

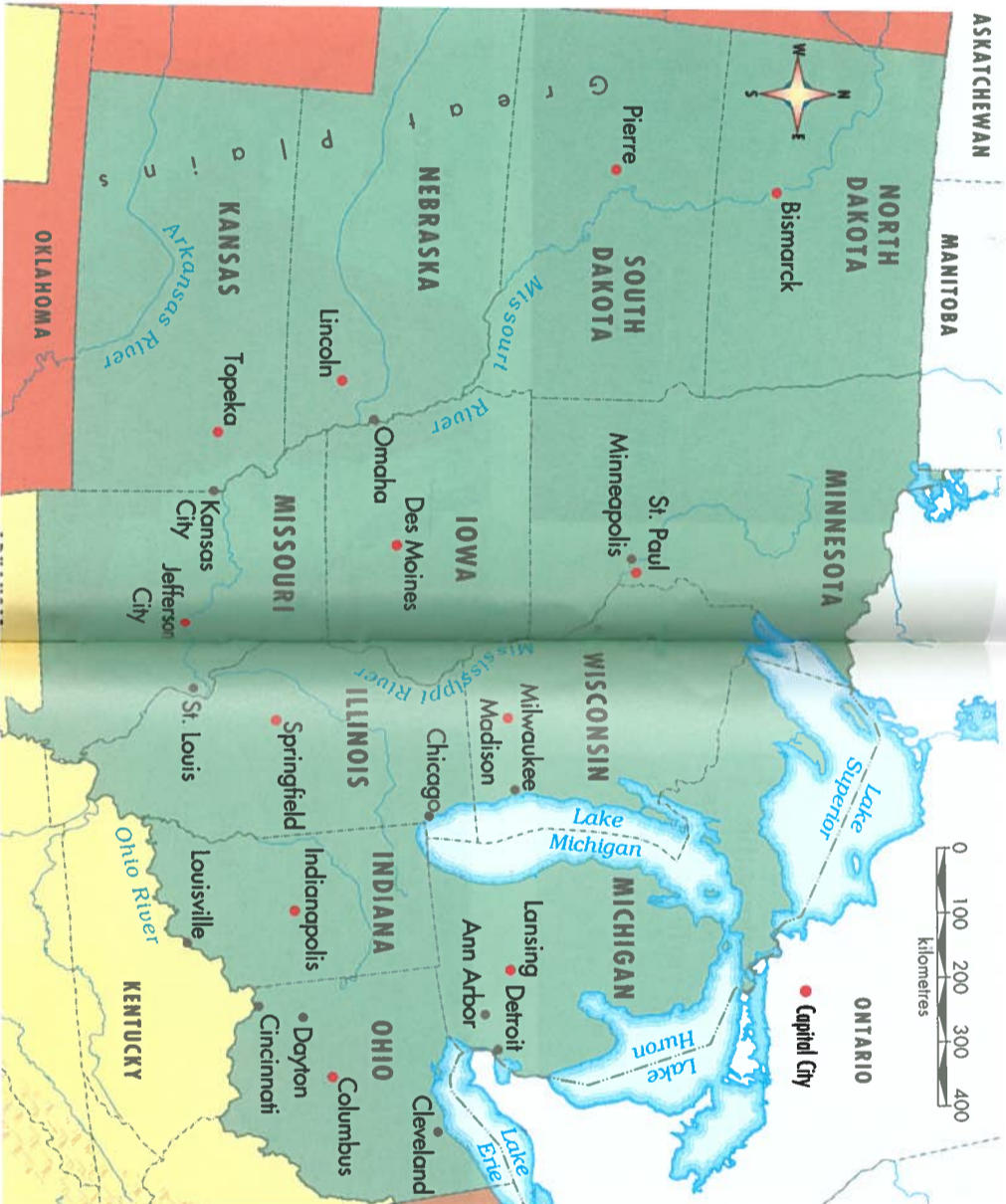
MIDWESTERN REGION

Between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains lies a flat, fertile land known as the Great Plains. This area is often referred to as the farm belt because it contains some of the world's finest farmland.

To the north of Ohio and Michigan lie three of the Great Lakes: Lakes Erie, Michigan, and Superior. Each of these lakes, except Lake Michigan, is shared with Canada. Lake Michigan lies completely within the US.

The Great Plains share many characteristics with the Prairies of central Canada. In both countries, this flat land is used mainly for growing wheat and grazing cattle. In both Canada and the United States, this region is also known for its cold winters!

The Midwestern Region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.



