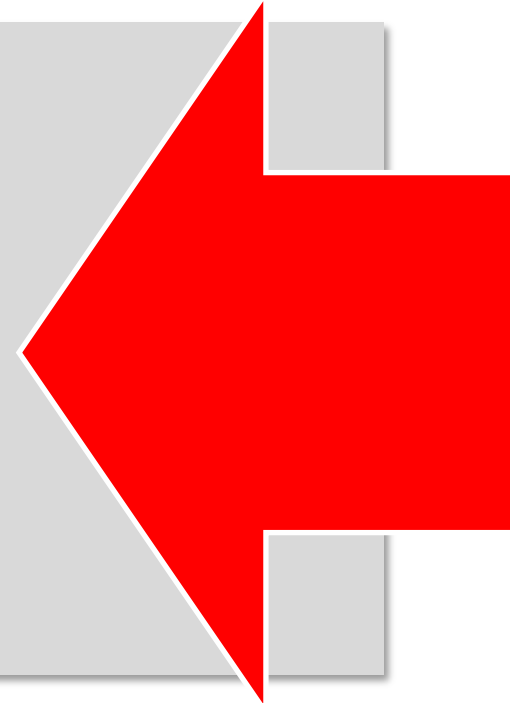


NOTE!

Assignment 13 has two parts, one a listing of the things that make you think of “The Southwest” and one a listing of the things that make you think of “New England.”

Please read the instructions carefully!

You must submit your answers to the questions in Assignment 13 in Blackboard.



Assignment 13... Regions in Geography

For this assignment, we are going to explore the difference between a general perceptual region and the “special case” of perceptual regions... the vernacular region. Note that both of these types of regions are formal regions (areas in which one or more characteristics are found throughout all or most of the area and are not commonly associated with areas outside of that).

1. Make a list of what come to your mind when you think about “The Southwest” (of the US)... what kinds of things do you associate with the Southwestern part of the US – buildings, architecture, landscape, language, people, art...

We all “know something” about other places... we’ve read about it, seen it on TV or the computer, seen art, met people from there or know someone who was there... but, mostly, this tends to be second-hand information. We know something, but usually not a lot – this is an “outsider’s view”. Make your list of how you think about the Southwest.

→ Don’t spend a LOT of time doing this list, and don’t look anything up. This should all come “out of your head” – what kinds of things shape your mental image of the Southwestern US? Spend maybe 10-15 minutes... only put on your list the characteristics of the Southwest that immediately come to mind for you!

→ This is a perceptual region based on the knowledge that an outsider would have who only has limited information. Some folks may have more because they have a relative there, or maybe they visited there on vacation... even so, you would still not have the in-depth knowledge of the region that someone who grew up there or who has lived there for years would have. It is what it is that makes the southwestern part of the US, “The Southwest” that is more than just its geographical location in the country.

2. Next... make a list of “New England”! We’re here! We know A LOT about New England. What kinds of things would you tell someone who is not from here about New England... what kinds of things are “iconic”... what characteristics make New England different from other parts of the US.

→ Put some thought into this, and make the list as long as it needs to be. Think about all those things that make New England/Massachusetts “unique” – images and characteristics that you would use to describe to someone who is NOT from here (imagine you are visiting them somewhere else in the country and they have never been to New England)... and you are trying to explain to them what it is about New England that makes our part of the country different from anywhere else!

→ This is a special case of the perceptual region called the vernacular region – the “insider’s view”...

... When you are done... copy and paste both your lists into the essay field for Assignment 13 in Blackboard.

→ *and*... hang onto a copy of your New England list... you will need it for the next assignment!