

CHAPTER 6

The Regions of West Virginia

Studying the characteristics that define a place includes identifying, classifying, and analyzing the fifth theme of geography—regions. A **region** is an area defined by common characteristics, such as soil, vegetation, climate, landforms, recreation, and economic opportunities.

In Chapter 6, you will examine two types of regions. One is the geographic regions of West Virginia, and the second is the nine tourist regions as established by the state's Division of Tourism. Each geographic region is defined by physical factors, while each tourist region also includes unique recreational, historical, and cultural opportunities.

CHAPTER PREVIEW

TERMS

region, rural, urban, immigrant, plateau, tourist, artifacts, wildcatter

PLACES

Potomac Section region, Berkeley Springs, Allegheny Highlands region, Spruce Knob, Beckley, Helvetia, Allegheny Plateau region, New River, New River Gorge, Ohio River Valley region, Blennerhassett Island, Eastern Panhandle, Harpers Ferry, Harewood, the Trough, Augusta Heritage Center, Philippi, Newell, Oglebay Park, Harrisville, Point Pleasant, Matewan, Bramwell, Lewisburg

Above: West Virginia's natural beauty attracts visitors to the Mountain State.



Above: The Fairfax Stone marks the western border of the State of Maryland and the junction of Grant, Preston, and Tucker Counties in West Virginia. The original stone was destroyed by vandals in the 1800s. Today a boulder with a bronze plaque marks the spot.

SIGNS of the TIMES



GEOGRAPHY

POTOMAC SECTION REGION

Some say that Potomac means “place where people trade.”

The South Branch of the Potomac River lies completely within West Virginia except for its headwaters, which lie in Virginia.

Except for a small portion of its headwaters, the North Branch of the Potomac is located in Maryland.

The two branches of the Potomac River converge just east of Green Spring in Hampshire County.

ALLEGHENY HIGHLANDS REGION

The Allegheny Highlands region is part of the Appalachian Mountain Range.

Besides Spruce Knob (4,863 feet), other high points in the region include Thorny Flat (Cheat Mountain) at 4,848 feet; Bald Knob (Black Allegheny Mountain) at 4,842 feet; and Mount Porte Crayon at 4,770 feet. The Allegheny Mountains are mostly sandstone.

ALLEGHENY PLATEAU REGION

Typical elevations in the Allegheny Plateau range from 200 to 400 feet, although there are some elevations higher than this.

The Allegheny Plateau slopes west toward the Ohio River.

The largest cities in the Allegheny Plateau include Charleston, Fairmont, Morgantown, and Clarksburg.

OHIO RIVER VALLEY REGION

Thirty West Virginia communities are located along the Ohio River.

The word Ohio has been translated as “white foaming water” or “river of whitecaps.”

The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge is home to more than 130 species of birds, including 35 species of waterbirds, and over 50 species of fish.

The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge contains all or part of 38 islands, all but 9 of which are located in West Virginia.

WEST VIRGINIA TOURISM

Tourist spending in West Virginia: \$4.1 billion

State and local tax revenues from tourism: \$527 million

Jobs in West Virginia tourism: 45,000



Reading Maps

DEFINING THE SKILL

A map provides information in a graphic manner. There are many types of maps, including topographical, physical/political, historical, and satellite. Some common forms of maps found in textbooks focus on climate, weather regions, movement, transportation routes, distance, waterways, and natural resources.

To properly read a map, you should

- look at the title to determine the subject or purpose;
- determine the type of information it displays;
- look at the key or legend to determine the meaning of symbols or colors;
- look at the scale and compass rose to determine distance and direction.

PRACTICING THE SKILL

Chapters 5 and 6 contain a number of West Virginia maps. Look at Map 6.1 on page 232.

1. What is the subject of the map?
2. What type of information is displayed on the map?
3. Is there a legend? If so, what does it indicate?
4. According to the map, what natural or man-made features form West Virginia's western boundary?
5. According to the map, what forms West Virginia's southern boundary?
6. According to the map, what state lies to the north of West Virginia?

Now, create one or more questions about the regions on the map.



SECTION 1

Geographic Regions of West Virginia



As you read, look for

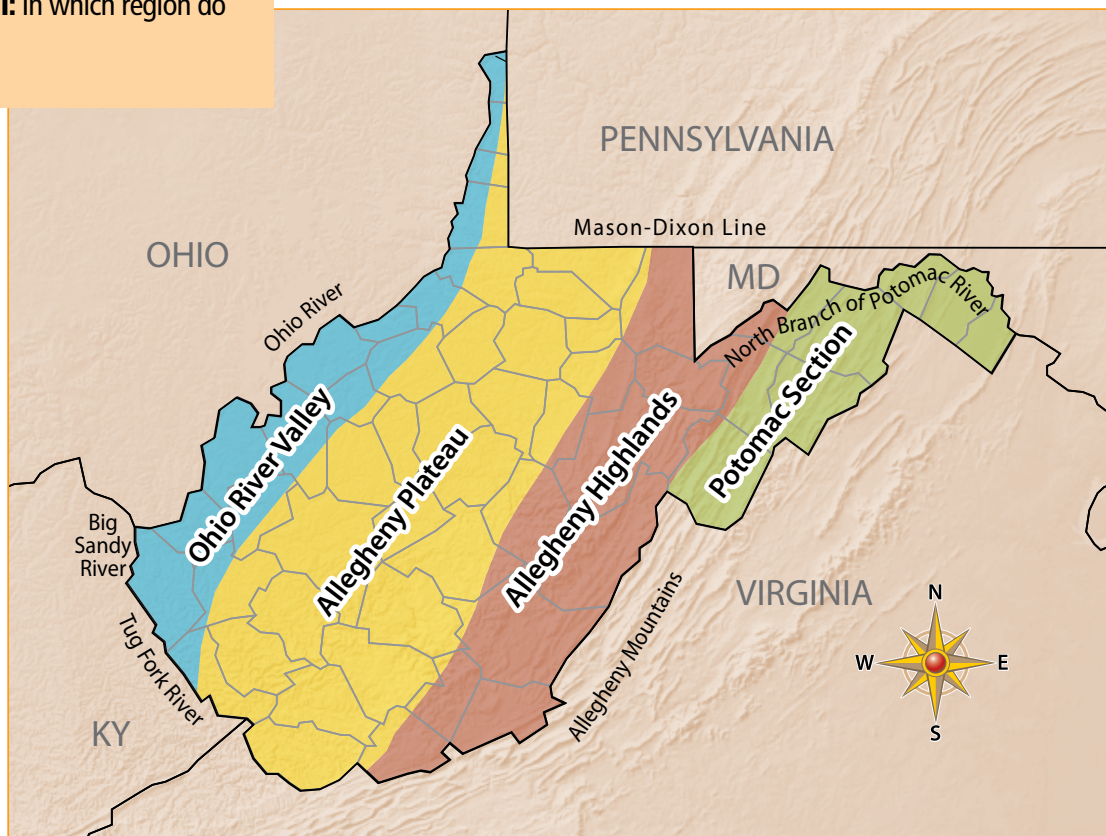
- characteristics of the Potomac Section region;
- characteristics of the Allegheny Highlands region;
- characteristics of the Allegheny Plateau region;
- characteristics of the Ohio River Valley region;
- terms: **rural, urban, immigrant, plateau.**

From east to west, the four geographic regions of West Virginia are the Potomac Section, the Allegheny Highlands, the Allegheny Plateau, and the Ohio River Valley. Each of these regions is named for some physical feature that defines it. The Ohio River, for example, provides the western border of the counties that are found in the Ohio River Valley region. The Potomac River plays an important role in the Potomac Section region. The Allegheny Mountains define two regions that are distinguished by their elevation.

Map 6.1

West Virginia's Geographic Regions

Map Skill: In which region do you live?



Potomac Section Region

The Potomac Section, the first region settled by Europeans in western Virginia, contains the area of the eastern panhandle. The region slopes upward from the Valley of Virginia in the east to the Allegheny Highlands in the west. Characterized by gently rolling farmland, the region could be considered **rural** (country-like) by many standards. Its location, only fifty-five miles from Washington, DC, has made it a haven for **urban** (of or like a city or town) workers seeking a slower-paced lifestyle.

The boundaries of the Potomac Section are both natural and man-made. The Potomac River forms the northern border of the region. The Fairfax Stone, located at the headwaters of the North Branch of the Potomac River, originally marked the boundary of land given to Lord Fairfax by the king of England in the 1700s. Citing a land grant given to Lord Baltimore, the state of Maryland disputed the boundary. In 1912, nearly two hundred years after the original stone was placed, the U.S. Supreme Court settled the dispute when it sided with the State of West Virginia. The Fairfax Stone marks not only the western border of the State of Maryland, but also the junction of Grant, Preston, and Tucker Counties in West Virginia.

Because of its limestone base, the soil of this region produces excellent grass for livestock (cattle and sheep). The rich soil has also produced bountiful peach and apple orchards. Many of the region's apples come from a place descriptively named Apple Pie Ridge.

Another natural feature that characterizes the Potomac Section is its warm springs. The springs maintain a constant temperature of 74°F. For hundreds of years, they have been known for their curative powers and health benefits. The famous waters go by the name Berkeley Springs, which today also identifies the town where they are located.

something
extra!



The original Fairfax Stone was destroyed by vandals in the 1880s. It was replaced by a concrete marker in 1910. Today, a boulder with a bronze plaque marks the spot.



Above: Many farms in the Potomac Section produce livestock and poultry.

something extra!



