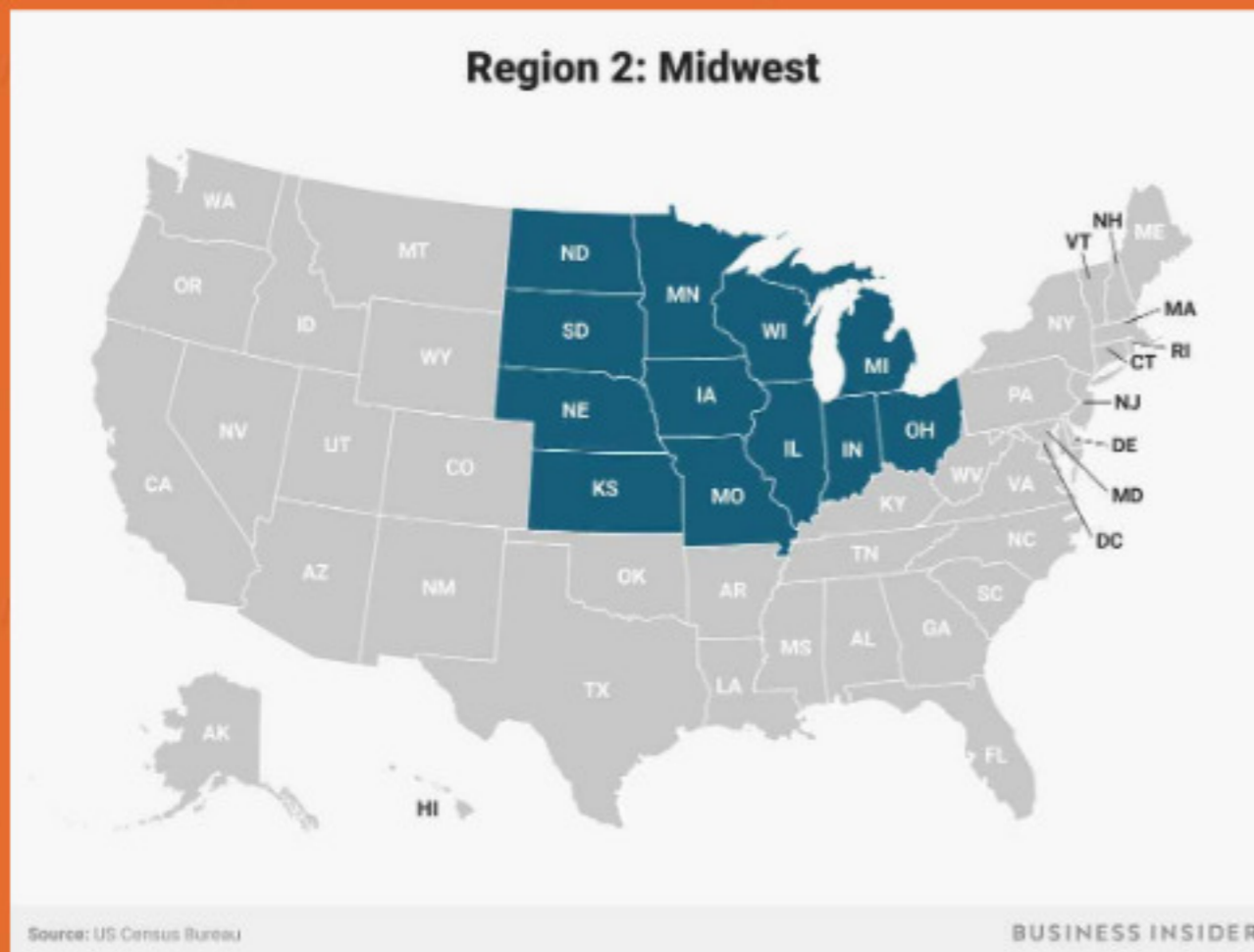


The Midwest: People, Places, and Culture



Take a look at these pictures of the Midwestern United States. What do you notice? What do you wonder?





Open Ended Question

When you looked at the photos of the Midwest Region of the United States, what did you notice? What do you wonder about the Midwest?

States in the Midwest

There are 12 states in the Midwest Region of the United States.

