

## Regions2

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### The Middle Atlantic

This region, as the name suggests, is \_\_\_\_\_ two very different regions, New England and the South. Out of these, it shares more cultural \_\_\_\_\_ with New England, but it is set apart by its \_\_\_\_\_ social and \_\_\_\_\_ history. It consists of the states of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. The Middle Atlantic States are often referred \_\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Nation, because this is the area where the nation \_\_\_\_\_ born by drafting the Declaration of \_\_\_\_\_ and the Constitution (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

Unlike New England, the Middle Atlantic area was never homogeneous in nationality or religion: in fact, some of the first \_\_\_\_\_ of this region did not come from England. They were Dutch, Swedish, German immigrants. The region has always had a great \_\_\_\_\_ of ethnic groups, religions and economic activities. The two \_\_\_\_\_ cities, New York, and Philadelphia, became prosperous as the largest ports as well as business and commercial centres of the English colonies by the late 18th century. Therefore, they have attracted huge numbers of foreign \_\_\_\_\_ all through their history.

Territories further west, however, remained \_\_\_\_\_ and agricultural (like upstate New York or eastern Pennsylvania), while other areas like western Pennsylvania or New Jersey became \_\_\_\_\_ industrialized during the 19th century: Pittsburgh, for example, became the centre of the American iron and \_\_\_\_\_ industry, drawing on nearby coal mines. By the late 20th century, the coastal part of the Middle Atlantic states became the most \_\_\_\_\_ populated region in the whole United States: there is practically a continuous string of cities and suburbs all the way from the Virginian suburbs of Washington D.C. (located between Maryland and Virginia) up to New York City and beyond to the northern suburbs of Boston, including such cities as Baltimore (Maryland) and Philadelphia.

Some authors prefer to consider New England and the Middle Atlantic

together as one single, heavily urbanized \_\_\_\_\_ under such names as the Northeast, the East Coast, or Megalopolis. Nevertheless, differences in history and immigration still justify the separation of this larger area into two regions.