In the southern Appalachians, the highest point on a ridge is often referred to as a “knob” or “dome.”

Allegheny Highlands Region

West of the Potomac Section lies the more mountainous Allegheny Highlands region. It was the Allegheny Highlands that gave West Virginia its nickname, the “Mountain State.” The region forms the dividing line between eastern and western West Virginia. The actual divide is along the Allegheny Front.

This rugged region contains the highest point in the state—Spruce Knob—which is 4,863 feet above sea level. Several other peaks in the area are over 4,000 feet.

The Allegheny Highlands is rich in natural beauty. About 185 million years ago, thick sheets of sedimentary rocks began to buckle and fold. This was followed by the gradual erosion of the mountains, which created rolling plains. The plains were ultimately lifted up and broken as well. Slow-moving rivers began to rush and rage, cutting deep gorges and canyons throughout the area. Spruce Knob, Peter’s Mountain, Pinnacle Rock, and Seneca Rocks, as well as Smoke Hole, Seneca, and Lost World Caverns are some of the natural wonders in this region. The Dolly Sods area with its unusual one-sided spruce trees is another unique natural area. No motorized vehicles, bicycles, or other wheeled vehicles are allowed in the wilderness areas that have been set aside to preserve the primitive character of the lands.



Above: The mountainous landscape of the Allegheny Highlands region gave West Virginia its nickname, the “Mountain State.”

The Allegheny Highlands region has remained sparsely populated. The state's two largest counties in area—Randolph and Greenbrier—are located here. But the region boasts only one of the state's ten largest cities—Beckley. **Immigrants** (people who move into a new country to settle there) from Switzerland and Germany originally settled much of the region. Helvetia is a living tribute to these early settlers. Established in 1869, the small community's name is Latin for "Switzerland." Determined to preserve Old World traditions, a few residents wanted to make Helvetia a living example of its past. Today, residents engage in cheese making and folk dancing, and the Beekeeper Inn and Hutte Restaurant are open year-round to accommodate visitors. The growth of the timber and coal industries in the late 1800s and early 1900s brought immigrants from southern and eastern Europe.



something
extra!

The New River may be the second-oldest river in the world, between 10 and 360 million years old.

Allegheny Plateau Region

West of the Highlands is the Allegheny Plateau region. The dictionary defines a **plateau** as "an elevated tract of more or less level land." The Allegheny Plateau once consisted of layers of solid rock. Running water has cut seams into the rock, forming gorges and canyons. The New River once flowed across the high plateau. Over time, the river gradually eroded the ground under it and formed the deep New River Gorge.

For centuries, people searched for ways to cross the New River Gorge. Crossing the gorge generally meant following Indian paths, riding ferries, or carefully winding down narrow mountain roads. The completion of the New River Gorge Bridge on October 22, 1977, reduced a drive of forty minutes down narrow mountain roads to one lasting less than one minute. The four-lane bridge has the world's fourth-longest single-arch steel span. (The longest single-arch steel span is the Chaotianmen Bridge in Shanghai, China.) The New River Gorge Bridge is the third-highest bridge in the United States, behind the Royal Gorge Bridge in Colorado and the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, which spans the Colorado River on the border of Nevada and Arizona.

Above: The New River Gorge Bridge was completed in 1977.

Bottom: The dome of West Virginia's state Capitol, designed by Cass Gilbert, is covered in 14-karat gold leaf.

The Fayette Plateau offers spectacular views of the prehistoric, boulder-strewn New River hundreds of feet below. Storytellers relate how Indian scout Mad Anne Bailey rode across this route seeking help in 1788. As the legend goes, she rode her horse off Hawks Nest cliff to escape her Indian pursuers. Today, visitors to Hawks Nest State Park can ride a tram down the wall of the gorge to the water's edge.

Rivers are an important resource in the Allegheny Plateau. Besides the part they played in the geographic formation of the region, the Cheat, Tygart, New, and Gauley Rivers offer a range of rafting opportunities from gentle to wild.

The Allegheny Plateau region has a variety of other natural resources. The Plateau contains beds of limestone, sandstone, and shale. Important deposits of coal, oil, natural gas, and salt provided the materials for industrial development.

The region also has a rich ethnic diversity. The growth of the mining industry attracted a number of immigrants, including Italians, Belgians, Czechs, Greeks, Hungarians, Irish, Romanians, and Spaniards. Of all these groups, the Italians were possibly the most prominent. Today, nearly one-quarter of the population of Clarksburg is of Italian descent. The influence of Native Americans is also evident in the Allegheny Plateau. Kanawha, Logan, and Mingo Counties bear Indian names. *Kanawha* loosely translated means "the place of white stone" or, to the Shawnee, "river of evil spirits." Logan County was named for a Mingo chief whose family was killed by a band of white men.

Some of West Virginia's largest cities are located in the Allegheny Plateau region, including West Virginia's capital city, Charleston. The state's Capitol, with its gilded dome, is one of the most beautiful in the United States.



Ohio River Valley Region

The Ohio River Valley region lies along the Ohio River. It stretches from the northern panhandle to the Big Sandy River in the south. Cities along the river include Wellsburg, Wheeling, Sistersville, St. Marys, Williamstown, Parkersburg, Ravenswood, Point Pleasant, and Huntington.

The Ohio River dominates the area and offers a variety of recreational opportunities to those who live in or visit the region. For example, a series of islands in the Ohio River along the West Virginia border are home to unique and rare varieties of aquatic (water) birds, animals, and plants. The area from the northern panhandle to below Parkersburg is known as the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. There are several wildlife management areas in the Ohio River Valley, including centers in Pleasants, Ritchie, Wetzel, and Mason Counties.

The Ohio River also helped the area become a major manufacturing center for glass, steel, and textiles. Glass is one of the area's best-known industries. Perhaps the most famous of the glass companies is Blenko Glass, found in Cabell County.

The northern panhandle became an important steel-producing area. The first iron furnace west of the Alleghenies was built on King's Creek in Hancock County. Good transportation made it possible to import iron ore from Minnesota to be used with West Virginia coal to make steel.

West Virginia's first capital was located in this region. The United States Custom House in Wheeling, built in 1859, became the headquarters for the Restored Government of the State of Virginia after Virginia seceded from the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War. Wheeling remained the capital for a short time after West Virginia became a state in 1863.



something
extra!

Today the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge consists of twenty-two islands and three mainland properties.

Below: Blenko Glass has produced hand-blown products in Milton since 1922.

Reviewing the Section

Reviewing the Content

1. What was the first area in western Virginia to be settled?
2. Where is the dividing line between eastern and western West Virginia?
3. In what region is West Virginia's largest county in area?

Using the Content

Write a letter to a fictitious friend who lives in a region other than your own. Tell the friend what your region has to offer.

Extending the Literacy Skill

Look at Map 6.1 on page 232. Which geographic region contains all or part of the largest number of counties?

