

Ask your teacher to say these vocabulary words with you.



Teacher check:

Initials _____ Date _____

Natural Resources

The natural resources of the Mid-Atlantic states have influenced how people settled the area. They have also affected the types of employment in the region. With the exception of Pennsylvania, all of the states in the region touch the Atlantic coast. The shipping industry is important to the area.

The Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River enable Philadelphia,

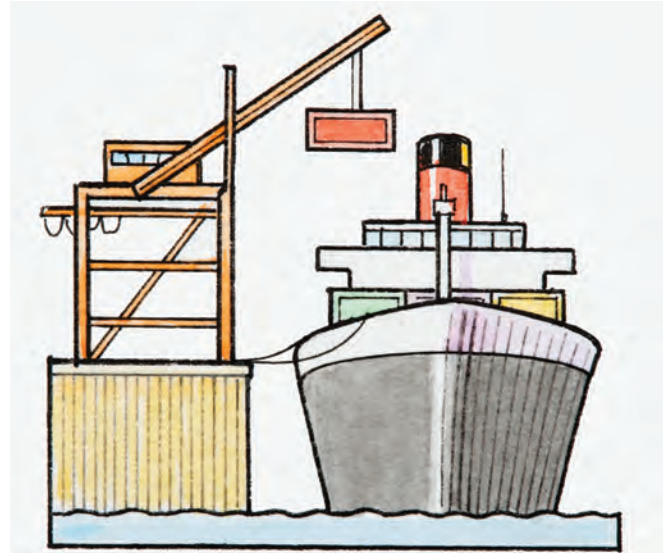
Pennsylvania to have a shipping industry. The New York City and New Jersey ports are among the busiest in the United States. The natural resources of the Atlantic Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay, and large rivers allow the Mid-Atlantic states to export and import large quantities of goods through shipping.

Moving in from the coast, the land becomes marshy. A coastal marsh is a low, soft area. It serves as a **transition** between water and land. The term coastal wetlands is also used to describe these areas. These marshy areas were passed over by the early settlers. The land could not be farmed.

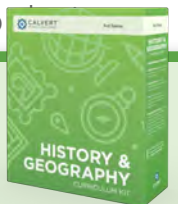
The mosquitoes living in them spread disease. Today, these marshes are seen as a wonderful natural resource for the area.

Many of the marshes have been preserved to help prevent flooding.

When there is a heavy rain, the marshes provide a place for the water to



| Cranes lift cargo boxes and place them on the ship.



Weather

A winter blizzard is a type of strong Midwestern storm. Blizzards have strong winds and often heavy amounts of falling snow. The strength of the wind turns a snowstorm into a blizzard. Because the winds are so strong, travel becomes dangerous. Drivers are unable to see the road because of the way the snow is whipped around by the wind.

The incredibly cold temperatures also make being outside dangerous. Blizzards can shut down roads, businesses, and schools. The winds cause the snow to drift, making huge banks on the sides of buildings and roads. Some blizzards cause power outages. Because the temperature is so cold, people need to put on many layers of clothes and blankets when the power is not working. All the northern states in the United States can experience blizzards.

The winters are cold throughout the region. In January, temperatures are often below freezing. Of course in the southern states of the region, the average temperature is warmer.

While there are significant snowfalls, they are not as great as those in the Great Lakes region. The Midwestern region is largely sunny. Even during the cold winters, the sun shines brightly.

Midwestern summer months are generally hot. In July, most of the states in this region have average temperatures around 85 degrees.



| Blizzards make driving dangerous.



| Tornadoes are also known as twisters or cyclones.

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