

## Activity #1: Resources of the United States

### Objective 26: Geographic Perspectives

In this activity, students practice map interpretation skills by completing a resource map of the Southwestern, Midwestern, and Western regions of the United States.



**Description:** After reading about different natural resources, students create a resource map and a map key.

#### ► Directions

1. Provide students with the two maps shown on the following pages.
2. Read the following information aloud to the class, and then make a list on the board of all the resources mentioned (i.e., iron ore, limestone, coal, copper, uranium, and forests).

#### Midwest

Iron ore is the mineral used to make steel. Large amounts of iron ore can be found in Minnesota. Steel is made by combining the iron ore with limestone and coal. Coal and limestone are mined in the Midwestern states of Indiana and Michigan.

#### Southwest

Copper is used to make many products such as pipes and electrical wires. Most of the nation's copper is mined in Arizona. Uranium is another valuable resource found in the Southwest. Uranium is a source of energy. Uranium can be found in parts of New Mexico.

#### West

Thick forests are located in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. They provide much of the lumber for the entire country. Forests are also the source for wood pulp, which is used to produce many paper products.

3. Ask students to create symbols for each of the resources listed and to develop a key for the “Some Regions of the United States” map.
4. Instruct students to label the appropriate states and resources and then to draw the symbols on the “Some Regions of the United States” map.

5. Discuss with the students the importance of natural resources, the different kinds of jobs they create, and how economies differ based on the resources available.
6. Ask students to think of other natural resources to put on the “Some Regions of the United States” map.

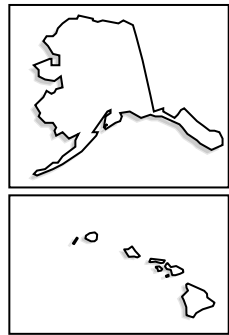
**Variation:** Continue the exercise by asking students to research the resources found in the East and Southeast and to create similar maps of these regions.



### Map of the United States



### Some Regions of the United States



#### MAP KEY

