

WELCOME!



On behalf of Splash! Publications, we would like to welcome you to *Arizona's Regions*, one of eight lessons in our *Arizona Geography Unit*. This lesson was designed by teachers with you and your students in mind. Of course, it is aligned with Arizona's State Standards for Social Studies.

THE FORMAT

Our goal is a lesson that you can use immediately. No comprehension questions to write, activities to create, or vocabulary words to define. Simply make copies of the lesson for your students and start teaching.

THE VOCABULARY

Our lessons feature words in bold type. We have included a Glossary to help students pronounce and define the words. Unlike a dictionary, the definitions in the Glossary are concise and written in context. Remember, we're teachers! Students will be exposed to these vocabulary words in the comprehension activities. They will also be tested on the vocabulary words at the end of the lesson.

Students will be responsible for filling out and studying their vocabulary cards. You may want to have students bring in a small box for storing their vocabulary cards. We don't have to tell you that incorporating these words into your Reading and Spelling programs will save time and make the words more meaningful for students.

THE LESSON PLAN

Before reading *Arizona's Regions*, students will:

- complete Vocabulary Cards for **arid**, **buttes**, **capital**, **climate**, **elevation**, **mammals**, **monument**, **native**, **observatory**, **petrified**, **plateau**, **precipitation**, **regions**, **reptile**, **species**.

After reading *Arizona's Regions*, students will:

- answer *Arizona's Regions* Reading Comprehension Questions.
- create a map of Arizona's three regions.
- identify and describe each of Arizona's three regions.
- take a Vocabulary Quiz for *Arizona's Regions*.

NOTE: The answers to all activities and quizzes are at the end of the lesson.

OUR OTHER ARIZONA GEOGRAPHY LESSONS

The Northeast Region, the Middle West Region, the Southeast Region, the Southwest Region, the West Region, Arizona's Rivers and Lakes, Arizona's Points of Interest.

VOCABULARY CARD



word: _____

definition: _____



VOCABULARY CARD



word: _____

definition: _____



VOCABULARY CARD



word: _____

definition: _____

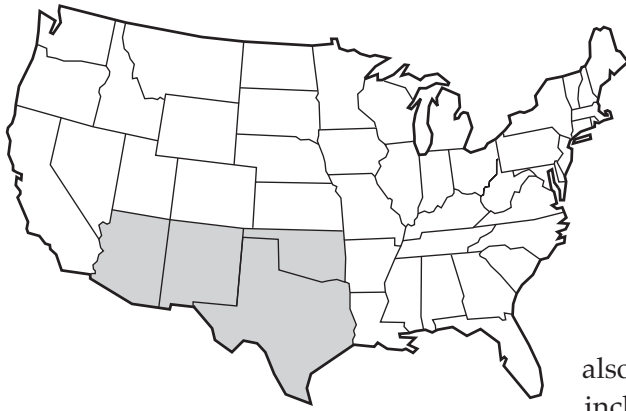




ARIZONA'S REGIONS



Arizona is one of four states in the Southwest region of the United States. You have already read that New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas are the other three states in the Southwest region.



Remember, most of the Southwest, including Arizona, lies in an area known as **Arid America** where less than 20 inches of **precipitation** falls each year. The soil is sandy and rocky, making it a difficult place to farm.

Like the United States, Arizona is also divided into **regions**. Arizona's three regions include the desert, the mountains, and the **plateau** (pla•TOE). Each region, as you will soon learn, has its own special characteristics, making it an important piece of the great state of Arizona.

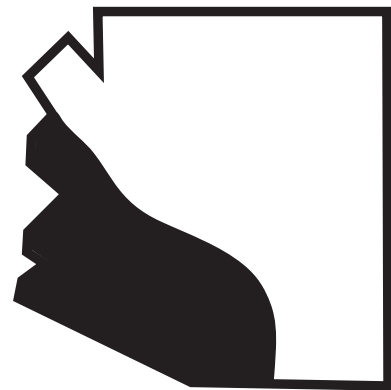
THE DESERT REGION

About one third of Arizona is desert. A desert is a hot, dry region that receives less than ten inches of precipitation each year. Arizona's desert region is part of the Sonoran Desert. The Sonoran Desert covers large parts of Arizona and California. It also stretches into the country of Mexico.

People usually think that a place which receives so little water is a dry, dusty area without much life. This is simply not true.

There are more than 60 **species** of **mammals**, 350 bird species, and at least 100 different **reptile** species living in the Sonoran Desert. Arizona's desert region blooms with more than 2,000 **native** plant species as well.

