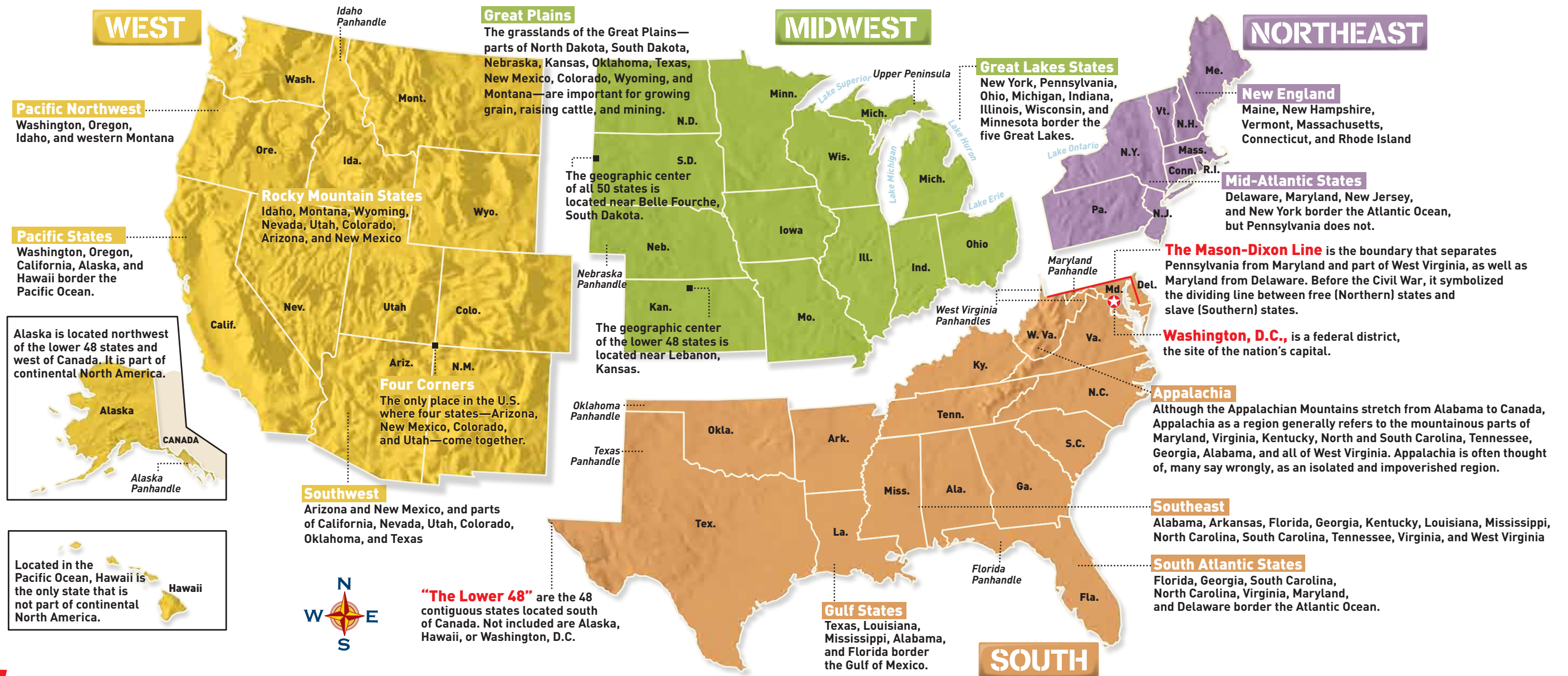


Regions of the U.S.



When you read about news events in the U.S., you'll notice that places are often referred to by region. For instance, the oil spill last spring affected the Gulf states. In the Southwest, there has been concern about violence along the border with Mexico. And in the Midwest, after months of dismal news, the economic outlook has begun to brighten.

This map will help you make sense of the way areas in the U.S. are referred to. It shows the nation's four main regions as defined by the Census Bureau: the West, Midwest, South, and Northeast. Several subregions (regions within larger ones, such as New England) are also labeled. These areas are often defined by physical, cultural, and economic traits, not just location. Geographers don't always agree on

which states belong to which region or subregion—for example, whether Delaware is a Mid-Atlantic or South Atlantic state. The map shows other points of interest, including geographic centers—the exact middle of given land areas. The U.S. has two geographic centers. (Our map explains why.) After studying the map, answer the questions on p. 23.

Questions

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What are the four main regions of the United States?
2. In which of the four regions are most of the Great Plains?
3. What is a "panhandle"? How many does West Virginia have?
4. Which states make up the Pacific Northwest?
5. In which state is the geographic center of the lower 48 states?
6. The Upper Peninsula is part of which state, region, and subregion?
7. The boundaries of which states meet at the Four Corners? In which main region are these states located?
8. Which region does not border an ocean?
9. Which state is not part of continental North America?
10. The District of Columbia is not a state. What is it?