They are:

ILLINOIS -- The state with the 3rd largest city in the USA: Chicago

INDIANA -- Home of the largest sports arena in the world, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway

IOWA -- The state that produces the most corn in the USA

KANSAS -- The state that produces the most wheat in the USA

MICHIGAN -- The state that produces the most cars in the USA

MINNESOTA -- Known as the "Land of 10,000 lakes," it actually has 11,842 lakes

MISSOURI -- Home of the world's largest arch, the St. Louis Arch

NEBRASKA -- The state with the largest number of miles of rivers

NORTH DAKOTA -- The state with the most national wildlife refuges (62)

SOUTH DAKOTA -- Home to Mount Rushmore (the giant rock with presidents faces)

OHIO -- New menu items for fast food chains like McDonalds, Wendy's and Chipotle are released here before the rest of the country

WISCONSIN -- The state that produces the most cheese in the USA

WHICH STATE WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT?



Midwest States

Which Midwest state would you most like to visit? Why?

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Midwest States

Physical Features and Landmarks of the Midwest



The Midwest Region of the United States is characterized by very flat plains. This makes it perfect for growing food, especially corn and wheat. Several Midwest States border the Great Lakes -- these lakes are so big that you can't see from one side of the lake to the other, and they have waves like the ocean! Several cities border the Great Lakes, including Chicago in Illinois, Cleveland in Ohio, and Detroit in Michigan.



The Midwest contains many wonderful attractions for tourists. The Mount Rushmore National Memorial is a sculpture of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. You can also visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park, where you can see bison, elk, and prairie dogs. You could also visit the beautiful Sleeping Dunes National Lakeshore on Lake Michigan. Where would you visit?