Phoenix, the **capital** of Arizona, is the largest city in the Sonoran Desert. More than four million people live in Phoenix. Thousands of people each year choose to move to Phoenix, making it one of the fastest growing cities in the United States.



THE MOUNTAIN REGION

The mountain region of Arizona has a **climate** much different from the desert region. Arizona's mountain region joins the Rocky Mountains in Utah and Sierra Madre (MAW•dray) Mountains in Mexico.

Plenty of precipitation and lower temperatures are found in the mountain region. This is because the mountain region is at a higher **elevation** than the desert region.

The higher elevation causes the mountain region to have cool summers and cold winters. The mountain region also has something you will rarely see in the desert: snow!



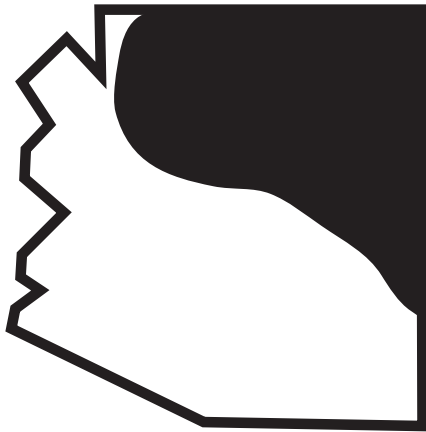
THE PLATEAU REGION

The northern part of Arizona is the plateau. Arizona's plateau region is part of the Colorado Plateau that covers parts of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

In the plateau region, you will find high, flat areas, as well as valleys, **buttes**, and deep canyons.

The Colorado River runs through the Colorado Plateau, carving the Grand Canyon. Other points of interest located in Arizona's plateau region include the Painted Desert, **Petrified** Forest National Park, and **Monument** Valley.

The plateau region is a semi-arid land, which means that there is very little precipitation, warm summers, and snow in higher elevations in the winter months. Compared to the climate of the desert and mountain regions, the plateau would fall in the middle by being cooler than the desert, but not as wet as the mountains.



FAST FACTS



- In 1930, the planet Pluto was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh from the Lowell **Observatory** in the plateau region city of Flagstaff.
- The highest point in Arizona is Humphreys Peak, northwest of Flagstaff. On a clear day, hikers who climb to the top of Humphreys Peak can easily see the rim of the Grand Canyon.
- The lowest point in Arizona is the Colorado River.



ARIZONA'S REGIONS



Directions: Read each question carefully. Darken the circle for the correct answer.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Arizona is part of which region of the United States?</p> <p>A Southwest
B Southeast
C Mountain
D Desert</p> <p>2 What can you learn by studying the map of the United States?</p> <p>F Arizona is the largest state on the map.
G The Southwest region is located near the top of the United States.
H The Southwest region includes four states.
J The Southwest region is in the center of the United States.</p> <p>3 After reading about Arid America, you get the idea that –</p> <p>A this area receives a lot of rain
B this area is perfect for farming
C the grass grows high in this area
D it is not a good place to grow crops</p> <p>4 Arizona is divided into which three regions?</p> <p>F The desert, mountains, and rivers.
G The mountains, lakes, and plateau.
H The desert, mountains, and plateau.
J The plateau, valleys, and hills.</p> | <p>5 All of these things about the desert region are true <u>except</u> –</p> <p>A about one third of Arizona is desert
B the desert is hot and dry
C no plants or animals live in the desert
D the desert receives less than 10 inches of precipitation each year</p> <p>6 What type of climate is found in Arizona's mountain region?</p> <p>F Plenty of precipitation and low temperatures.
G Small amounts of precipitation and high temperatures.
H Plenty of precipitation and high temperatures.
J Small amounts of precipitation and low temperatures.</p> <p>7 In which part of Arizona will you find the plateau region?</p> <p>A North
B South
C East
D West</p> <p>8 The plateau region has buttes. <u>Buttes</u> are –</p> <p>F low areas
G deep canyons
H mounds of earth
J volcanoes</p> |
|--|---|

READING

Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 5 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (F) (G) (H) (J) | 6 (F) (G) (H) (J) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 7 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (F) (G) (H) (J) | 8 (F) (G) (H) (J) |

