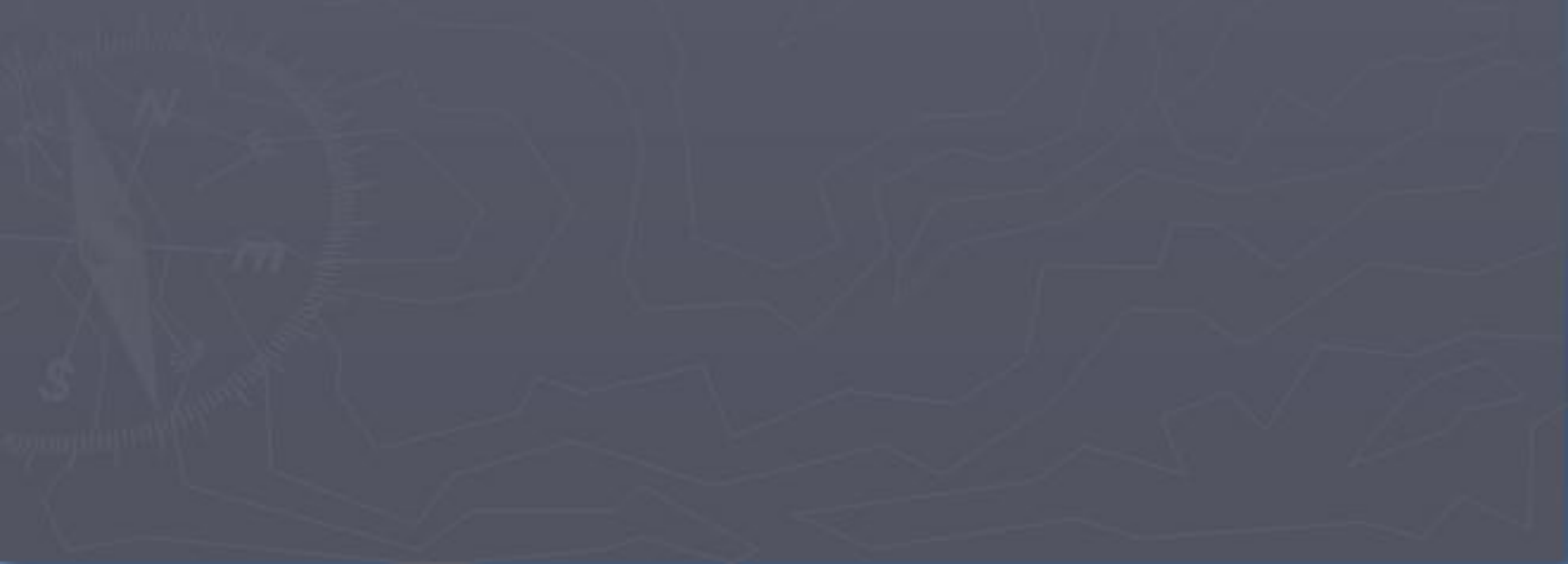


Political Regions of North America



Defining North America

- No standard definition of American continents
 - Some teach Americas as one continent
 - Central America sometimes considered separate from North America
 - United States classifies North America as Central America, the Caribbean, with United States and Canada as North America