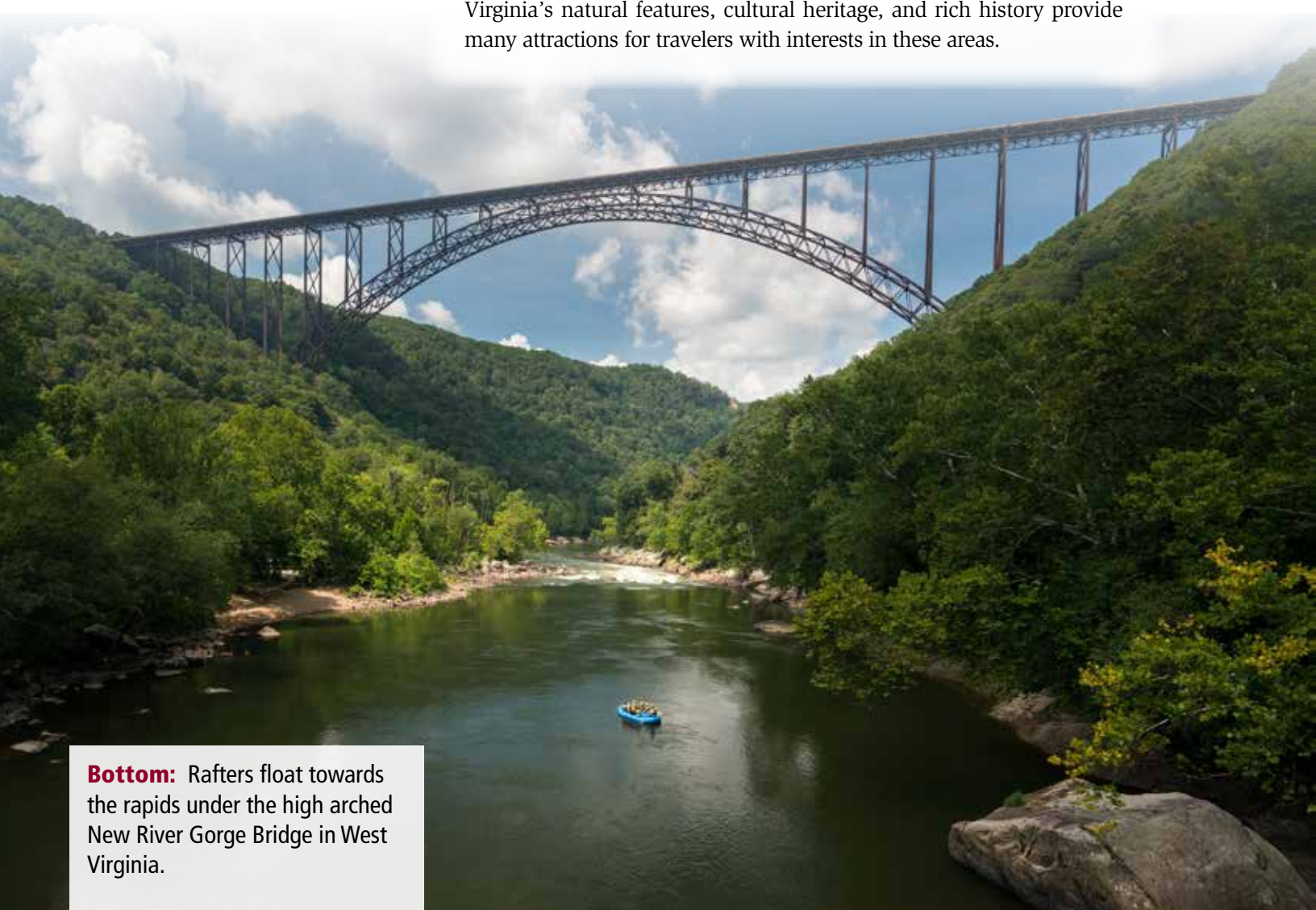
SECTION 2

Tourist Regions of West Virginia

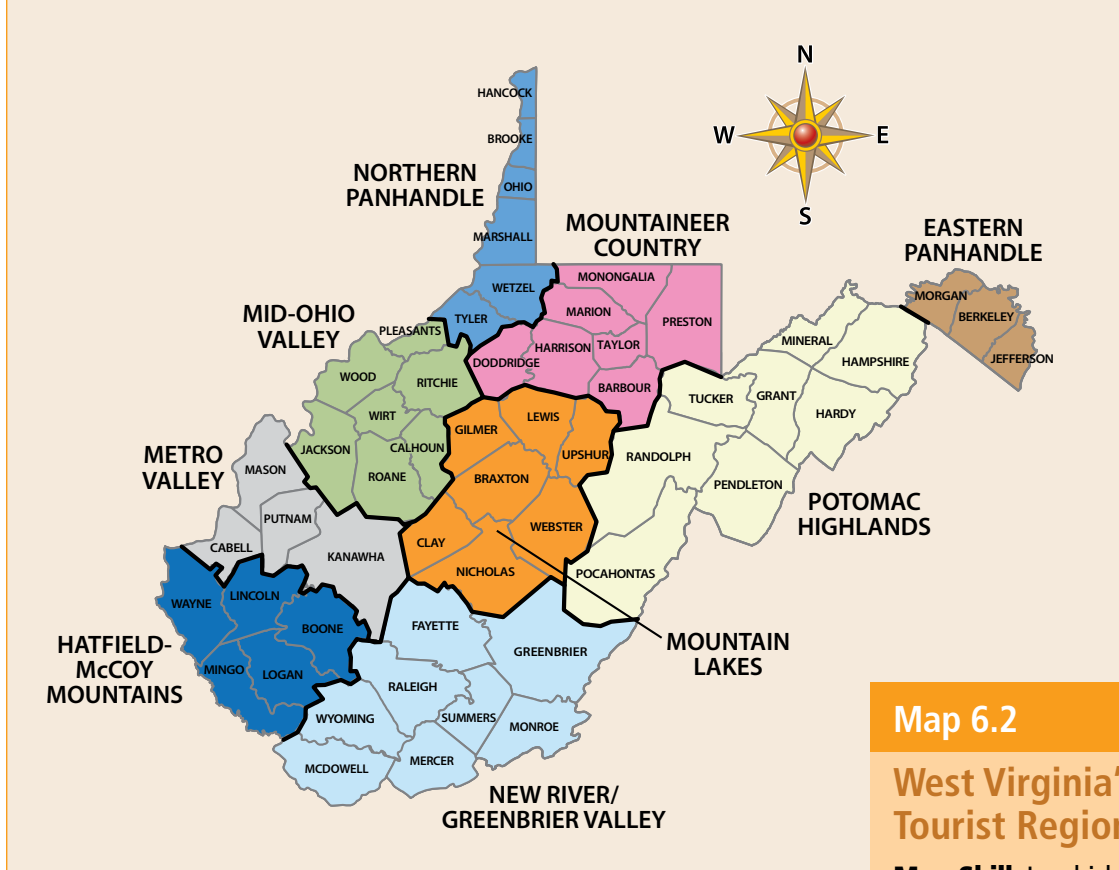
As you read, look for

- categories of tourism;
- names of the nine tourist regions;
- examples of tourist attractions in each region;
- terms: **tourist**, **artifacts**, **wildcatter**.

Tourism has a major economic impact on West Virginia. A **tourist** is someone who travels away from home to another place and who does not plan to stay permanently in the new location. Tourist activities can include outdoor adventure, sightseeing, and culture and history. West Virginia's natural features, cultural heritage, and rich history provide many attractions for travelers with interests in these areas.



Bottom: Rafters float towards the rapids under the high arched New River Gorge Bridge in West Virginia.



Map 6.2
West Virginia's Tourist Regions
Map Skill: In which tourist region do you live?

Skiing, caving, rock climbing, white-water rafting, cycling, snowboarding, golfing, boating, camping, and walking attract those who want active outdoor adventure. West Virginia’s scenery is superb, and visitors can enjoy its beauty while traveling along the state’s many back roads or on a preplanned self-guided driving tour. There are hundreds of fairs and festivals celebrating the state’s culture, history, and economic development. And, finally, some tourists travel to a specific destination, such as a resort, spa, state park, shopping mall, or sports event. According to surveys, some of West Virginia’s most popular tourist destinations include the New River Gorge Bridge, Summersville Lake, Harpers Ferry, Canaan Valley, Tamarack, and the state’s four racetracks and gaming centers.

The Division of Tourism has divided West Virginia into nine tourist regions. These are Eastern Panhandle, Potomac Highlands, Mountain Lakes, Mountaineer Country, Northern Panhandle, Mid-Ohio Valley, Metro Valley, Hatfield-McCoy Mountains, and New River/Greenbrier Valley. Each region has its own distinct characteristics, interesting places to visit, and recreational opportunities.

Eastern Panhandle Tourist Region

West Virginia history begins in the Eastern Panhandle tourist region. The counties that make up the Eastern Panhandle—Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan—are close to eastern Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. The land varies from mountains in the north to rolling hills and gentle valleys in the south. This region has the fastest-growing population in the state. People move from big cities in the East to this rural, scenic land where the pace of life is slower and more relaxing.

German Influence in Shepherdstown

The Germans were among the first to explore and settle in western Virginia. Most of them came from an area of the southern Rhine River Valley called the Palatinate. In this region, poorer residents were persecuted for their religious beliefs and were heavily taxed. Invading armies destroyed crops and homes there, and natural disasters created hardships. The extremely harsh winter of 1708-1709 killed vegetation and livestock, and a famine of 1740-1741 caused starvation.

William Penn visited the Palatinate in 1682 and inspired thirteen German families to settle in Pennsylvania. They arrived in October 1683 and founded Germantown. As more immigrants came, good land became scarce, so newer immigrants started moving southward, eventually coming to what is now West Virginia's eastern panhandle.

The first European to see the Shenandoah Valley was John Lederer, who was sent by Governor Alexander Spotswood in 1669 to explore the area. The first German settler in the valley, Adam Miller (also spelled Muller and Mueller), arrived between 1726 and 1727. In 1727, a small group of pioneers formed a settlement they named New Mecklenburg after their region of Germany. The town was renamed Mecklenburg in 1762, Shepherd's Town in 1798, and Shepherdstown after the Civil War.

After worshipping for several years in public buildings and private homes, residents founded Christ Church (later Christ Reformed Church) in 1747. In the beginning, it shared its crude log structure and bell tower with Lutherans and Presbyterians. By 1782, the congregation had built a larger, more formal log church. It also shared that building with the Lutherans and Presbyterians until 1795, when all three churches finally had separate buildings.