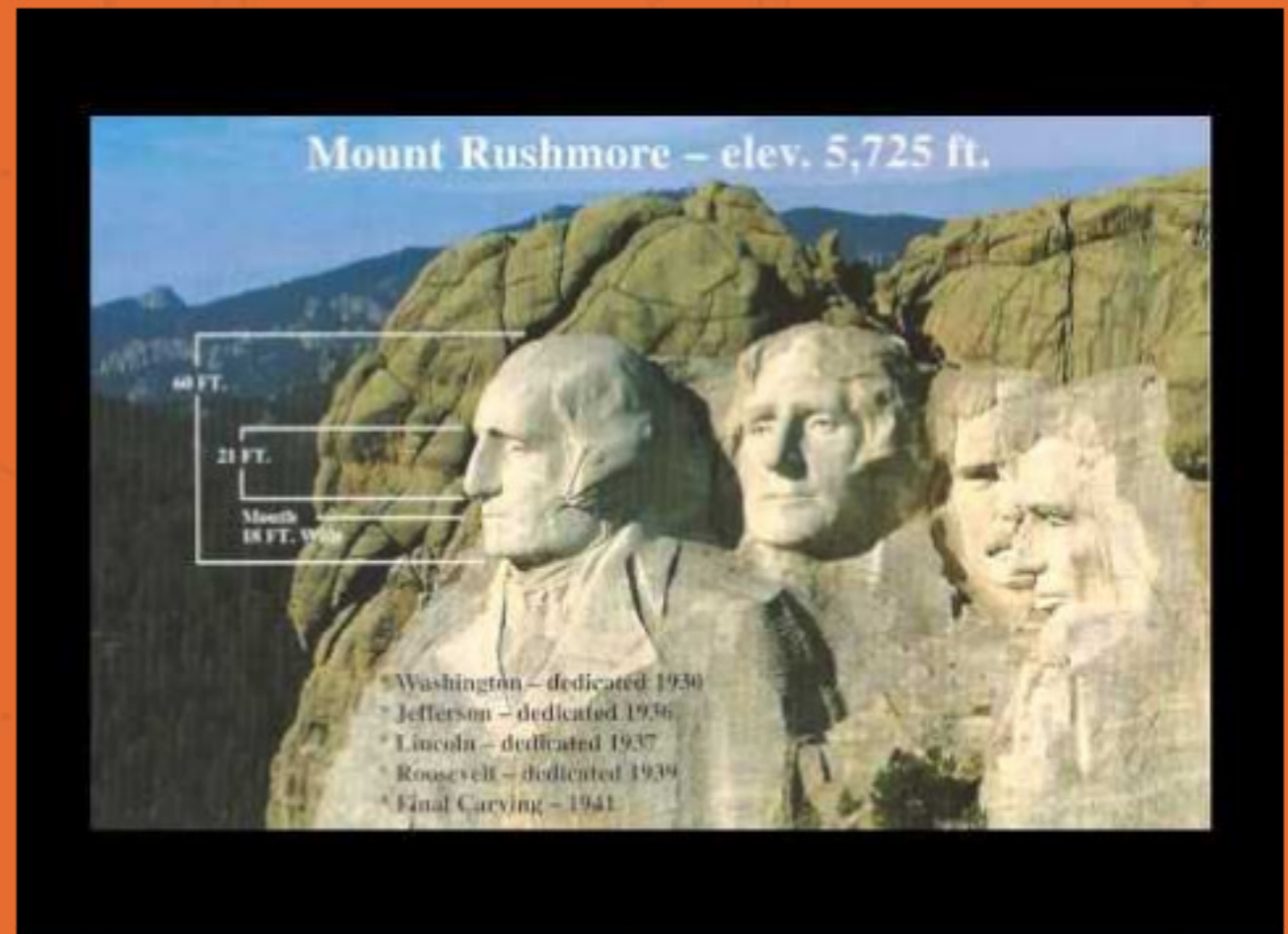


Poll

If we could choose to go to one of these locations on a class field trip, where do you think we should go?

- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Based on the answers to the poll, we will go on one virtual field trip.



Virtual Field Trip



Share something you saw, liked, or learned on our virtual field trip. Then read your classmates' responses!

