**GEOGRAPHY OF THE USA**

The United States of America represents a vast country and therefore its area is divided into 6 different regions. Each region is somehow specific; differences are found in surface characteristics, climactic conditions, density of population, and the characteristic features of the inhabitants of that particular area.

The six regions are as follows:

* **New England**
* **The Middle Atlantic**
* **The South**,
* **The Midwest**
* **The Southwest**,
* **The West**

**New England**

New England is located in the Northeast of the U.S.A. along the Atlantic Ocean. New England represents the most traditional states. The region consists of 6 New England’s climate with its change of four distinctive seasons is similar to that of Europe. Like every American region, New England also has its typical branches of industry. Since there is not enough good farmland, agriculture has not been so widespread in this region. The British influence is still to be found in the region; inhabitants speak a semi British accent characteristic by dropping the R’s in pronunciation (contrary to American English with its distinctive R sound).

**The Mid-Atlantic States**

The Mid-Atlantic States are probably the most important region of the U.S.A. Even though it occupies only 1.5% of the land area of the U.S., the total population is as high as 17%, which represents ca. 44 million people. The region stands out in the number of big cities it has; the 800 km long continuous chain of cities and their suburbs beginning north of Boston, and including N.Y.C., Philadelphia, Baltimore, and ending south in Washington, D. C., is referred to as Megalopolis. The Mid-Atlantic States are extremely cosmopolitan, since people of various nationalities and races have been coming to the region due to immigration; individual parts are inhabited by various national groups, e.g. the descendents of the Dutch in NY, or the grandchildren of Swedish immigrants in DE. ¨

**The South**

The coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, together with th e Appalachian Mountains followed by the Smoky Mountains and the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, represent significant geographic landmarks of the South. Temperatures vary from temperate (warm) to sub-tropical in the areas furthest south like Florida. Geography, terrain and the climate of the region make it an excellent area for agriculture. Original crops like tobacco or cotton have partly made way for peanuts, rice, sugarcane, or citrus fruits (FL). Apart from agriculture, other branches of economy are present in the South; some states are known for mining, and fishing.

**The Midwest**

The area of the Midwest can be divided into two sub-regions.

**1. Great Lakes States Proper**

This area is formed by three states directly on the Great Lakes. The surface of this part of the Midwest is diverse, ranging from forests, lakes, hills, or coastline to sand dunes.

**2. The Prairie States**

Unlike the Great Lakes States Proper, the land in the Prairie States is flat and agricultural.

In general, the population of the whole region is very small and many people prefer living on large farms to life in some of the very few cities.

**The Southwest**

The Southwest is characterized by large states (TX being the second largest in the U.S.) but the population is small; with the exception of a few major cities such as **Houston, Dallas, or L.A.,** people usually live in rural areas. Because of the hot and sunny weather, the Southwest is also called the **“Sun Belt”** of the U.S.A. The population of the region is very diverse; Whites, Blacks, Native Americans, Hispanics or Asian Americans live side by side.

**The West**

The West is situated along the Pacific coast of the U.S. and stretches between the ocean in the west and the Rocky Mountains in the east. Contrasts concern both terrain and climate – mountains, deserts as well as beaches can be found in the West and the weather is rather cool and rainy on the ocean while the deserts are hot and dry. Also, the West can be proud of its often unspoiled nature. Many national parks are located in the region. Probably the best-known of the parks is Yellowstone National Park with geysers, boiling mud-pots, or wildlife such as buffalo. Other parks include Glacier National Park in MT, or the Olympic Rainforest in WA.

**Použitá literatura**

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