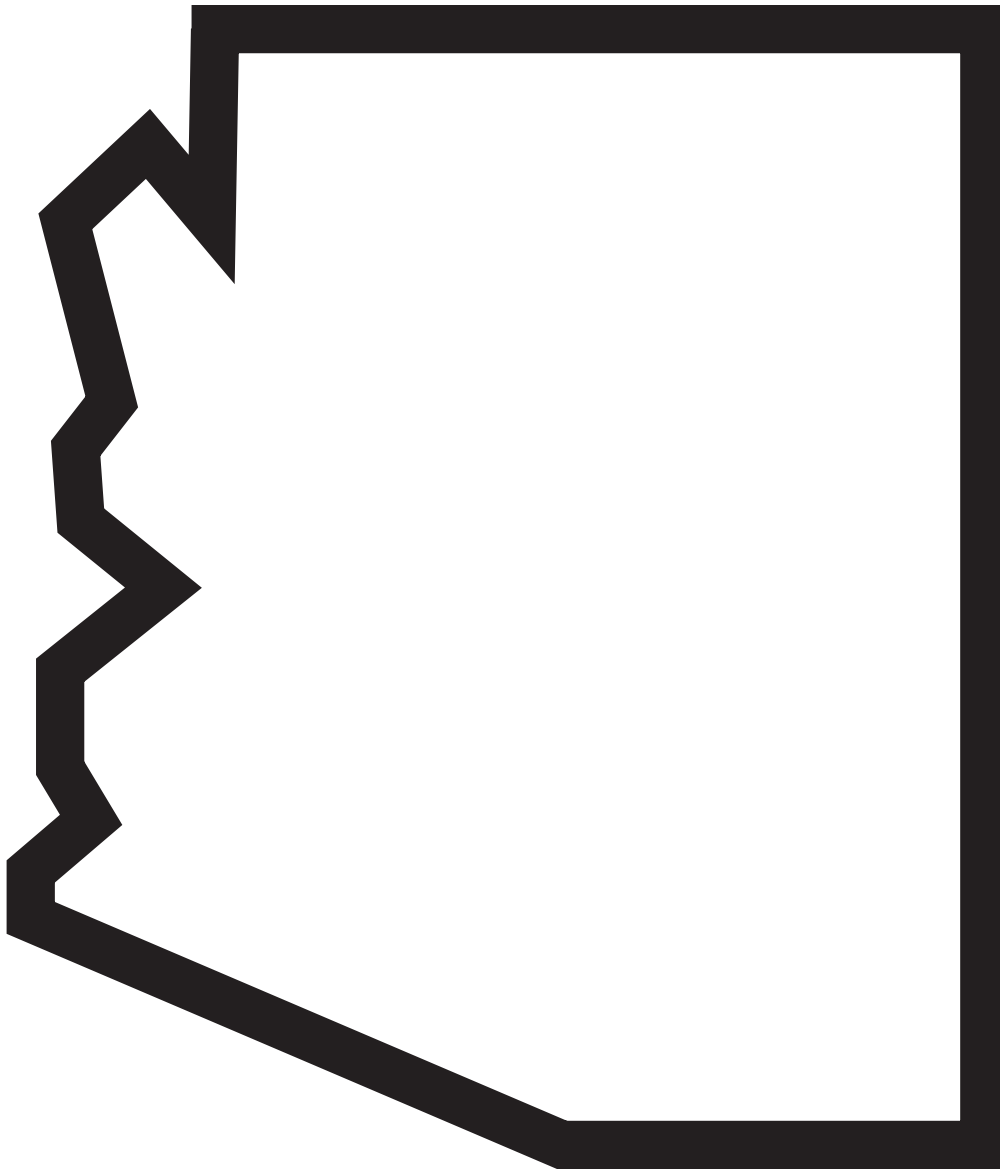
MAPPING: ARIZONA'S REGIONS



In this activity, you will label Arizona's three regions and describe the type of climate found in each region.

Directions:

1. On the map below, draw in the **boundaries** for Arizona's desert, mountain, and plateau regions.
2. Label each region. Spelling counts!
3. Inside of each region describe the type of climate (temperature and precipitation) found there.
4. Use a different coloring pencil to lightly color in each region.



MAPPING: ARIZONA'S REGIONS



PART II

Directions: Use the information from Arizona's Regions to name each of the three regions pictured below. Then use the lines provided to list two interesting facts about each region. Remember to write your facts using complete sentences. Use the back of this paper if you need more room.

1.



Name of Region: _____

Two interesting facts: _____

2.



Name of Region: _____

Two interesting facts: _____

3.



