

Regions1

industrialize business similar trade culture prestigious England
financial rocky religion state legacy elected most better back than
centre regions capital smallest as educational cities Yankee forests
settlers up ship

The Cultural Regions of the USA

Cultural regions are more difficult to define and outline on a map _____
physiographic regions, because there are often _____ many similarities
between neighbouring areas as there are differences, so distinction between
two regions is always relative. In the following, the regional division of one of
the _____ famous American cultural geographers, Wilbur Zelinsky, will be
followed, who distinguished 5 principal _____ areas within the US: 1. New
England, 2. the Middle Atlantic 3. the South, 4. the Midwest 5. the West.

New England

New England is the _____ cultural region of the present US: it occupies
the north-eastern corner of the country, and consists of the states of
Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island (the smallest _____ of the US
by territory), New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

It has a long and rugged coastline, with many good natural harbours, while
the inland areas are mostly hilly, originally covered with dense _____.
There are few big _____ in the region, except for Boston, _____ of
Massachusetts, and the historical, commercial, and cultural _____ of the
whole region.

New England is one of the oldest _____ of the country. Its origins go
_____ to the arrival of the first Puritan _____, the so-called Pilgrims,
aboard the _____ Mayflower at the coast of today's Massachusetts in
1620. They were persecuted by the Anglican government of _____.
Therefore, they left England for the American colonies to practice their
_____ freely. The name of the region reflects the fact that this area
remained for a long time ethnically homogeneous and culturally _____ to
England. However, it also expressed the hope of the early settlers that they
would be able to create a new, _____ version of their homeland in the

New World.

The character of New England has been shaped by the Puritans: they settled in small, self-governing communities, in which town leaders and church elders were _____ and public issues were discussed and decided at town meetings. The spirit of religious devotion, democracy and the strong sense of community are often considered Puritan _____ in American culture.

Since the climate of the region is rather cold and the soil is _____ and poor, self-sufficient farms were not prosperous, and New Englanders soon began to take _____ shipbuilding, manufacturing, and _____. By the time of the American Revolution, they earned the nickname _____, a word that was associated with hard work, thrift, ingenuity and a good _____ sense. The Yankee peddler and storekeeper became popular folklore figures in colonial America.

In the early 19th century, New England became the first region to _____, and Boston developed into a national commercial and _____ centre. New England has always been the _____ centre of the nation because the Puritans put a strong emphasis on schooling. As a result, the oldest and most _____ universities were founded here, including Harvard, Yale. Many of the country's recent leaders have been educated at one of the elite universities of New England, and Massachusetts-born John F. Kennedy became the first Catholic President of the US in 1960.