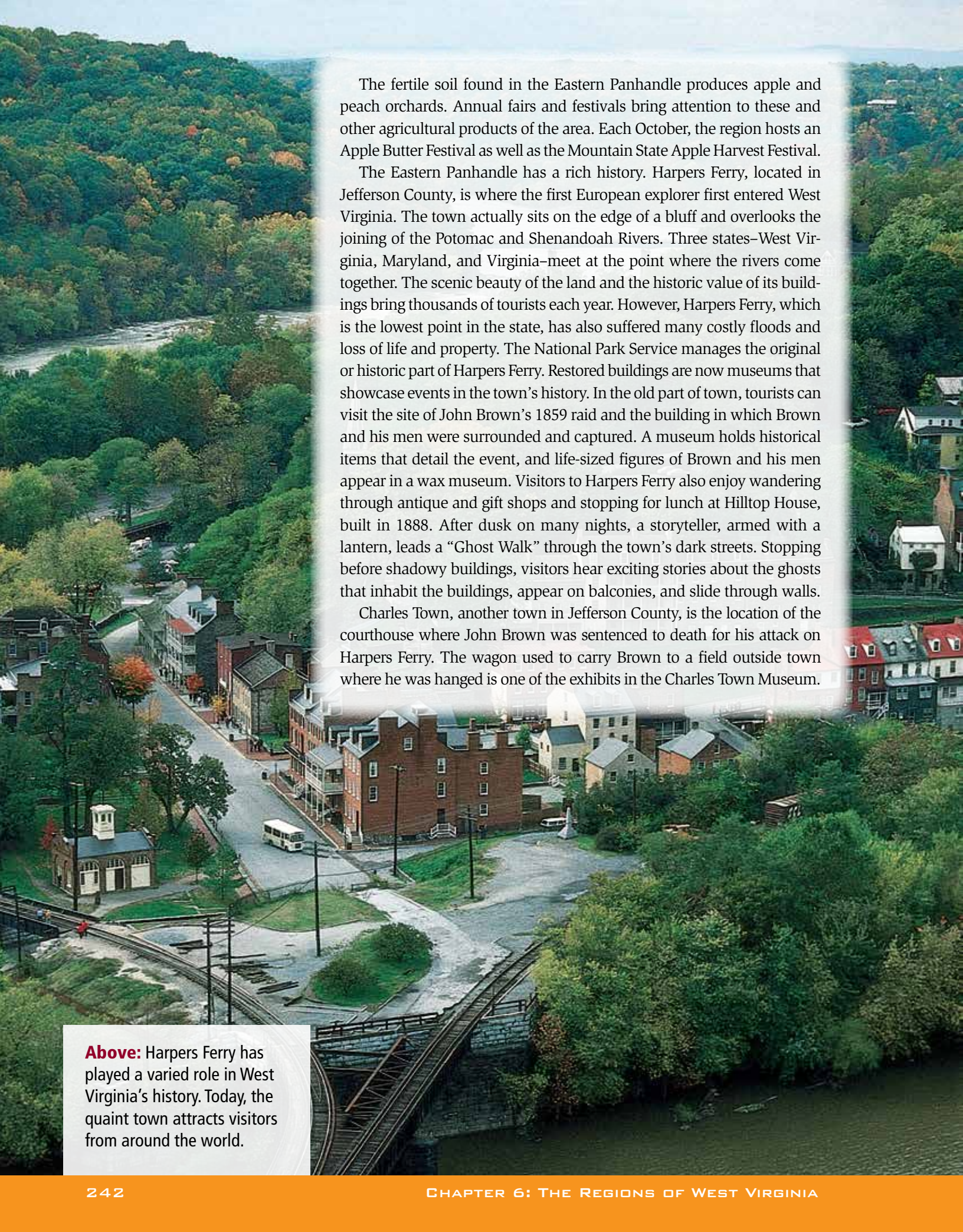
The Lutherans built across the street from Christ Reformed. The churches alternated worship time, so members could attend both services. In 1839, Christ Reformed Church completed its present two-story brick building, which was constructed around the original stone bell tower. A new Lutheran church (St. Peter's), built in 1908, included a church bell from 1879 and an escutcheon (a shield bearing a coat of arms) made in 1795, which was placed on the tower door where it remains today. Its cornerstone was laid on November 10, the anniversary of Martin Luther's birth.





Today, with a main street called German Street and a town museum full of German crafts, it is hard to miss Shepherdstown's German heritage. The town has maintained that heritage by preserving historic inns and opening new ones. Many of the town's buildings are more than 250 years old and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many serve the same purpose today that they did nearly 300 years ago. According to the 2010 Census, 30 percent of Jefferson County's residents declared German ancestry. Perhaps this high percentage has helped preserve the culture of Shepherdstown's earliest settlers.





The fertile soil found in the Eastern Panhandle produces apple and peach orchards. Annual fairs and festivals bring attention to these and other agricultural products of the area. Each October, the region hosts an Apple Butter Festival as well as the Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival.

The Eastern Panhandle has a rich history. Harpers Ferry, located in Jefferson County, is where the first European explorer first entered West Virginia. The town actually sits on the edge of a bluff and overlooks the joining of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Three states—West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia—meet at the point where the rivers come together. The scenic beauty of the land and the historic value of its buildings bring thousands of tourists each year. However, Harpers Ferry, which is the lowest point in the state, has also suffered many costly floods and loss of life and property. The National Park Service manages the original or historic part of Harpers Ferry. Restored buildings are now museums that showcase events in the town's history. In the old part of town, tourists can visit the site of John Brown's 1859 raid and the building in which Brown and his men were surrounded and captured. A museum holds historical items that detail the event, and life-sized figures of Brown and his men appear in a wax museum. Visitors to Harpers Ferry also enjoy wandering through antique and gift shops and stopping for lunch at Hilltop House, built in 1888. After dusk on many nights, a storyteller, armed with a lantern, leads a "Ghost Walk" through the town's dark streets. Stopping before shadowy buildings, visitors hear exciting stories about the ghosts that inhabit the buildings, appear on balconies, and slide through walls.

Charles Town, another town in Jefferson County, is the location of the courthouse where John Brown was sentenced to death for his attack on Harpers Ferry. The wagon used to carry Brown to a field outside town where he was hanged is one of the exhibits in the Charles Town Museum.

Above: Harpers Ferry has played a varied role in West Virginia's history. Today, the quaint town attracts visitors from around the world.

Southwest of Charles Town, George Washington first saw the wooded hills and valleys of this beautiful land when he was 16 years old. Over the next few years, he claimed over 2,300 acres of land and encouraged others in his family to do the same. The homes his brothers, Samuel and Charles, built in the 1770s remain beautiful and stately today. One of these homes, Harewood, was the site of the wedding of President James Madison and Dolley Payne Madison.

Shepherdstown lies northeast of Charles Town on the Potomac River and claims to be the oldest town in West Virginia. Many of the town's preserved buildings are over 250 years old. The city's scenic beauty and historic importance have attracted artists, writers, musicians, and scholars. Supporters of James Rumsey as the first inventor of the steamboat have built a monument and a museum to honor his memory. Shepherd University, founded in 1871, brings together students from all over the eastern part of the nation.

Berkeley County, which lies northwest of Jefferson County, includes the largest city in the Eastern Panhandle—Martinsburg. The Morgan cabin, which was built in 1734 by West Virginia's first permanent settler, is located just eight miles south of Martinsburg. Most of the original cabin has been restored and is now a living history museum. During the Revolutionary War, one of Colonel Morgan's grandsons who supported the American colonies was captured by British supporters and executed in front of his family outside the cabin.

Below: The Morgan Morgan Cabin was restored in 1976 using many of the original logs.





Several historic homes are located in Martinsburg. General Adam Stephen began building his house in 1774 but stopped when he left to serve as a surgeon in the Revolutionary War. When General Stephen returned home, he finished building his house. Another popular home is that of Belle Boyd, who was a Confederate spy during the Civil War. A beautiful and daring girl, she dated Union soldiers to get information from them about troop movements and numbers. Belle told their secrets to Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. She was arrested twice, but talked her way out of danger. After the war, she married a Union soldier and became a stage actress. Her home is now a museum.

Above: The childhood home of Belle Boyd is part of the Civil War Discovery Trail. **Below:** Bathing in the waters at Berkeley Springs has been popular since the days of George Washington.

Morgan is the final county in the Eastern Panhandle. The county seat, Berkeley Springs, was originally called Bath because of the healing mineral springs found there. People came to Bath over 200 years ago to lie in the warm waters of the natural spring that came flowing out of the ground at the foot of a hill. Today’s visitors can relax in a steam bath in the 200-year-old building that is the oldest public building in the county. The first spa (health resort) in North America was developed by James Rumsey in Morgan County. Today, a three-month Winter Festival of the Waters celebrates the healing power of water.



Another unique Morgan County attraction is Berkeley Castle. Colonel Samuel Taylor Suit began building the large, hand-cut stone castle in 1885 as a wedding gift for his young bride. The elderly colonel died soon after. The young widow quickly spent all of his money on lavish parties, expensive clothing, and jewels. Berkeley Castle stood deserted and empty for years. Today, it is open to tourists.

Many opportunities for outdoor recreation also exist in the Eastern Panhandle. State parks, including Cacapon and Berkeley Springs, and wildlife management areas attract many visitors. Additionally, the Shenandoah River offers white-water rafting for sports enthusiasts.

Potomac Highlands Tourist Region

Southwest of the Eastern Panhandle lies the Potomac Highlands. This large region includes eight counties: Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, and Tucker. However, the population in this part of the state is small. In the rural setting, cattle graze in the fields, and deer, bears, groundhogs, raccoons, foxes, and colorful birds are often sighted. Fields of corn and vegetables, woodland, and open land cover most of the area. Moorefield, the county seat of Hardy County, is known as the poultry capital of West Virginia.

The main street in Romney, the county seat of Hampshire County, is lined with lovely old homes. One of these homes served as Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's headquarters during the Civil War. At Romney, visitors can board the *Potomac Eagle* for a trip through the long, deep valley of the South Branch of the Potomac River. Along the steep hills of this valley, American bald eagles make their homes. This wild, rugged country is a safe and sheltered place for eagles, as well as for hawks, deer, bears, and beavers.

Below: White-water rafting on the Shenandoah River is a popular activity in the Eastern Panhandle Tourist Region.

Bottom: From Maryland Heights, one has a panoramic view of Harpers Ferry, where the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers come together.





something extra!

The Monongahela National Forest consists of over 919,000 acres in ten different counties.



Top Right: Jennings Randolph Lake was named for one of West Virginia’s senators. **Above:** Seneca Rocks is one of the most popular rock climbing areas in the East.

Jennings Randolph Lake, which covers 1,000 acres, is located near Keyser, the county seat of Mineral County. Good fishing, camping, and hiking attract nature lovers to this wilderness area.