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Virtual Field Trip

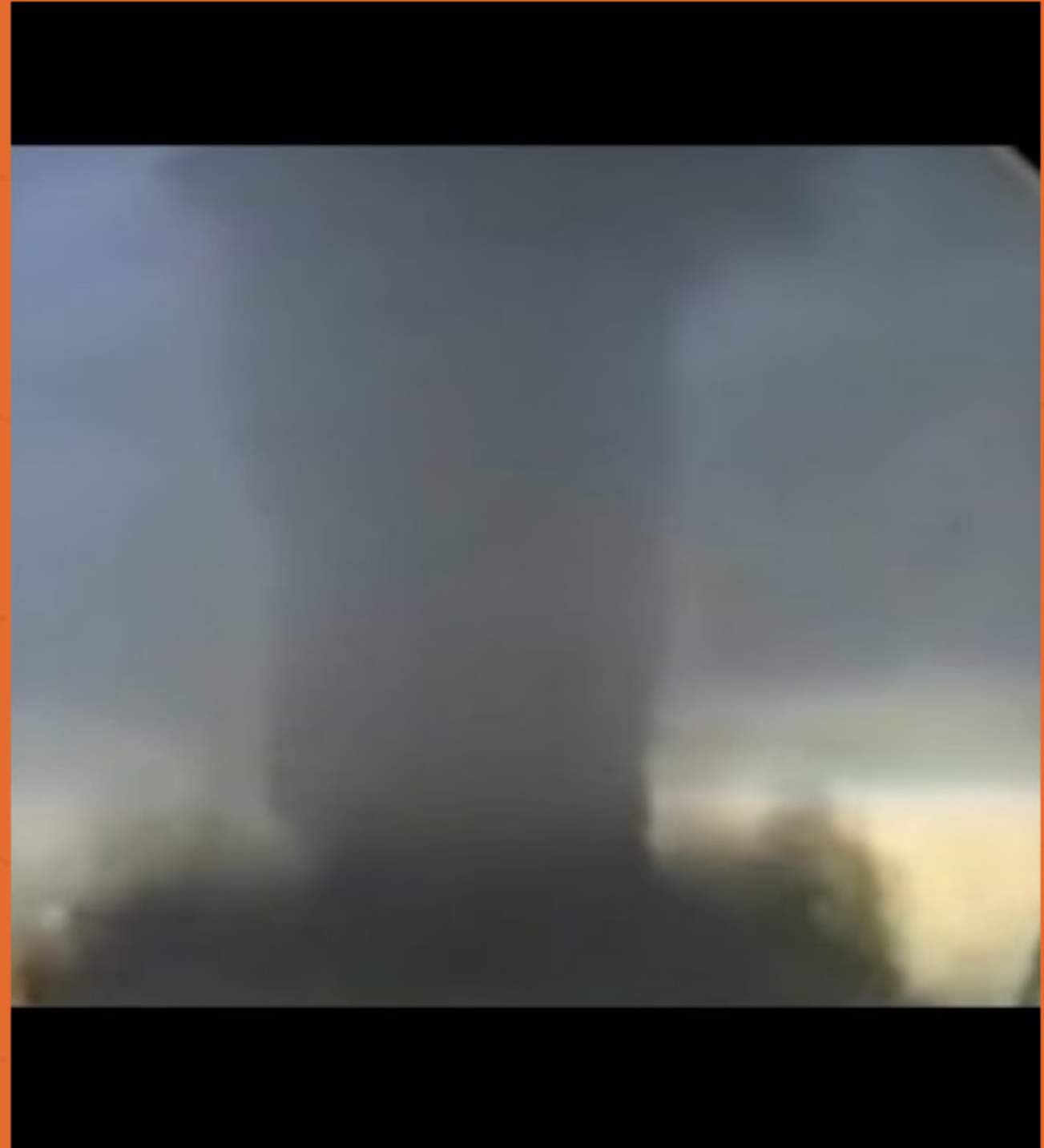
Weather and Natural Disasters

The Midwest is the windiest region in the United States. In fact, Chicago, Illinois is known as "The Windy City."

The areas of the Midwest that are close to the Great Lakes get a ton of snow. This is known as Lake Effect Snow.

In the past few years, the Midwest has experienced more flooding than usual, likely because of climate change.

The infamous Tornado Alley spans several Midwestern States, including Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. Other Midwestern States also have more tornadoes than the rest of the US. Watch these tornadoes spin!



Poll

Would you want to see a tornado in real life?

- YES! That would be such a cool experience as long as everyone is safe.
- NO! That would be way too scary.

Resources and Industry in the Midwest



The Midwest has many natural resources, including soil, coal, oil, iron ore, limestone, lumber, wind, and natural gas.

This makes the Midwest a great place for many industries to operate. The biggest industries are agriculture (farming), mining, and manufacturing (making products to sell).