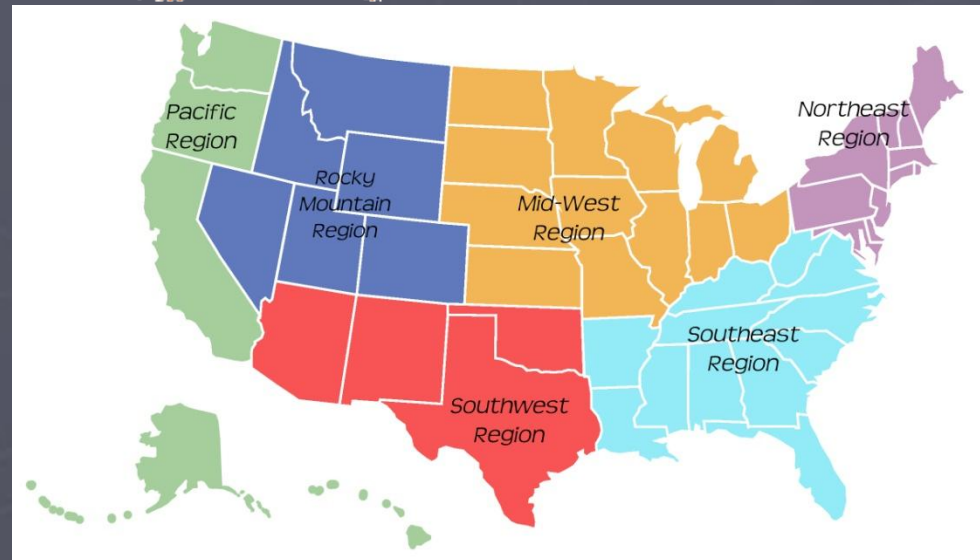
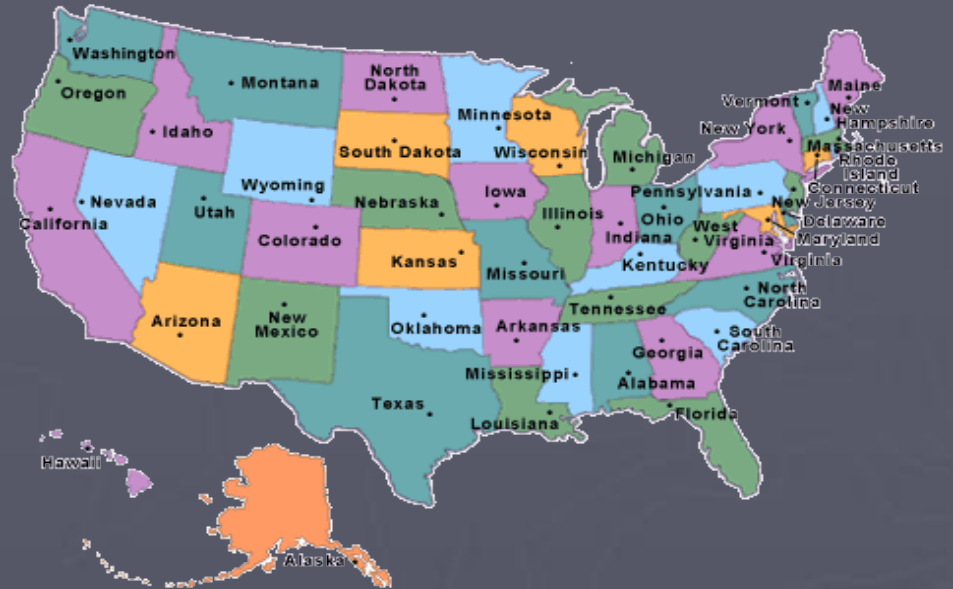
Anglo-America

- Mainly made up of countries of Canada and the United States of America
 - Many of the Caribbean islands as well as Belize
 - Named because of their connections to Great Britain, and their English style culture
 - Canada still part of British Commonwealth



The United States of America

- 50 States and the capital in Washington D.C.
 - Divided among different perceptual regions
 - Cultural and physical variations from region to region



Canada

- 10 provinces and 3 territories
 - Roughly 90% of Canadians live within 100 miles of the United States border
 - Northern territories sparsely populated
 - Large amount of Aboriginal population



One, Two, or Three Canadas?

- Heavy cultural difference between peoples of Canada
 - Canada has two official languages of French and English
 - Most of Canada speaks English
 - Quebec is large French area
 - Large aboriginal population
 - Especially in territories



Mexico and Central America

- Countries located on Isthmus connecting South America to United States
 - Mexico is largest in terms of size and population
 - Mexico further divided into 31 states
 - Primarily Spanish speaking areas
 - Long history of human settlement



The Panama Canal

- Originally opened Aug 15, 1914
- Exclusive US control of Panama Canal ended in 1979
 - Full operation of canal handed over to Panama in December 31, 1999



The Caribbean

- Over 700 islands scattered around the edge of the Caribbean sea
 - Divided between 13 independent countries and 17 territories
 - Territories owned by Netherlands, British, French, and United States
- Long history of colonization
 - First part of Americas reached by Spanish



Greenland

- Very limited population
 - Island is mostly covered in ice
 - Most cities located around edges
 - Large reliance on fishing
 - Population of around 56,000
 - Mostly indigenous
- Denmark dependency