Most of the land in this mountainous area is rugged, with deep valleys, roaring rivers, caves, and waterfalls. Many of the state’s parks are located here. The Monongahela National Forest and the state parks cover over a million acres. Some of the finest ski slopes in the eastern United States are also found in the Potomac Highlands. White-water rafting, canoeing, hiking, and hunting attract thousands of tourists to this wild and unspoiled region. Huge jutting rock formations, such as Seneca Rocks and Spruce Knob in Pendleton County, challenge serious rock climbers. Resorts and conference centers—Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls, Timberline, Snowshoe, and Silver Creek—offer skiing, golfing, and other facilities for families on vacation as well as for large group meetings.

Elkins, in Randolph County, is the largest city in population in the Potomac Highlands. When the railroad first entered this area in 1889, industries such as timber and coal developed. The coal industry is gone today, but wood products are still important. Much of the region is still forested, under the protection of the Monongahela National Forest. The Augusta Heritage Festival in the summer and the Mountain State Forest Festival in the fall attract musicians, storytellers, artists, craftspeople, and thousands of tourists to Elkins. The Forest Festival honors the importance of the timber industry in West Virginia. With these festivals, people celebrate their mountain heritage. Davis & Elkins College is home to the Augusta Heritage Center, which offers classes each summer in the arts, music, and folklore of West Virginia’s mountain and ethnic cultures.

South of Elkins, in Pocahontas County, is the Cass Scenic Railroad. Built to carry huge trees from the lumber camps, the rail line now operates for tourists who want to experience the “olden days” of rail travel. Cass Railroad uses antique, coal-burning engines to pull flatcars full of visitors. Smoke, soot, and cinders belch from the smokestacks as the old engines chug up the steep mountain grades. The town of Cass has restored the train station, general store, and a museum building.

Mountain Lakes Tourist Region


The Mountain Lakes region is located in the center of West Virginia. The seven counties making up this area are Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, Lewis, Nicholas, Upshur, and Webster. As you might guess, the many lakes gave the region its name. Five of West Virginia’s major lakes—Burnsville, Stonecoal, Stonewall Jackson, Summersville, and Sutton—are located here. The rivers provide excellent fishing, camping, and white-water boating opportunities. There are also eight wildlife management areas in the region. The West Virginia Wildlife Center in Upshur County is a game preserve for elk, bears, wolves, mountain lions, bison, deer, and many smaller animals. Visitors can watch as these animals roam the fenced area.

State parks, including Holly River State Park in Hacker Valley, Audra State Park in Buckhannon, and Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park in Nicholas County, provide outdoor activities and historical points of interest to both families and tourists. Visitors looking for bargains enjoy shopping at the Factory Outlet Mall in Flatwoods (Braxton County). Visitors to the region can also purchase locally made glass at Appalachian Glass in Lewis County.



something
extra!

Record muskellunge, also known as muskie, have been caught in Stonecoal Lake, including one caught in 2007 that measured 52.7 inches!



Bottom: Stonecoal Lake, a 550-acre fishing mecca, is located in Lewis and Upshur Counties between Weston and Buckhannon.

The Mountain Lakes region is home to several festivals. In Buckhannon, the annual Strawberry Festival is a favorite attraction in June. Nearby Lewis County has the annual Jackson’s Mill Jubilee. This festival brings thousands of visitors to hear mountain music, sample local foods, buy arts and crafts, and enjoy groups of Civil War reenactors (people dressed in costumes who stage “battles” between northern and southern troops). The Jubilee is held at Jackson’s Mill Historic Area, the boyhood home of Stonewall Jackson. To celebrate the presence of the lumber industry in the area, Webster Springs hosts a World Championship Woodchopping Contest over the Memorial Day weekend. The West Virginia Folk Festival is held in Gilmer County.

Mountaineer Country Tourist Region

Seven counties—Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor—make up the Mountaineer Country region. This region is rich in history, but it is also the location of a number of high-tech businesses.

In Philippi in Barbour County, visitors can see a covered bridge that was the scene of the first land battle of the Civil War. The bridge was built in 1852 but was damaged by fire in 1989. It has been rebuilt and continues to carry modern traffic across the Tygart Valley River.

Taylor County is home to the International Mother’s Day Shrine. On the second Sunday in May, the population of Grafton increases as visitors come to take part in the yearly Mother’s Day celebration.

West Virginians enjoy fairs and festivals, and one of the “tastiest” is the Preston County Buckwheat Festival in Kingswood. The festival features pancakes made of buckwheat flour and topped with pure maple syrup, also made in West Virginia. Country sausage “on the side” makes this a delicious meal.



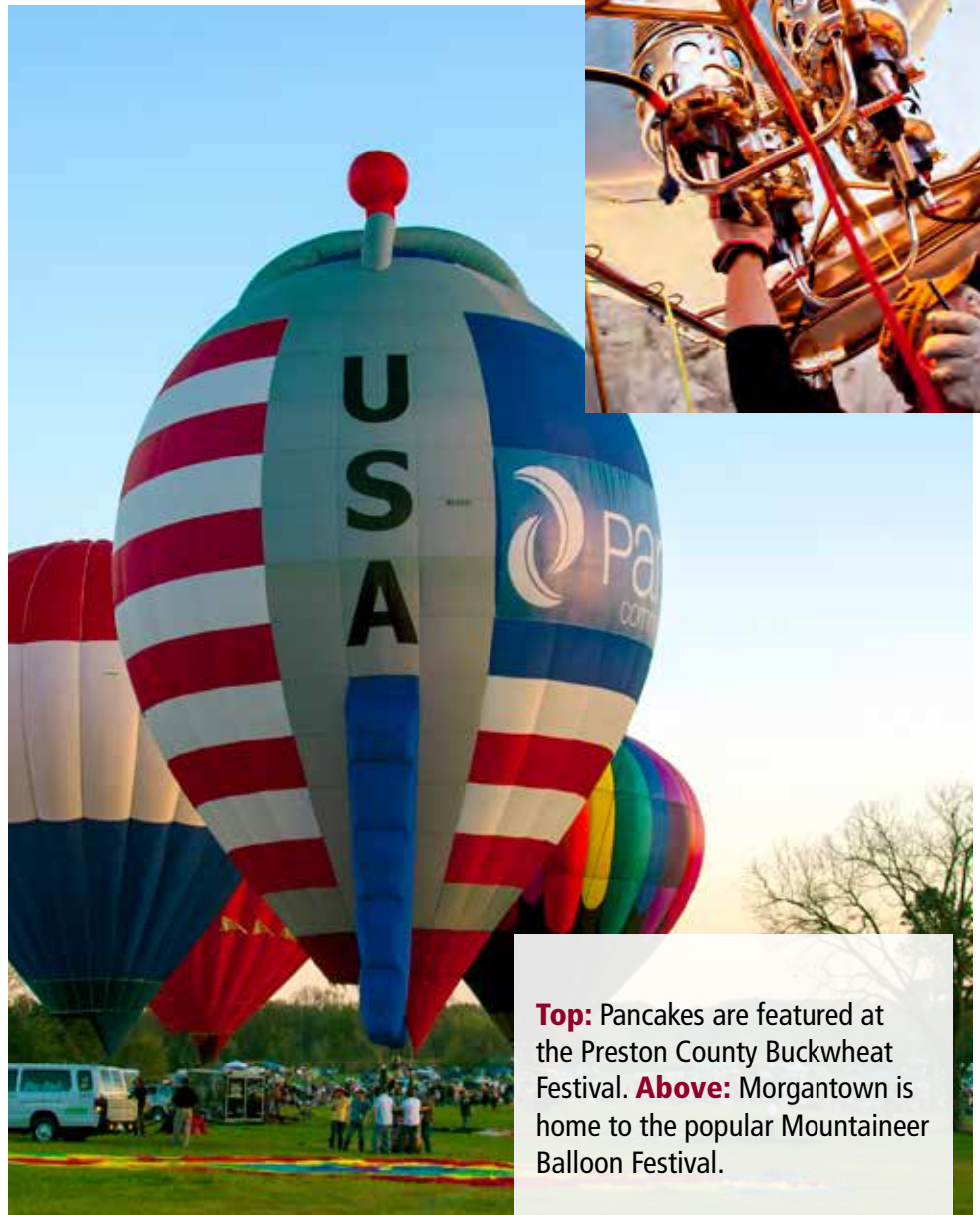
Above: The Philippi Bridge over the Tygart Valley River is the state’s oldest covered bridge.



Morgantown is well known as the home of West Virginia University. It is also the home of the Mountaineer Balloon Festival. The colorful hot air balloons, which are made of heavy nylon fabric, rise on a stream of air heated by propane gas tanks. Visitors stand in line to take a flight in these beautiful balloons. Ballooning has become a popular but expensive sport. Each balloon costs more than \$10,000. Some cost as much as \$30,000!

Near Morgantown, two reconstructed forts—Fort New Salem and Prickett’s Fort—provide visitors with a look at the life of the early settlers to our state. In the 1770s, settlers came to the forts when there was danger of Indian attacks. Today, interpreters dressed in colonial clothing demonstrate what life was like on the frontier. The early settlers made almost all their own tools, weapons, and clothing and grew or hunted all their food. The interpreters offer samples of colonial foods that they have cooked in large, open fireplaces. Tourists can visit the blacksmith and the gunsmith, who demonstrate how the tools and weapons they make are used. Women at the forts work at spinning wheels and looms as they spin thread and weave fabric for making cloth.

