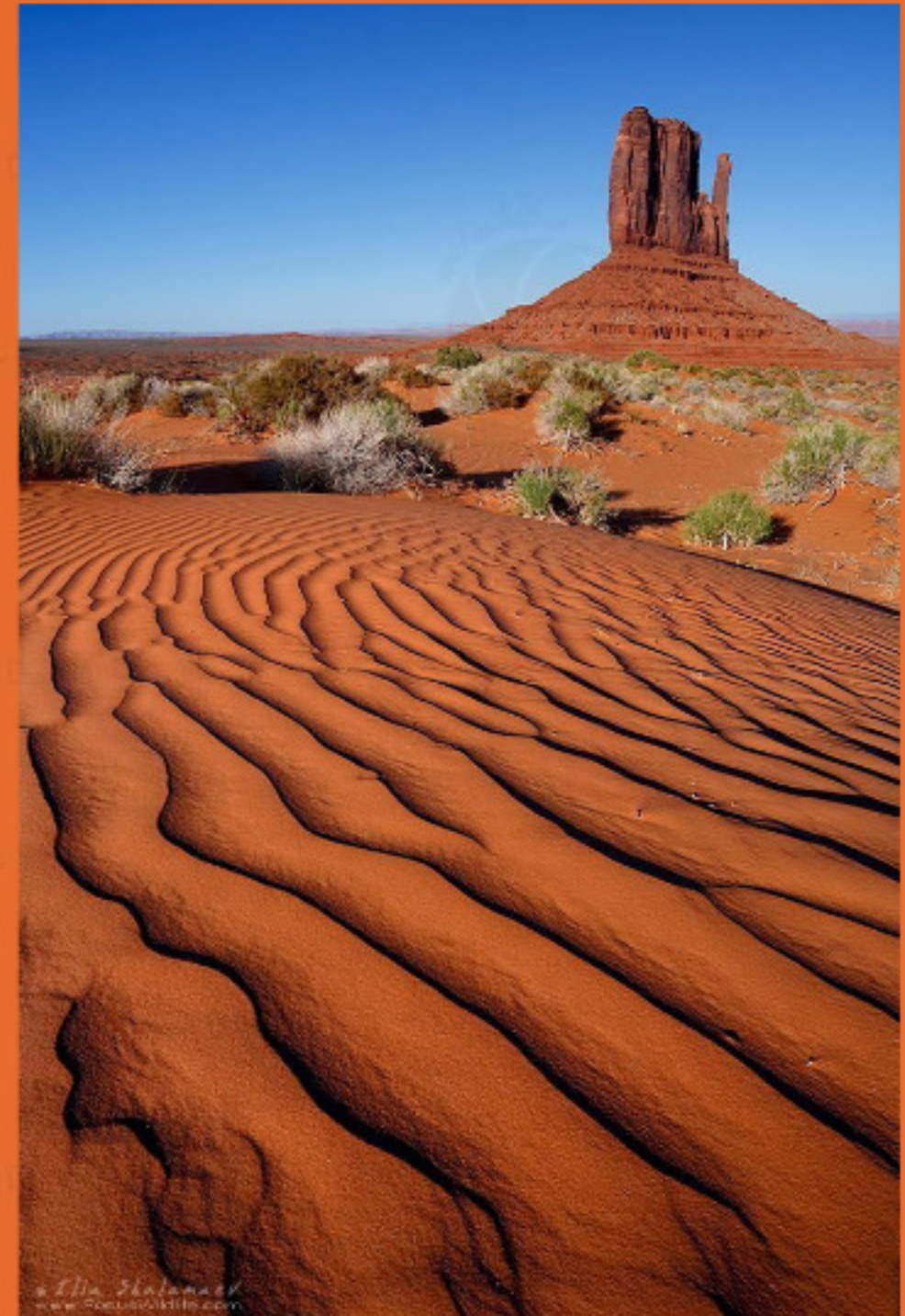


The Southwest: People, Places and Cultures



Look at these images of the Southwestern Region of the United States. What do you notice? What do you wonder?





Open Ended Question

When you looked at the images of the Southwest, what did you notice? What do you wonder about the Southwestern United States?

