

Social Studies – The West Region Study Guide

You will need to know the following concepts:

*Lewis and Clark were explorers who led an expedition west to explore lands that were unknown. Many people were moving and settling west, and Lewis and Clark helped to explore what they would find.

*The West region is made up of 11 states. Two of those 11 states are not a part of the contiguous United States – Alaska and Hawaii.

*Alaska is our largest and northern-most state. Every year a dog sled race called the Iditarod is held in remembrance of a diphtheria epidemic in 1925. The race starts in Anchorage and ends in Nome.

*One of our smallest states, Hawaii, is made up of a group of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean. Many people like to visit Hawaii to experience its warm temperatures and natural beauty. Today, because of this, Hawaii's main industry is tourism.

*Long ago, many Asians came to the West region of the United States to work in Hawaii on sugar plantations. A hundred years ago this was the main industry on the Hawaiian Islands.

*California is another popular state in the West. It has two important industries. Because of its sunny weather, warm climate, and rich, fertile soil, the Central Valley of California is the center of farming technology. Many of the country's fruits and vegetables are grown here. Another important industry is the movie industry. Making movies is easier in California's climate because of its sunny, warm weather.

*Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming has one of "nature's teakettles" – a geyser named Old Faithful. A geyser is a spring that throws jets of heated water and steam into the air.

*The Pacific Crest Trail is a trail that stretches from Canada to Mexico. It was built by Clinton Clarke who wanted to preserve some of the beautiful wild areas of the West and help people enjoy the outdoors. At one point you can cross from Oregon to Washington over the Columbia River Gorge.

The West Region

* States are
underlined