Immigrants from Italy and other European countries began arriving in Harrison County in the 1890s. Many of them were employed in coal mines and factories, but today most of those coal mines and many of the factories are closed. In the twenty-first century, the area is home to the high technology biometrics and biomolecular science industries. The descendants of the early immigrants, however, continue to make up a large part of the region’s population of skilled workers, teachers, doctors, merchants, and public officials. A number of festivals, including the annual Italian Heritage Festival, celebrate the diverse culture of the area.



Top: Pancakes are featured at the Preston County Buckwheat Festival. **Above:** Morgantown is home to the popular Mountaineer Balloon Festival.

something extra!



Hancock County, the smallest county in size, is also the northernmost county in West Virginia.

Northern Panhandle Tourist Region

The second of West Virginia's panhandles includes the northernmost counties in the state. These six counties include Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Tyler, and Wetzel.

Located in Hancock County, Chester and Newell are the state's northernmost cities. Newell is home to the Homer Laughlin China Company. Its colorful Fiesta dinnerware is sold in stores throughout the country. Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack & Resort is located between Chester and Weirton. The resort was originally a thoroughbred racetrack.

Brooke County is home to Bethany College, the oldest college in the state. Alexander Campbell established Bethany College in 1840, and it has operated continuously since then as a private college. Alexander Campbell, founder of the Church of Christ, lived in an impressive 25-room house, which has been restored and is open for tours.

Ohio County, the most populous county in the Northern Panhandle region, includes the city of Wheeling. Located on the mighty Ohio River, Wheeling was an early and important link to the western frontier. The earliest settlers built a fort there as protection from Indians. Wheeling became known as the "gateway to the West" as settlers traveled down the Ohio River or along the National Road. Wheeling became an important center for shipping, trading, and manufacturing. When West Virginia gained statehood in 1863, Wheeling became its first capital. The first capitol building of West Virginia—Independence Hall—is now a National Historic Landmark. This famous building has been restored and is open to the public.

Close to downtown Wheeling is Oglebay Park. Each year over a million visitors travel to Oglebay Park during the Christmas season to see the Festival of Lights. At dark each evening, the three hundred acres of park display lighted trees and glowing Christmas figures that light up the sky.

Above: The Madonna of the Trail statue, near Wheeling, honors the pioneer women who traveled west on what is now Route 40. **Right:** Grave Creek Mound is the largest conical mound in the United States.



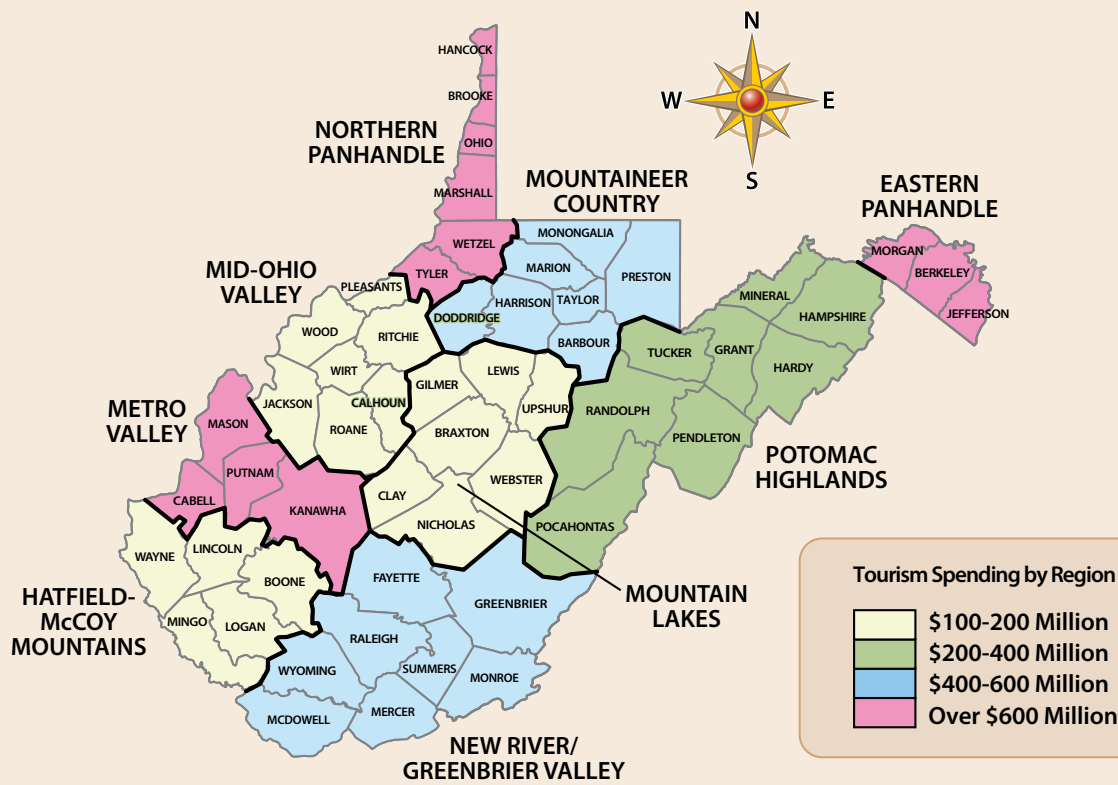
No visit to the Northern Panhandle would be complete without a stop in Moundsville in Marshall County. The huge Grave Creek Mound was built by the Early Woodland people who lived there over three thousand years ago. Scientists have found skeletons, pipes, bowls, tools, and jewelry buried in this 69-foot-high mound. These early hunters, the Adena people, disappeared, leaving no traces except for the artifacts that have been discovered. **Artifacts** (items left behind by ancient people) like those found in this mound have been discovered in several places in West Virginia. Across from the Grave Creek Mound is the old West Virginia Penitentiary. After a new prison was built in Mount Olive in Fayette County, the old prison became a tourist attraction. One of the most popular things to see is the old electric chair.

Tyler County is the site of one of the biggest “oil booms” in the eastern United States. In 1894, the “Big Moses” oil well began producing an enormous flow of oil and natural gas. Soon oil **wildcatters** (those who drill in untapped areas) were sinking wells in several counties in the Ohio River Valley and eastward into Marion, Harrison, and Lewis Counties. Those who struck oil became millionaires. The Wells Inn, founded by Ephraim Wells in 1894, was built shortly after the first discovery of oil in the area. This inn has kept its nineteenth-century charm while providing twenty-first-century comforts to its guests. In Sistersville, tourists can also see the only operating ferry (a boat that carries people and sometimes vehicles across a body of water) between Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

Wetzel County, named for frontiersman Lewis Wetzel, has a number of unique small towns, including the town of Hundred. Hundred was named for its first settlers, Henry Church and his wife, who lived to be 109 and 106 years of age respectively. People used to say, “There’s old Hundred,” when they saw Henry sitting in a rocking chair on his porch. The phrase described his age, but it soon became the name of the town.

Below: A field of derricks amid the town of Wallace, in Harrison County, circa 1910.





Map 6.3
Tourist Spending by Region, 2016
Map Skill: Which three tourist regions have generated the most money?

Mid-Ohio Valley Tourist Region

The Mid-Ohio Valley region is made up of Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood Counties. It has a number of small towns, but one of the largest cities in the state—Parkersburg—is also located here.

An interesting place to visit is Berdine’s Variety Store in Harrisville in Ritchie County. It may be the oldest five-and-ten-cent store in the United States. Here you can find old-time items that cannot be found anywhere else.

Parkersburg was an important frontier settlement for traders and travelers moving west. As the town grew, political leaders and prosperous merchants built fine homes. Elegant old mansions, as well as several fine museums, celebrate the town’s history as a river port and as a commercial center for the oil and gas industries. The Oil and Gas Museum is located in Parkersburg, and Burning Springs Park in Wirt County celebrates the oldest producing oil well in the world.



Bottom: Berdine’s Variety Store has been in continuous operation since 1908.



Visitors can take a ferry to Blennerhassett Island in the Ohio River. The exciting story of Blennerhassett brings visitors from around the world to see the splendid mansion on the island. In 1798, an Irish couple, Harman and Margaret Blennerhassett, settled on this uninhabited island and built a large and elegant mansion. People in this frontier wilderness had never seen such a home. The couple shipped in rich and beautiful furnishings and entertained famous guests from the East at lavish parties.

One of their guests, Aaron Burr, had been vice president of the United States. Burr was bitter at the government because he thought he had been treated badly. He asked his friend, Harman Blennerhassett, to invest money in his plan to move settlers into the western territory that was part of Mexico. Burr then planned to create his own country, far away from the United States. When the plan was discovered, both men were arrested. Harman was imprisoned, and Margaret and their children fled from the island. Later, Harman was released from prison, but by then his large fortune was gone. In 1811, the mansion burned to the ground, and Margaret and Harman left the area. Today, the mansion has been rebuilt. Visitors can tour the home, which is furnished with fine antiques. In a flower garden near the mansion is buried one of the Blennerhassett children who died in 1804 at the age of two. The sad story of the Blennerhassett family is presented in an outdoor drama each summer on the island.

Above: This stern-wheeler carries visitors across the Ohio River to Blennerhassett Island. **Below:** The Blennerhassett Mansion is the focal point of the island.



Below: The Point Pleasant Battle Monument is a tribute to the battle fought there on October 10, 1774.

Wood County is known for two family-owned businesses, Fenton Glass and Holl's Chocolates. Fenton Glass was founded by two brothers—Frank and John Fenton—in 1905. It was the largest manufacturer of handmade colored glass in the United States. The company was still owned by members of the Fenton family when it celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2005. Due to a bad economy, the company stopped manufacturing art glass in 2011. Holl's Chocolates was founded in Vienna by Fritz Holl in 1986. Holl had trained as a chocolate maker in Switzerland in 1938 and came to the United States in 1958 to work for Broughton Foods. After retiring from Broughton, he decided to make chocolate and began the family business. The company uses raw chocolate imported from the Alps to make its products. Today, the business is more like a gathering place where customers go to socialize, drink coffee, and sample bits of chocolate concoctions.