States in the Southwest

There are five states in the Southwest Region of the United States

ARIZONA -- This state is the home of Grand Canyon National Park.

NEW MEXICO -- In this state, there are, on average, only 12 people per square mile, and there are more sheep and cows than people.

OKLAHOMA -- Half of the land in this state belongs to Native American Reservations, and 67 tribes call this state home.

TEXAS -- This state is the largest in the lower 48. The only larger state in the USA is Alaska!

NEVADA -- This state is called "The Silver State" and the largest silver deposit in the United States is found here.

Which state would you like to visit?



Which Southwest state would you like to visit? Why?

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Southwest States

Physical Features and Landmarks of the Southwest



The Southwest is a beautiful region of the United States. In the Southwest, you can find plains, deserts, canyons, mountains, and plateaus. The air is very hot and dry, so not many plants grow here except for cacti and a few kinds of shrubs. Many cities are right in the middle of the desert, including Las Vegas in Nevada, Santa Fe in New Mexico, and Tuscon in Arizona.



Earth Trekkers

There are many tourist attractions in the Southwest. The most famous is Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. You can also visit Monument Valley Navajo Tribal park, which is on Native American land. Or, you could go see Devil's Bridge in Arizona, where you can walk across a natural bridge made of sandstone while you take in the amazing views.

Which would you rather visit?