Name of Region: _____

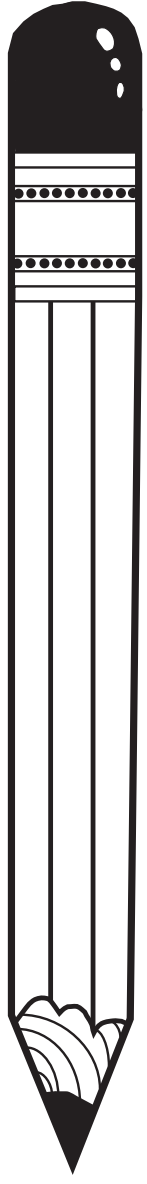
Two interesting facts: _____

VOCABULARY QUIZ

ARIZONA'S REGIONS

Directions: Match the vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right. Put the letter for the definition on the blank next to the vocabulary word it matches. Use each word and definition only once.

1. _____ arid
2. _____ petrified
3. _____ capital
4. _____ observatory
5. _____ climate
6. _____ native
7. _____ monument
8. _____ elevation
9. _____ buttes
10. _____ plateau
11. _____ boundaries
12. _____ precipitation
13. _____ regions
14. _____ species
15. _____ mammals
16. _____ reptile



- A. a place that has instruments for looking at stars and planets.
- B. dividing lines.
- C. hills with sloping sides and flat tops.
- D. the height to which something is raised.
- E. wood that has turned to stone.
- F. warm-blooded animals that feed their young with milk, have backbones, and are covered with hair.
- G. belonging to a place because of birth.
- H. the deposit of rain, hail, snow, sleet, or mist on the Earth.
- I. cold-blooded animal covered with scales or horny plates that breathes through its lungs.
- J. the average condition of weather over a period of years.
- K. areas of land with physical features and characteristics that set them apart from other areas of land.
- L. a large, high plain.
- M. groups of plants or animals that are alike in many ways.
- N. the city that serves as the center of government for the state or nation.
- O. building, stone, or statue created to remember a person or event.
- P. an area which does not receive enough rainfall to support farming.

GLOSSARY



ar•id an area which does not receive enough rainfall to support farming.

bound•a•ries dividing lines.

buttes hills with sloping sides and flat tops.

cap•i•tal the city that serves as the center of government for the state or nation.

cli•mate the average condition of weather over a period of years.

el•e•va•tion the height to which something is raised.

mam•mals warm-blooded animals that feed their young with milk, have backbones, and are covered with hair.

mon•u•ment building, stone, or statue created to remember a person or event.

na•tive belonging to a place because of birth.

ob•ser•va•to•ry a place that has instruments for looking at stars and planets.

pet•ri•fied wood that has turned to stone.

pla•teau a large, high plain.

pre•cip•i•ta•tion the deposit of rain, hail, snow, sleet, or mist on the Earth.

re•gions areas of land with physical features and characteristics that set them apart from other areas of land.

rep•tile cold-blooded animal covered with scales or horny plates that breathes through its lungs.

spe•cies groups of plants or animals that are alike in many ways.

ANSWERS



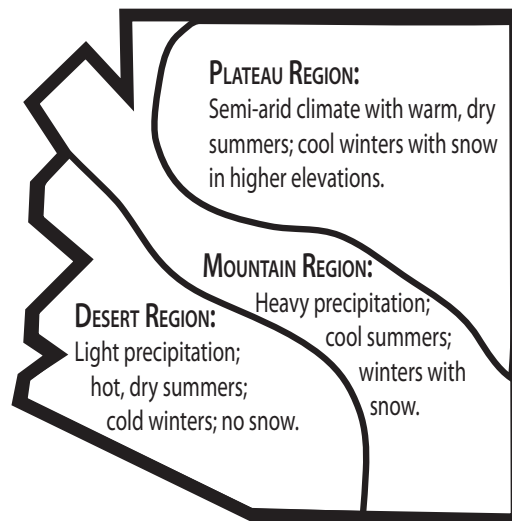
ANSWERS TO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. A
2. H
3. D
4. H
5. C
6. F
7. A
8. H

ANSWERS TO VOCABULARY QUIZ

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. P | 9. C |
| 2. E | 10. L |
| 3. N | 11. B |
| 4. A | 12. H |
| 5. J | 13. K |
| 6. G | 14. M |
| 7. O | 15. F |
| 8. D | 16. I |

ANSWERS TO ARIZONA'S REGIONS MAP



ANSWERS TO ARIZONA'S REGIONS MAP PART II

1. Mountain Region; two interesting facts will vary
2. Plateau Region; two interesting facts will vary
3. Desert Region; two interesting facts will vary