There are a number of fairs and festivals held in the Mid-Ohio Valley region. The Mountain State Arts and Crafts Fair is held in Jackson County. The Black Walnut Festival and Heritage Days are held in Roane County.

There is a Quilters Getaway at North Bend State Park in Ritchie County, and the West Virginia Honey Festival is held in Parkersburg.

Metro Valley Tourist Region

The Metro Valley is the most populated tourist region in the state. Four counties—Cabell, Kanawha, Mason, and Putnam—make up this region.

In Mason County, visitors can tour Point Pleasant Battle Monument Park. Point Pleasant is sometimes referred to as the first battle of the American Revolution. In 1774, a force of colonial militia fought a bloody battle there with a large group of Shawnee Indians. A series of waterfront murals depict the Battle of Point Pleasant. Another series of murals illustrate the life of the Indians who lived in the area. For those who want to explore the bizarre, no visit to Point Pleasant would be complete without hearing stories about Mothman and the curse that Cornstalk supposedly put on the town.



Mothman

Many stories have been told about Mothman, a part-man, part-bird creature. Some believe he appears before or after a disaster. Others believe he is simply a strange creature that makes periodic, random appearances. Although Mothman has been sighted in a number of states and countries, his appearances in West Virginia have most often been near Point Pleasant.

On November 12, 1966, five men reported seeing a creature that appeared to be a man with wings near Clendenin in Kanawha County. The creature was spotted at a cemetery in the area as the five men prepared a grave for a burial.

Three days later, two young married couples traveling late at night noticed two large red lights at the abandoned World War II TNT factory some seven miles from Point Pleasant. When they stopped to explore the source of the lights, they were shocked to see that the lights were actually the eyes of a large animal, shaped like a man, with big wings folded on his back. The couples reported that the creature chased them as they drove along Route 62 at speeds as high as 100 miles an hour.

The next night, a second sighting of Mothman was made by some people visiting friends who lived near the TNT plant. They described the creature they saw as being large and gray, with glowing red eyes.

Five more Mothman sightings were reported in 1966. Three of the sightings were around the TNT plant, while the other two were in Charleston and St. Albans.

The city of Point Pleasant has made Mothman a focus of tourism. The town boasts a twelve-foot statue made of stainless steel with red eyes. The eyes, which were made by Blenko Glass, seem to follow anyone who looks at the statue. There is also a Mothman Museum that carries merchandise related to the winged creature. A week-long festival in September celebrates Mothman.

This statue of Mothman was created by local sculptor Robert Roach.





Huntington, the second-largest city in West Virginia, developed in Cabell County along the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway line. This line linked the East to the Union Pacific Railroad, which ran all the way to the Pacific coast. The city grew and prospered as the railways shipped out coal, oil, and timber. Heritage Village, the old railway station in downtown Huntington, contains vintage engines and railway cars. The original terminal buildings are now attractive shops and restaurants. A statue of Collis P. Huntington pays tribute to the man who owned the C and P Railroad and founded the city that is named for him.

The city of Huntington has a fine art museum, beautiful parks, and Marshall University. Marshall gained national recognition in 2007 with the release of the movie *We Are Marshall*, the subject of which was a tragic plane crash that wiped out the school's football team in 1970. Along the city's broad, tree-lined streets are lovely old homes and plenty of places to eat, shop, and sightsee. Tourists enjoy visiting the Bank of Huntington, which was robbed in 1875 by the Jesse James gang!

Milton, also located in Cabell County, is home to the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival. The Pumpkin Festival began in 1985 as a way for farmers to promote and sell their pumpkins. Today, it is one of the most popular festivals in the region. Milton is also home to a unique Corn Maze, which offers the adventurous a puzzling experience. In September

Above: Pullman Square is the center of downtown Huntington.

and October of each year, visitors may try their skill at finding their way through a complex labyrinth. In late October, the Corn Maze offers a haunting experience as a prelude to Halloween.

Traveling east from Cabell County, visitors enter Putnam County. Located halfway between Charleston and Huntington, the county serves as a bedroom community for workers in the state's two largest cities. Putnam County also has a number of historic attractions, including Scary Creek (the site of a Civil War battle) and Buffalo Academy (which was established as a school in 1849). The academy did well until the beginning of the Civil War. John McCausland, a Confederate general, was once a student there.

One of the most popular tourist attractions is the state Capitol Complex in Charleston, the state's largest city. Here you can see the brilliant, gold dome of the state Capitol Building. The Capitol Building houses the state's lawmakers, the West Virginia Supreme Court, and the governor's offices. Outside the Capitol Building, but still within the Capitol Complex, are the Cultural Center and the Governor's Mansion.

something extra!



The Capitol dome stands 293 feet high, which is taller than the U.S. Capitol dome in Washington, DC.



Above: The statue in front of the Capitol Building is of Abraham Lincoln, who was president when West Virginia became a state.

Below: Like the state Capitol Building, the dome of the Boone County Courthouse in Madison is gold-leafed.

Hatfield-McCoy Mountains Tourist Region

Coal is king in the Hatfield-McCoy Mountains region, which includes the counties of Boone, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, and Wayne. In 1742, coal was discovered in western Virginia near Peytona, in Boone County. Today, to commemorate the importance of mining, a statue of a miner stands on the lawn of the Boone County Courthouse in Madison. The region is also famous for a number of labor strikes and marches that occurred during the historic mine wars.

In Williamson, in Mingo County, visitors can even see a house made of coal. Actually, the Coal House is the home of the Tug Valley Chamber of Commerce. A fire on October 11, 2010, caused the building to be closed for nearly a year. It reopened September 27, 2011. Matewan is another tourist attraction. It was made famous by a fight between coal miners and private detectives hired to evict the miners from their homes because they were union members. This incident, known as the Matewan Massacre, was the subject of the movie *Matewan*.

The region takes its name from the infamous Hatfield and McCoy feud, which broke out after the Civil War. The Hatfields lived in Logan County, while the McCoy's lived across the Tug Fork River, in Pike County, Kentucky.

A historic building in this region is the Ramsdell House, located in Ceredo in Wayne County. The house, built by Z. D. Ramsdell, was a stop on the Underground Railroad, which moved slaves from the South to Canada, where they could be free. Ramsdell was a supporter of Eli Thayer, an abolitionist, who founded the town of Ceredo in 1857.

The Hatfield-McCoy Mountains region is perfect for outdoors lovers. Visitors enjoy the Big Ugly Wildlife Management Area in Lincoln County, the R. D. Bailey Lake in Justice (Mingo County), and the Lick Creek Pond at East Lynn Lake Wildlife Management Area near Wayne.



One of the most popular attractions in the region is the Hatfield-McCoy Trails, an off-highway vehicle trail system used by dirt and mountain bikers, hikers, horseback riders, and ATV enthusiasts. The Hatfield-McCoy Trail System totals over five hundred miles. The system of trails has revived the economy in the counties where it has a presence. When complete, the Trails could cover two thousand miles.

New River/Greenbrier Valley Tourist Region

The New River/Greenbrier Valley is the last of the nine tourist regions. This region, like the Hatfield-McCoy Mountains region, has a very long and rich coal history. Eight counties—Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming—make up this region. Beckley is the region’s largest city.

McDowell County native Homer Hickam told the story of his growing up in a mining camp in Coalwood in a series of three novels. These books described life in typical coal towns throughout the region.

Mine owners often became millionaires, while the miners could barely feed their families. The small town of Bramwell in Mercer County was home to many wealthy coal mine owners. About one hundred years ago, as many as fourteen millionaires lived in a two-block radius in this small town. Their mansions had such luxuries as indoor swimming pools and huge ballrooms. Today, some of these homes are open to tourists.

Near Bramwell is the town of Bluefield, where the Eastern Regional Coal Archives houses an extensive collection of records of West Virginia’s mining industry. The collection tells the story of this rugged, rural area and includes miners’ tools, films, diaries, old newspapers, and photographs. European immigrants and former slaves poured into the region to find work. These people were looking for jobs, although the pay was very low. To help support their families, boys as young as seven entered the

something extra!

The Hatfield-McCoy Trail System is one of only sixteen National Millennium Trails.



Above: On Bridge Day, BASE jumpers parachute 876 feet off the New River Gorge Bridge, while rappellers descend from the bridge on ropes.

Below: Cathedral Falls is located in a small roadside park near Gauley Bridge. **Bottom:** This 110-year-old railroad bridge spans the New River near Ansted.



mines to do whatever they could to earn a few cents.

The Exhibition Coal Mine in Beckley describes the history of mining from its beginning as a “pick and shovel” industry to the present-day use of powerful machines. Visitors to the mine can ride through the underground passages in coal cars.

A short distance north of Beckley, visitors can experience one of West Virginia’s natural wonders—the New River. This is a strange name for the second-oldest river in the world. The gorgeous scenery and foaming rapids have made this river the most popular river in the East for white-water rafting. Fayette County hosts Bridge Day each year. The event attracts adventurous people who jump and parachute from the New River Gorge Bridge into the 876-foot chasm below. Rock climbers come from distant places to scale the soaring cliffs. Outdoor recreation, including boating and fishing on Bluestone Lake, is the leading industry in the area.

Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County, has well-preserved eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings. Most of the town is part of a National Register Historic District. Tourists can take a walking tour of the town to visit old homes, slave quarters, the Old Stone Church, and the Confederate Cemetery.



John Henry

There is a difference of opinion as to whether John Henry was a real person or merely a folk hero like Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill. Although some evidence supports the belief that he was a real man, the embellishments of his size and strength in stories, poems, and songs have made people question that such a person really existed.

If John Henry was a real person, he was probably born a slave in North Carolina or Virginia between 1840 and 1850. He was reportedly over six feet tall and weighed over 200 pounds at an early age. When he received his freedom after the Civil War, he began to work for the railroad, which was extending its lines to follow the country's westward movement.

To move west, the railroad owners had to conquer the mountains that were in their way. Since it was impossible to go around them, the best way to move forward was to blast a tunnel through them. In preparation for blasting, two laborers—a turner and a steel driver—worked together to drive a deep hole into the rock with a steel shaft, called a drill. The turner held the drill and rotated it after each hammer blow delivered by the steel driver. Explosives were placed in the hole that, when ignited, gradually made a pathway through the mountain.

John Henry was believed to be a steel driver for the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Railroad, which was extending its line into the Ohio Valley when construction was halted at Big Bend Mountain at Talcott, in Summers County. Before it could continue, workers had to blast a one-and-a-half-mile path through the mountain by hand.

Blasting through the mountain was the beginning of the legend of John Henry. It was during this time that a new steam-driven driver was introduced and marketed as an instrument to shorten the blasting time. Concerned that the new driver would take jobs from workers who drove the steel shafts by hand, John Henry wanted to show his boss that men using hand tools could be more effective than the new device. So he challenged the machine's salesman to a contest: John Henry versus the machine. At the end of the day, John Henry did drive more steel with his hammer than the steam-driven driver. The day did not end well, however, because—before he could celebrate his victory—John Henry died “with his hammer in his hand.” Dehydration and exhaustion had caused undue stress on his heart. His death, while ending his earthly life, was but the beginning of his legendary one!



Left: In 1935, Gabriel Brown (left) and Rochelle French (right) performed blues variations on “John Henry” in Eatonville, Florida.



A few miles from Lewisburg is West Virginia's best-known cave. Organ Cave has been used since 1704 when pioneers found shelter in its huge caverns. A huge rock formation shaped like the pipes of an organ gave the cave its name. During the Civil War, Confederate soldiers held religious services in the cave. Now, more than one hundred years later, visitors can travel through lighted passageways on a guided tour. Serious "cavers" can follow a map through Organ Cave's forty miles of underground passages and caverns.

Greenbrier County is also home to an elegant resort that has attracted rich and famous guests, including thirty-three U.S. presidents, for more than 150 years. The Greenbrier's luxury rooms, championship golf courses, indoor pools, horseback trails, and 6,500 acres of well-tended grounds bring visitors from around the world.

something
extra!

Temperatures in Organ Cave
remain at a constant 55° F.

Top Left: Main (commercial) entrance to Organ Cave. **Top Right:** Organ Cave has a large collection of Civil War-era wooden saltpeter hoppers. Saltpeter was used to make gunpowder.

Reviewing the Section

Reviewing the Content

1. How many tourist regions are there in West Virginia?
2. List West Virginia's tourist regions and identify attractions in each.
3. Which tourist region would attract visitors who wanted to learn more about the early history of the state?

Using the Content

Design a brochure to promote tourism in your county.

Extending the Literacy Skill

Look at Map 6.3 on page 252. What is the subject of the map? Use the data on the map to rank the tourist regions according to the amount of money tourists spend in each. The regions that have the most spending by tourists should be ranked #1. The regions that have the least spending by tourists should be ranked #4.

Focus on Technology

LEARNING SKILL: ACQUIRING INFORMATION FROM RELEVANT WEBSITES, FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

Identify the information needed to complete the assignment, and make a list of helpful websites to access.

TECHNOLOGY TOOL: SOFTWARE, SEARCH ENGINE

Develop a plan to use technology tools to solve a real-life problem.

Use your Internet skills to plan a trip from your hometown to a location in one of West Virginia's tourist regions. Go to www.mapquest.com or <https://maps.google.com> or another mapping website and key in the needed information. How many miles must you travel to get to your destination? Then, click on "Map" and download and print the map of the route to your destination. Note the places you will pass through on your way to the destination. In addition, use the Internet to get more information on three places of interest you will pass through. Finally, create an itinerary that includes your starting point, three stops along the way, and the final destination. Determine how much time you will spend at each location and how many days it will take to make the complete trip.



Chapter Summary

Section 1: Geographic Regions of West Virginia

- The Potomac Section region is characterized by rolling farmland, limestone-based soil, and warm mineral springs. It was the first region settled by Europeans. The lowest point in the state is here.
- The Allegheny Highlands region gave West Virginia its nickname, the “Mountain State.” It is characterized by its mountains, gorges, canyons, and caves. The highest point in the state—Spruce Knob—is located here.
- The Allegheny Plateau region has some of the largest cities in the state—including Charleston, the capital. The area has a variety of natural resources, including limestone, sandstone, shale, coal, oil, natural gas, and salt. The New River played an important role in the formation and development of the region.
- The Ohio River Valley region forms the western boundary of the state. The river provides recreational opportunities and supports several wildlife management areas. The first capital of West Virginia is found there.

Section 2: Tourist Regions of West Virginia

- The Eastern Panhandle tourist region contains Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties. Tourist attractions include Harpers Ferry, Shepherdstown, the Morgan Morgan cabin, Berkeley Springs, Berkeley Castle, and Cacapon and Berkeley Springs State Parks.
- The Potomac Highlands tourist region includes Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, and Tucker Counties. Tourist attractions include the Trough, the Monongahela National Forest, Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob, the Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls, Snowshoe, and the Cass Scenic Railroad.
- The Mountain Lakes tourist region includes Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, Lewis, Nicholas, Upshur, and Webster Counties. Tourist attractions include the Strawberry Festival; the Jackson’s Mill Jubilee; the World Championship Woodchopping Contest; and Holly River, Audra, and Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Parks.
- The Mountaineer Country tourist region contains Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor Counties. Tourist attractions include the Philippi Covered Bridge, the International Mother’s Day Shrine, Fort New Salem, and Prickett’s Fort. The region was settled by immigrants from southern Europe and today hosts many festivals honoring those cultures.
- The Northern Panhandle tourist region includes Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Tyler, and Wetzel Counties. Tourist attractions include Independence Hall, the Festival of Lights at Oglebay Park, Grave Creek Mound, and the Wells Inn.
- The Mid-Ohio Valley tourist region contains Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood Counties. Tourist attractions include the Oil and Gas Museum, Blennerhassett Island, and Holl’s Chocolates.
- The Metro Valley tourist region includes Cabell, Kanawha, Mason, and Putnam Counties. Tourist attractions include Point Pleasant Battle Monument Park, Heritage Village, Scary Creek, Buffalo Academy, and the Capitol Complex.
- The Hatfield-McCoy Mountains tourist region contains Boone, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, and Wayne Counties. Tourist attractions include the Coal House, Matewan, Ramsdell House, R. D. Bailey Lake, East Lynn Lake, and the Hatfield-McCoy Trails.
- The New River/Greenbrier Valley tourist region contains Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming Counties. Tourist attractions include Bramwell, Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, Bluestone Lake, the New River Gorge, Organ Cave, and The Greenbrier.

The Regions of West Virginia

Recalling the Facts



1. What three counties have the Fairfax Stone as a common boundary?
2. Which geographic region is the dividing line between eastern and western West Virginia?
3. Name four rivers in the Allegheny Plateau region.
4. In what geographic region was the first capital of West Virginia located?
5. What was the original name for Berkeley Springs?
6. Name three lakes in the Mountain Lakes tourist region.
7. In what tourist region did West Virginia history begin?
8. In what tourist region is the smallest West Virginia county in size located?
9. What famous glass factory is located in Cabell County?
10. In what tourist region is the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival held?
11. In what tourist region is Hawks Nest located?

Learning Skill



1. In your opinion, which geographic region has the most to offer? Give reasons to support your choice.
2. In your opinion, which of West Virginia's tourist regions is the most important economically? Give reasons for your choice.
3. Using your knowledge of the definition of "region," list some other types of regions into which West Virginia can be divided.
4. Use a triple Venn diagram to compare the features of three tourist regions.

Chapter Review

5. Reread the information about the tourist region in which you live. Make a list of tourist sites located in the region that are not included in your textbook.

Community Connection



Make a pennant of the geographic region in which you live. Include the name, a visual depiction of the physical land area, and four facts (such as cities, festivals, historic sites, and natural wonders) associated with the region. Finally, write a slogan that depicts the region.

Literacy Skill



1. Write an advertisement for radio, television, or a newspaper to encourage tourists to attend one of the festivals mentioned in the chapter.
2. Write a haiku about one of the geographic or tourist regions in West Virginia. Haiku is a Japanese verse form of three lines. The first line is limited to five syllables, the second line is limited to seven syllables, and the third line is limited to five syllables. For example:

As I sit watching

The white-water flowing by

I think of the New.

Technology Tool



1. Use your favorite search engine to find five interesting facts about one of the places mentioned in the chapter, such as Spruce Knob or Shepherdstown. Share those facts with the class.
2. State parks are found in all nine tourist regions. Use a search engine to find a list of state parks. Then, choose three of the parks and identify two features of each.