Manufacturing in the Midwest

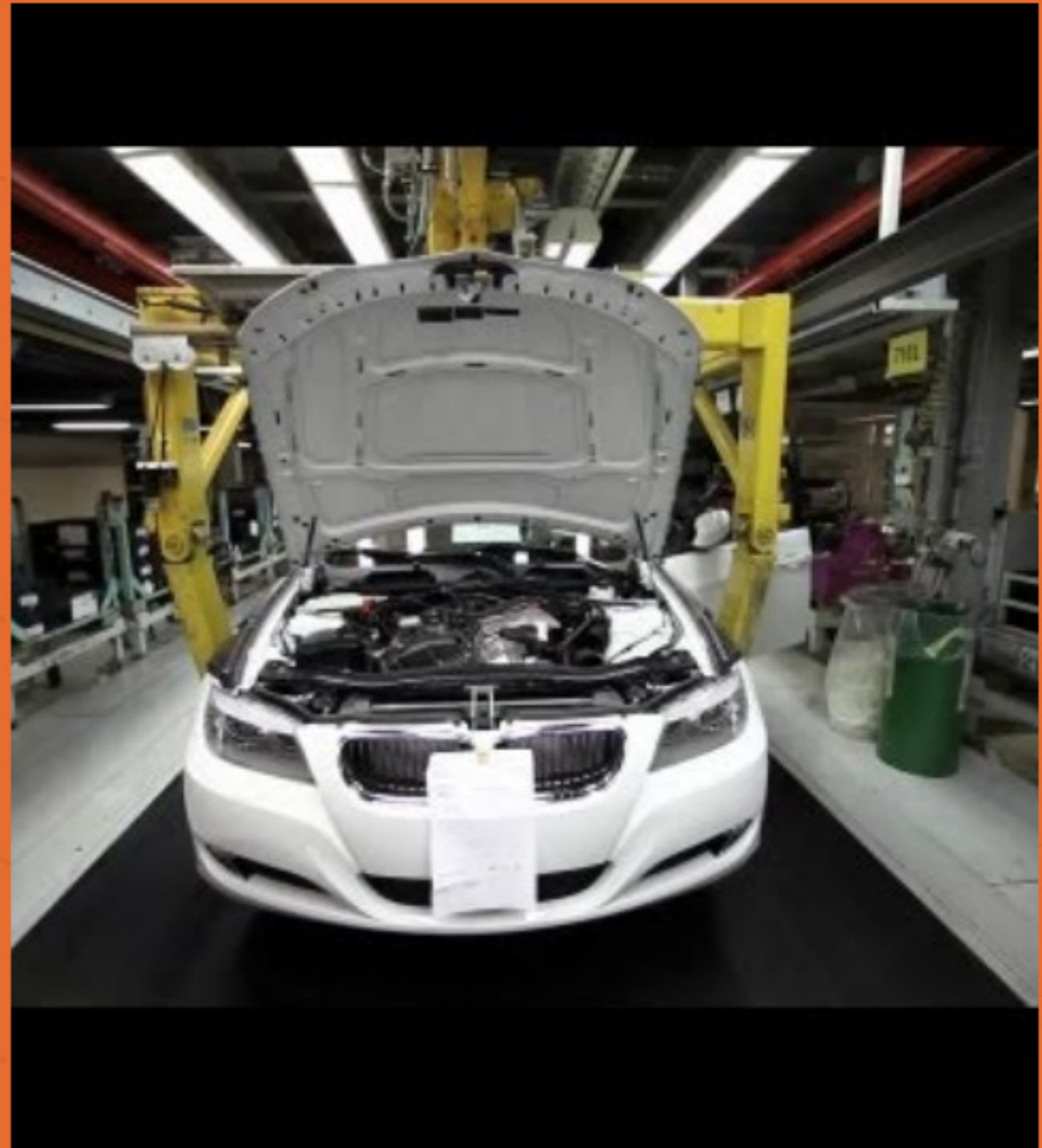
The Midwest manufactures many products that we use on a daily basis. The most common products manufactured in the Midwest are:

Food products, especially ones that are made from corn and wheat.

Heavy Machinery

Appliances (like refrigerators and ovens)

Cars -- Look at this car being assembled in a BMW factory! All of the iron ore used to build the car and the resources needed to run the factory can be mined right in the Midwest!



Midwest Industry: Wheat, Corn, Cars and More!



Which Midwest Industry would it be hardest for you to live without? Why?

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Midwest Industry: Wheat, Corn, Cars and More!

