

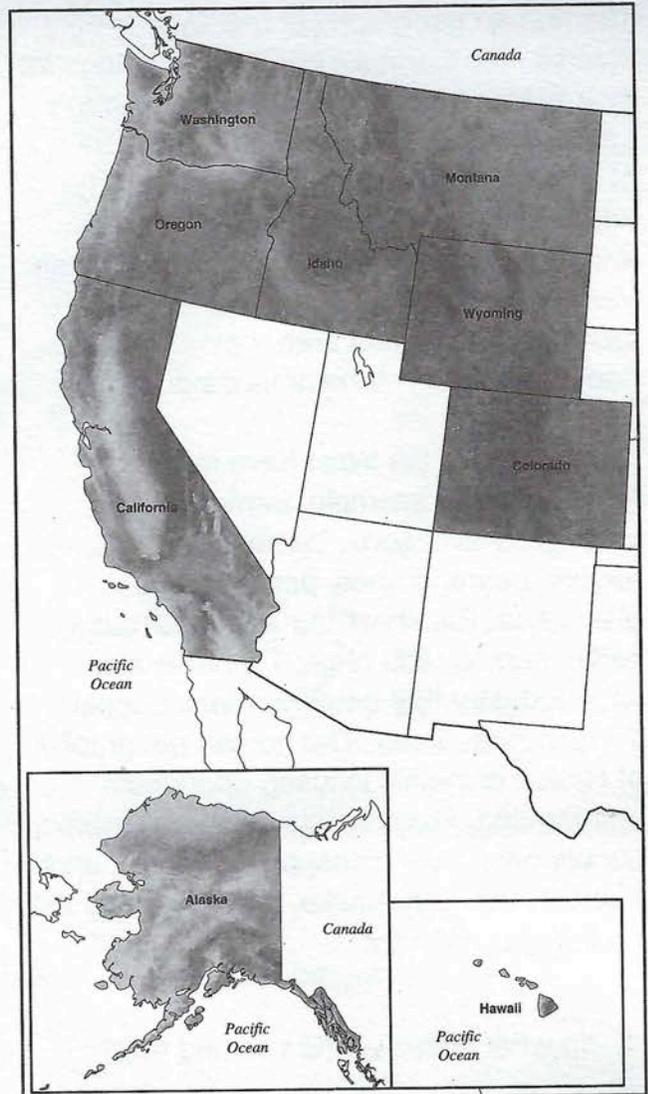
The West Region

Bordering the Pacific Ocean and Canada, the West region in this study includes the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. The West also borders the Southwest and Midwest regions. Alaska is 1,000 miles north of the state of Washington, while Hawaii is 2,400 miles west of California.

The West region is the most diverse of all U.S. regions in population density. In major cities such as Los Angeles, California, and Denver, Colorado, thousands of people live on every square mile. In areas of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, there are very few people for every square mile. Alaska has one person for every square mile of land.

In the West, there is great variety in climate. Most of the West has mild summers and cold winters. In some southern areas of the region, there are hot summers, warm winters, and occasional cyclones. Coastal areas sometimes have severe windstorms and rainstorms that cause landslides and erosion. Inland, winters bring heavy snowfall and blizzards. Alaska's climate varies from temperate summers to year-round cold. The islands of Hawaii are temperate year-round.

There are several types of physical geography in the West: mountains, volcanoes, glaciers, deserts, plains, rolling hills, and low, flat areas. The coast has rocky shorelines and smooth beaches. Inland are high hills and mountain ranges. The physical geography of the West is also known for earthquakes. There are active volcanoes in all of the coastal states.



1. Name two densely populated cities in the West. _____
2. Name three different types of climates found in the West. _____
3. Name three types of physical geography in the West. _____

4. Name the states that border Canada. _____
5. What states in the West border the Pacific Ocean? _____
6. What state is located closest to the North Pole in the West? _____
7. Name two states known for their active volcanoes. _____