Chapter Objectives

• Describe the economic activities of the United States and Canada, and identify the transportation and communications systems.

• Discuss the challenges faced by the United States and Canada in managing their natural resources, preventing pollution, and facing environmental challenges.
Living in the US and Canada

Section 1
Objectives

• Explain the effects of physical geography on the region’s agriculture.
• Identify the kinds of transportation and communications systems in the region.
• Describe how the economies of the United States and Canada are dependent on each other and interdependent with those in other parts of the world.
Terms to Know

- market economy
- post-industrial
- commodity
- retooling
- Pipeline
- monopoly
- trade deficit
- tariff
- trade surplus
Economic Activities

- Both the United States and Canada have free market economies, in which people can own, operate, and profit from their own businesses. Both economies were once primarily agricultural but are now industrial and service economies.
Economic Activities

- **Agriculture**  Farming in the region is primarily commercial and large-scale.
- One billion acres (405,000,000 ha) in the United States and 167 million acres (67,583,000 ha) in Canada are used for agriculture.
- Only a small percentage of Americans and Canadians work as farmers, because of the high cost of farming, the hard work involved, and unpredictable consumer demand.
Economic Activities

- **Key Agricultural Products**  The major U.S. and Canadian crops are wheat and corn.
- U.S. and Canadian ranches and dairies are among the world’s leading producers of beef, milk, and eggs. Both countries also grow a variety of fruits and vegetables and produce chickens and pigs.
About 20 percent of Americans and Canadians work in manufacturing industries, which have been transformed by advanced technologies such as robotics and computerized automation.
Manufacturing and Service Industries

- **Post-Industrial Economies** About 75 percent of Americans and Canadians work in service industries such as government, health care, and education.

- High-tech and biotechnology industries also employ many people in both countries.

- **Retooling the Rust Belt** As the U.S. economy shifted from manufacturing to services, older industrial areas in the Great Lakes and Northeast were left with abandoned factories and steel mills.
Transportation and Communication

- **The Automobile**  Extensive automobile use in Canada and the United States has required investment in the building and maintenance of millions of miles of highways, roads, and bridges.

- **Other Means of Transportation**  Most Americans and Canadians travel long distances by airplane.

- Railroads carry relatively few passengers but carry about 35 percent of the region’s freight.

- Another 35 percent is carried by waterways and on large trucks.

- **Pipelines** carry the region’s gas and oil.
Trade and Independence

- The United States provides more than 10 percent of all world exports, but its huge purchases of energy, as well as the negative effects of foreign tariffs on U.S. exports, have created an enormous trade deficit.
- Canada exports and imports less than the United States and enjoys a trade surplus.
- NAFTA The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) removed trade restrictions among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.
United against Terrorism

- The United States and other nations carried out a war on terrorism following terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.
- The first military operation took place in Afghanistan against Osama Bin Laden’s terrorist network.
- Soldiers are being brought home from Iraq and Afghanistan after Bin Laden’s Death.
People and their Environment

Section 2
Objectives

• Explain how the United States and Canada are learning to manage their natural resources responsibly.

• Identify causes and effects of pollution in the region, and discuss how it can be prevented.

• Discuss the environmental challenges faced by the United States and Canada in the 2000s, both as individual countries and as a region.
Terms to Know

- clear-cutting
- acid rain
- smog
- groundwater
- eutrophication
Human Impact

- Canada and the United States are rich in natural resources, but the growth of industry has seriously damaged portions of the environment.
- Efforts are being made throughout the region to repair the damage, but much work needs to be done.
Pollution

- **Acid Rain** Chemical emissions from automobiles, power plants, and factories react with water vapor to cause *acid rain*.

- Acid rain corrodes buildings, damages crops, pollutes soil, and poisons fish.

- Winds blow acid rain from one region into another.

- The Great Lakes area is the most seriously affected by acid rain.

- The United States and Canada are working together to improve air quality and prevent acid rain.
Pollution

- **Smog** is a combination of smoke and fog that creates a haze in the air.
- Areas throughout the United States measure air quality and issue warnings to citizens when smog levels are high.
Pollution

- **Water Pollution** Industrial waste combines with acid rain to pollute water, killing fish and birds and making people sick.
- Runoff from fertilizers and pesticides used on farms also pollutes water resources.
- **Back From the Brink** Water in the Great Lakes region became so polluted that the Cuyahoga River in Ohio actually caught fire several times in the 1970s.
- Cleanup efforts are returning the lakes and rivers to their natural state.
Challenges for the Future

- Global warming poses major challenges to North America and the rest of the planet.
- The United States and Canada will have to monitor and respond appropriately to changes in temperature and other effects of global warming.
- The melting of polar ice is accelerating.
- Areas of the permafrost in the tundra are thawing.
- Flooding of rivers and rising oceans threaten coastal areas.
- Warmer, higher seas alter climate patterns, causing weather events such as El Niño.