Agriculture Facts

- The large stretches of flat, fertile land allow most of the United States' wheat and corn to be grown here. The region grows one half of the world's corn. Iowa and Nebraska are centres for wheat and corn production.
- Hot days, warm nights, and the right amount of rainfall make the region ideal for growing other grains. In addition to wheat, farmers grow alfalfa, barley, oats, and rye.
- Iowa and Illinois are leading soybean-producing states.
- Apples, cherries, beans, pears, grapes, potatoes, and sugar beets are harvested in Michigan. Similar vegetables and fruits are grown in other states of the region.
- Farm animals are an important part of this area's economy. Wisconsin is America's dairyland. Both milk and milk products, such as cheese, are sold to markets. Illinois and Iowa are major hog producers.

Tourism Facts

- Mark Twain's boyhood home in Missouri helps lure tourists to this state.
- Mount Rushmore, where the faces of past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and Theodore Roosevelt are carved into the mountain, can be found in South Dakota.
- Tourists enjoy visiting Dodge City, Kansas. This city is like a page out of an old western movie.

Industry Facts

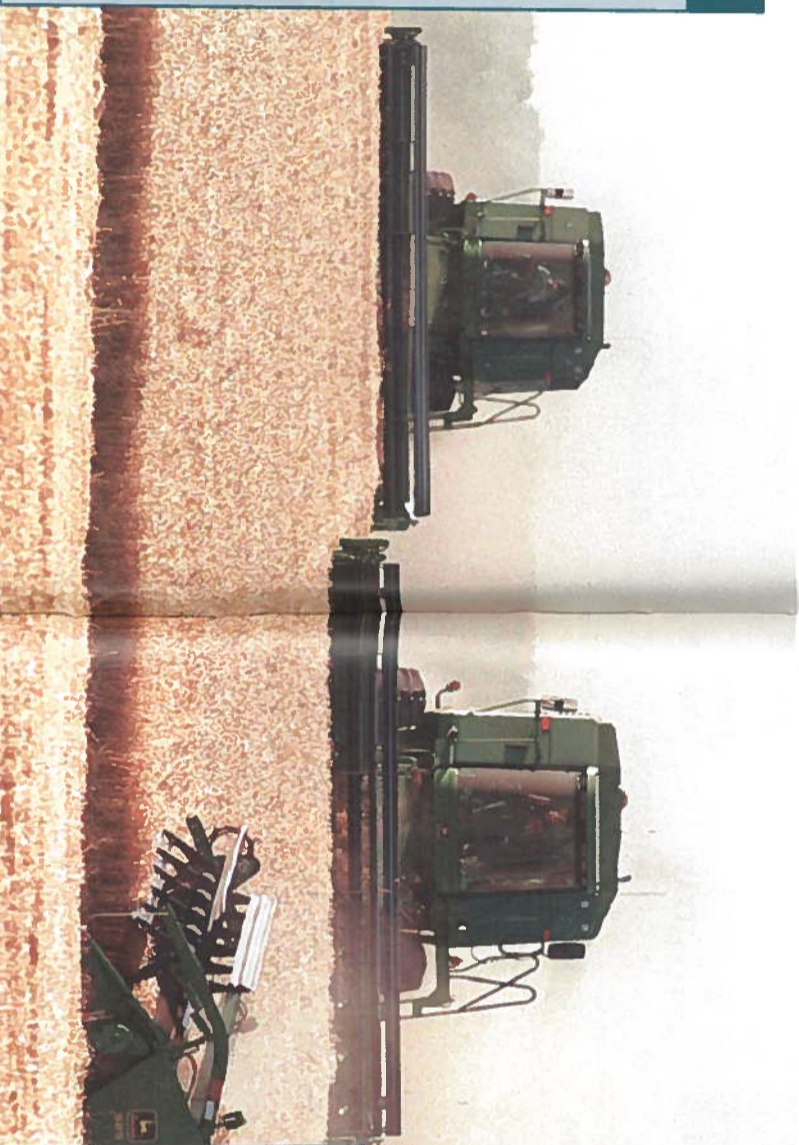
Ohio is a diverse manufacturing state. Each of its main cities is known for a different type of manufacturing: for example, Akron for rubber, Cincinnati for jet engines and machine tools, and Cleveland for auto assembly.

Some of the larger cities around the Great Lakes, such as Cleveland, Detroit, and Chicago, are busy manufacturing centres. For many years, Detroit, known as the Motor City, manufactured more cars than any other city in the world.

The Midwest has access to railways, harbours, airports, and highways. The Great Lakes and the Mississippi River provide fast water routes for ships exporting iron ore and wheat.

Many states are rich in natural resources, such as coal, salt, iron, copper, and limestone. Minnesota produces 75 per cent of the country's iron ore.

Missouri's economy relies on the service industry to provide many jobs, such as working in restaurants and hotels and driving taxis.



SOMETHING TO DO

1. Create a map of the Midwestern Region, similar to the one you did for the Northeastern Region. Identify major cities. Create symbols to represent industry, agriculture, and tourism features associated with the region. Place the symbols on the map and create a legend to identify what each symbol represents.
2. Compare the Prairies in Canada and the Midwestern Region of the United States in terms of landforms and climate.