central, Northeast, and South regions and cause severe effects across those regions.
- Nuclear waste from power plants is an unsolved problem. Plants across the country do not have a national storage plan. Wastes do not decompose and cannot be destroyed.





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**Directions:** Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

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| <p><b>1 Which regions are affected the <i>most</i> by acid rain?</b></p> <p>A North Central, Northeast, and South<br/>         B North Central, Northeast, and West<br/>         C North Central, South, and West<br/>         D Northeast, South, and West</p> <p><b>2 How is air quality affected by the population pattern in the Northeast?</b></p> <p>A The dense population uses advanced technology to produce cleaner air.<br/>         B The dense population results in many autos and problems with smog.<br/>         C Sparse population in rural areas offsets air pollution from urban areas.<br/>         D The population is sparse and public transportation prevents smog problems.</p> <p><b>3 What is the <i>main</i> cause of soil pollution in the North Central, South, and West regions?</b></p> <p>A acid rain from factories<br/>         B fertilizers and pesticides used in agriculture<br/>         C smog from too many automobiles<br/>         D waste from nuclear power plants</p> | <p><b>4 The North Central and Northeast regions are sometimes called the Rustbelt because</b></p> <p>A many of their factories and power plants are aging.<br/>         B acid rain makes everything rust there.<br/>         C they are the center of the automobile industry.<br/>         D the steel and iron industry are centered there.</p> <p><b>5 In which region of the United States is the issue of water pollution and scarcity the <i>most</i> critical?</b></p> <p>A North Central<br/>         B Northeast<br/>         C South<br/>         D West</p> <p><b>6 Nuclear waste from power plants is a national issue because</b></p> <p>A facilities to remove the radioactivity are being built across the country.<br/>         B the plants are mostly in the West but wastes are shipped to the Northeast.<br/>         C the plants have all been shut down and Congress regulates them.<br/>         D it does not decompose and there is no national plan for storage.</p> |
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