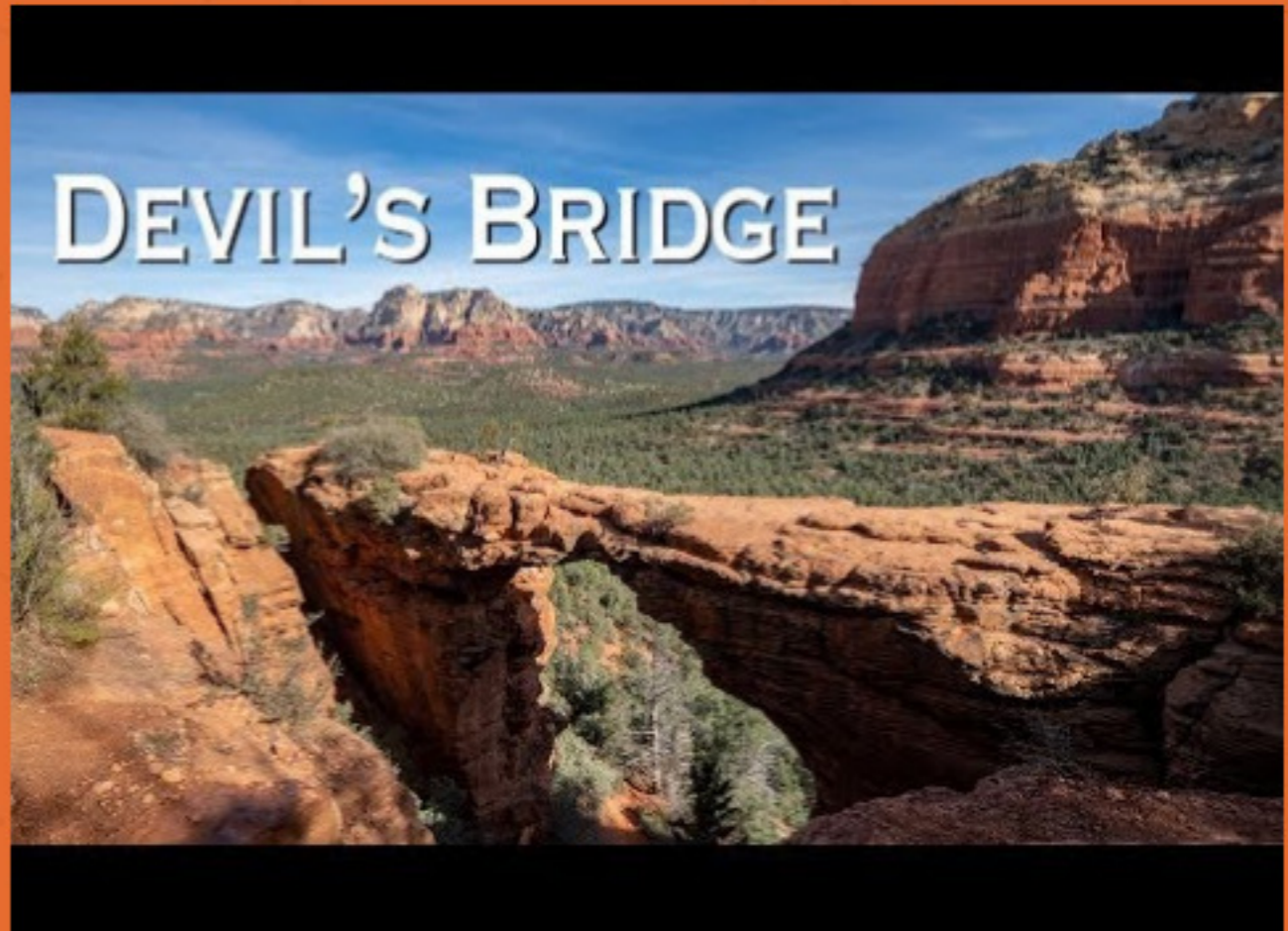


Poll

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

- Grand Canyon National Park
- Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park
- The Devil's Bridge

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



Virtual 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 weather in the Southwest Region of the United States is usually very hot and dry. This is why it is important to bring lots of water if you are hiking in the desert!

Occasionally, a hurricane will reach landfall in the Southwest after traveling through the Gulf of Mexico. This can be devastating for the communities that are impacted.

The Southwest Region of the US frequently experiences drought, which means there is no rain for a really long time. During droughts, it is nearly impossible to grow food in this region.



Poll

Could you live in an area experiencing a drought?

- Water? Eh, who needs it? I would be fine.
- No! I hate feeling dehydrated!!

Resources and Industry in the Southwest



The Southwest has many resources, including a large amount of oil. Gold, silver, copper, and lithium are all found and mined here. Cotton is grown here, but farming is difficult in this region because of the climate.

One of the largest industries in the Southwest is tourism. People come from all over the world to see the beautiful landscape and party in Las Vegas.



Poll

Tourism is the Southwest's largest industry. If you were a tourist in the Southwest, would you rather:

- Visit the beautiful natural landscapes and take lots of pictures!
- Go mining for gold and hope to get rich!
- Party in Las Vegas!

Important People and Cultures in the Southwest



Many famous people are from the Southwest.

Emma Stone, a famous actress, is from Arizona.

Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Dwight Eisenhower are both from Texas.

Brad Pitt, a famous actor, is from Oklahoma.



Cowboys in the Southwest

Cowboy culture in the Southwest region of the United States grew out of the practice of herding cattle on large ranches in the desert. In addition to herding cattle, cowboys also helped create frontier towns in the Old American West.

Cowboys developed a reputation for being lawless and tough, and they were even banned from some places. Gunfights were common, and life was hard for cowboys.

Cowboys and the Old West have inspired many Hollywood films and cartoons.



Native Americans in the Southwest

The Southwest Region of the United States is home to the largest Native American tribe in the country, the Navajo Nation.

In the Long Walk of the Navajo, Navajo Native Americans were kicked out of their sacred homelands by the US Military and forced to walk between 250 and 450 miles to a reservation between the years of 1863 and 1866. More than 2,000 people died on the journey. Eventually, a small portion of the Navajo homeland was returned to them.

The Navajo people are known for their beautiful woven rugs and blankets.



Fill in the Blanks

Texas

Hollywood

cowboys

rugs

Navajo

Eisenhower

The _____ tribe are known for their colorful
_____ and blankets.

Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Dwight
_____ were both born in the state of
_____ .

Many _____ movies and cartoons were
inspired by the lives of _____ .

Quiz

Let's Review!

Which of these states is NOT in the Southwest Region of the United States?

- Oregon
- Oklahoma
- Texas
- Arizona

Which of these is a landmark in the Southwest?

- The Freedom Trail
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- The Empire State Building
- Grand Canyon National Park

Which of these is a major industry in the Southwest?

- Textiles
- Tourism
- Film-making
- Oranges

Which two presidents were born in Texas?

- John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt
- Lyndon B. Johnson and Dwight Eisenhower
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower

Wow!  cool!

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

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Wow! That's cool!