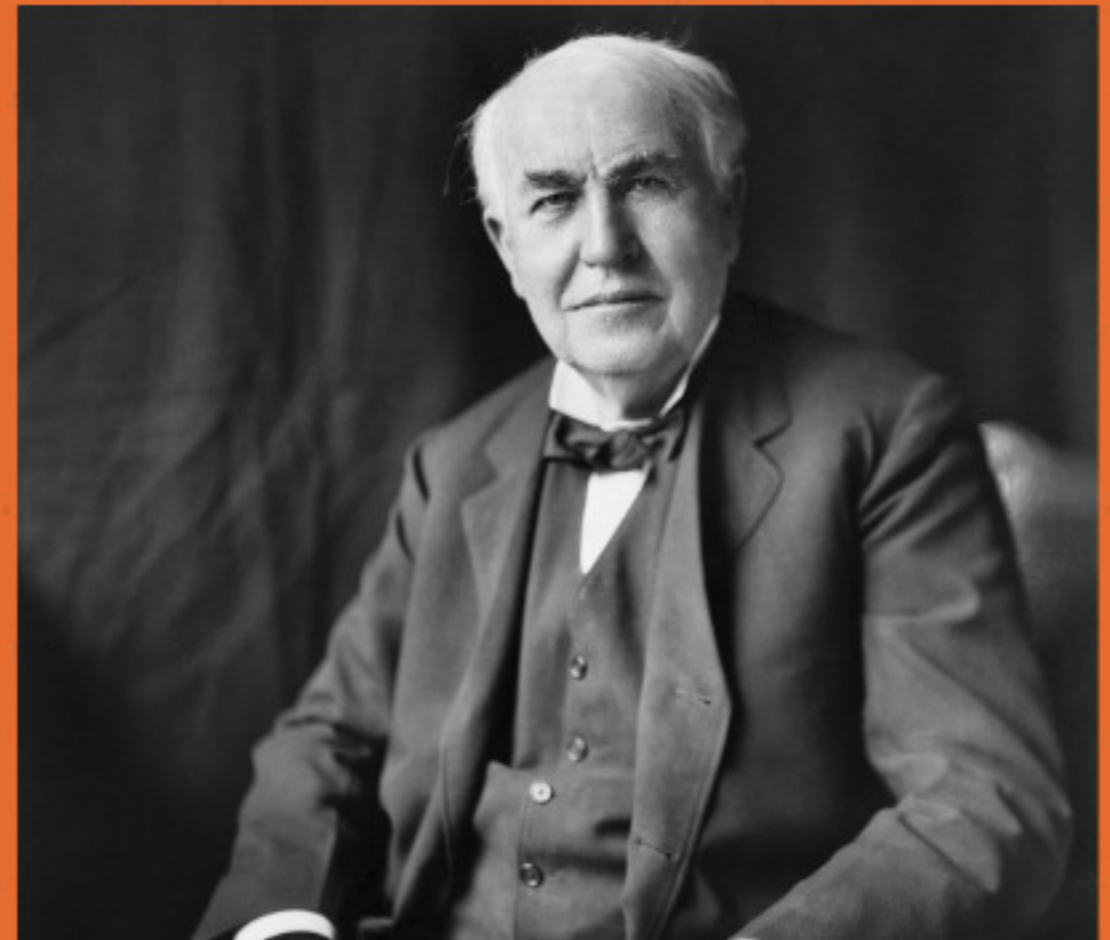
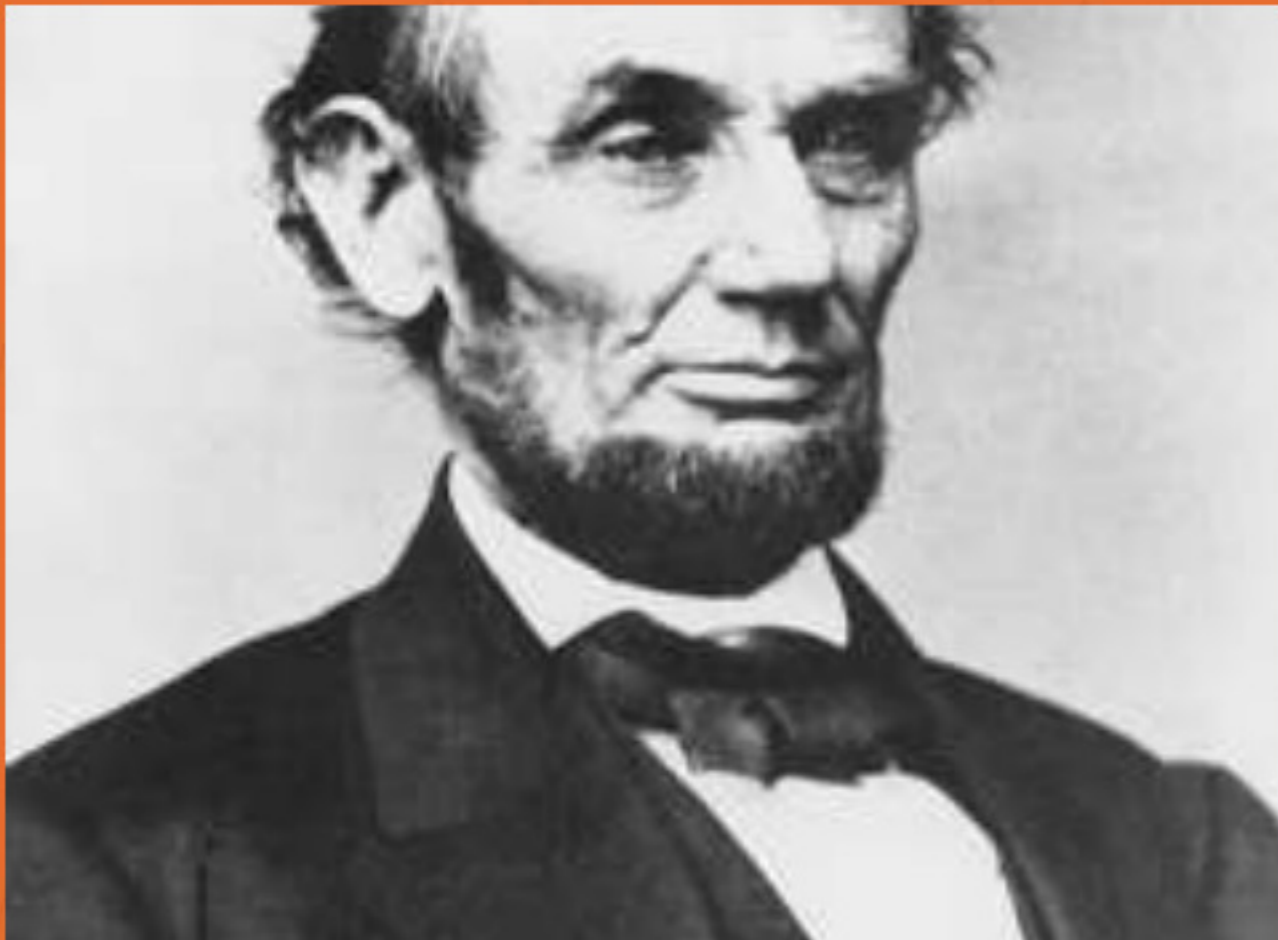
Important People and Cultures in the Midwest



Many important historical figures are from the Midwest.

NEIL ARMSTRONG, the first man to walk on the moon, was from Ohio
PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN spent most of his life in Indiana and Illinois. In fact, 15 of our Presidents were from the Midwest!

THOMAS EDISON, a famous inventor who invented the lightbulb, was from Ohio



African Americans in the Midwest

About 50 years after the end of slavery and the Civil War, between the years 1917 and 1970s, African American people began a "Great Migration" from the South to the cities of the Midwest.

The Great Migration happened because African Americans wanted an end to the racial segregation they faced, and there were many jobs available in the factories in the Midwest. Without the contributions of African American workers, manufacturing in the Midwest would not have made such a big impact on American life.



Native Americans in the Midwest

There are many Native American tribes that have lived in the Midwest region for thousands of years. The largest tribes in the Midwest include the Blackfeet, Sioux, and Chippewa tribes.

The Blackfeet Tribe were a nomadic people, which means they did not have a home, but moved around all the time. They followed bison across the plains.

The Sioux consider Mt. Rushmore to be sacred land and were very upset when the Mt. Rushmore National Memorial was built.

The Chippewa tribe were known as excellent hunters and fishermen.



Fill in the Blanks

Lincoln

Sioux

segregation

lightbulb

President _____ spent most of his life in Indiana and Illinois.

The _____ tribe considers Mt. Rushmore to be sacred land, and were very upset when Mount Rushmore National Memorial was built.

African Americans migrated to the Midwest in the hopes of getting away from racial _____ .

Thomas Edison, who is from Ohio, invented the _____ .

_____ .

Quiz

Let's Review!

Which of these states is NOT in the Midwestern region of the United States?

- Illinois
- Iowa
- Texas
- South Dakota

Which of these is a landmark in the Midwest?

- The Statue of Liberty
- The Golden Gate Bridge
- The Eiffel Tower
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial

Which of these is a major industry in the Midwest?

- Car manufacturing
- Fishing
- Cotton
- Coffee beans

Which group migrated to the Midwest between 1917 - 1970 in search of a better life?

- Native Americans
- Germans
- Chinese
- African Americans

Wow!  cool!

What was the most interesting thing about the Midwest that you learned today? Be sure to check out your classmates' responses!

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Wow! That's cool!